



Lord Murray of Blidworth

Year of call: 2000

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Simon Murray (Lord Murray of Blidworth) is an experienced barrister sought after in public law and commercial matters. He attracts instructions in some of the most complex and highest profile cases. He also accepts instructions to act as Mediator.

He served as the Minister of Migration and Borders in the House of Lords 2022-2023. He has now returned to private practice.

In addition to his full-time practice at the Bar, Lord Murray continues to contribute to the work of the House of Lords, speaking in particular on issues relating to law, justice and migration. He is a member of Joint Committee on Human Rights, a Select Committee comprising members both Houses the United Kingdom Parliament.

He has also been called to the bar in the Republic of Ireland and like all lawyers in those jurisdictions, can appear before the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Lord Murray also practices in other fields including data protection, commercial and other common law matters. He has particular expertise in claims against public bodies and regularly advises on legal issues crossing both public and private law. He has substantial experience in group litigation.

Additionally, he has long standing, niche experience of representing the Queen's (now King's) Proctor and intervening in family proceedings at the request of the court as Advocate to the Court.

Lord Murray has long been on the Attorney General's Panels of Counsel, first being appointed in 2005 and has lengthy experience of representing central and local government bodies at all levels. He is a member of the Attorney General's London A Panel.

Practice Areas:

- Administrative & Public
- Commercial
- Information and Media
- Regulatory and Disciplinary

Areas of expertise

Administrative and Public

Information and Media

Regulatory and Disciplinary & King's Proctor's cases

Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury

Inquiries and Investigations

Information and Media

Lord Murray frequently advises on matters involving information rights, including matters arising under the GDPR, Data Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition to appearing in Judicial Review claims in connection with information rights, he appears before the First-tier Tribunal (GRC) on appeals from Decisions of the Information Commissioner. He also advises on, court claims challenging compliance with subject access request and seeking damages for data protection breaches.

Cases of note:

- ***Keighley v Information Commissioner & British Broadcasting Corporation (2022)***
Instructed by the Claimant in this appeal regarding the breadth of the "journalism" exemption under FOIA
- ***R. (Xavier) v Governor of Whitemoor Prison [2021] EWHC 3060 (Admin) ; [2022] A.C.D. 3***
Challenge to decisions to open correspondence sent to a prison in high security prison – extent of rule 39 of the Prison Rules and interaction with Legal Professional Privilege
- ***A Local Authority v Child A, B and C and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs and the Secretary of State for the Home Department [2022]***
Representing both Secretaries of State – disclosure of sensitive information in care proceedings

Memberships

- Junior Counsel to the Crown A Panel (September 2016), reappointed (September 2022)
- Junior Counsel to the Crown B Panel (March 2012)
- Junior Counsel to the Crown C Panel (February 2006)
- Member ALBA (Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association),
- Member PNBA (Professional Negligence Bar Association)

Qualifications

Education

- 2020 Irish Barrister at Law degree, King's Inns, Dublin. Called to the Irish Bar
- 2000 Bar Vocational Course, Inns of Court School of Law, London
- 1999 CPE City, University of London
- 1998 MA(Hons) History, St Andrews

Scholarships and Prizes

- Sunley Prize winner, Inner Temple

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