



## 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

## Regulatory and Disciplinary & King's Proctor's cases

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Lord Murray has long experience in the regulatory and disciplinary field. He was a pro bono prosecutor for the Bar Standards Board for a 10-year period to 2021.

In addition to acting in conventional regulatory cases for example in education appeals in the High Court Lord Murray had a niche specialisation being invited by the court to intervene in proceedings in the Family Division of the High Court both for the Queen's (now King's) Proctor and as Advocate to the Court, instructed by the Attorney General.

The King's Proctor is an ancient office whose modern role is protect the integrity of the divorce process.

### Cases of note:

- ***Ullmer v Secretary of State for Education* [2021] EWHC 1366 (Admin)**  
[2021] A.C.D. 88  
Acted for Secretary of State in this challenge to an order prohibiting the appellant from teaching.  
Authoritative case on approach to appeal hearing.
- ***Hussain v Parveen (Queen's Proctor intervening)* [2021] EWFC 73; [2022] 1 F.C.R. 81**  
Acted for the Queen's Proctor – concerned the recognition of Islamic divorces obtained in Pakistan when the "talak" was pronounced in the United Kingdom but registered in Pakistan.
- ***L, Re (Declaration of Parentage)* [2022] EWFC 38; [2022] 3 W.L.R. 467**  
As Advocate to the Court instructed by the Attorney General – concerned adoptees who had discovered the identity of their respective birth fathers and sought declarations to correct the historical record on their original birth certificates.
- ***Bury v ML* [2022] EWHC 746 (Fam); [2023] 1 F.C.R. 726**  
As Advocate to the Court instructed by the Attorney General – concerned the human rights implications of a local authority's application to remove a father as a party in care proceedings
- ***Shahzad v Mazher (Queen's Proctor intervening)* [2020] EWCA Civ 1740; [2021] 2 F.L.R. 707; [2021] 1 F.C.R. 389**  
Court of Appeal: leading case on the circumstances when a divorce decree absolute may be set aside
- ***JK v MK (E-Negotiation Ltd (t/a Amicable) and the Queen's Proctor intervening)* [2020] EWFC 2 | [2020] 1 W.L.R. 5091**  
For Queen's Proctor Online divorce facilitator did not violate the Legal Services Act 2007 Sch.2 para.4 or para.5 and did not create a conflict of interest by acting for both parties
- ***M v P (Queen's Proctor intervening)* [2019] EWFC 14 | [2019] Fam. 431 | [2019] 3 W.L.R. 273**  
Distinction between void and voidable divorce decrees in context of decrees nisi and absolute which had been pronounced erroneously and unlawfully by the court.

## Memberships

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- 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

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### 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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