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Barrister's Best 2026: Steven Murray

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Steven Murray/Courtesy Image

Steven Murray of Murray Law approaches plaintiff-side employment law with rigorous intensity, seeking out clients who appreciate high stakes.

"I want to be very serious. I want to work very hard. I want clients that are serious, that realize the importance of this," he said.

Following more than 30 years in the profession and a battle with cancer a few years ago, Murray has a renewed commitment to his practice. "I enjoy it more than I ever have," he said. "I understand it more. And I appreciate the opportunity to do it more." Whether representing an entry-level worker or an executive "at the top of the corporate room," he said he leads with the understanding that losing a job is always a painful, disruptive event impacting every aspect of life, including one's partners and children.

When disputes cannot be resolved through attorney discussions or private mediation, the resulting litigation is a significant undertaking for Murray's lean operation. A recent milestone includes a complex race and retaliation case he litigated for two years across the United States. On the third day of the federal court trial in Denver, the defendant chose to settle after seeing "how this case was playing to a jury." Murray's caseload also includes representing 14 individuals claiming exemptions across five different federal vaccine cases, as well as securing a temporary restraining order on behalf of a client following a major municipal layoff.

Murray balances his litigation load with a personalized client care, choosing to "err on the side of too much" to ensure the client's experience with him is positive.

He has also embraced AI to maximize his efficiency, implementing systems to manage call reception, client intake and document storage. He considers AI "an enormous time saver" for solo practitioners and small firms when utilized responsibly.

Murray's steadfastness is rooted in a lifelong passion for social justice, first inspired by reading "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" in eighth grade. He said, "Being a lawyer now feels better than maybe it ever has. Lawyers are very much needed."