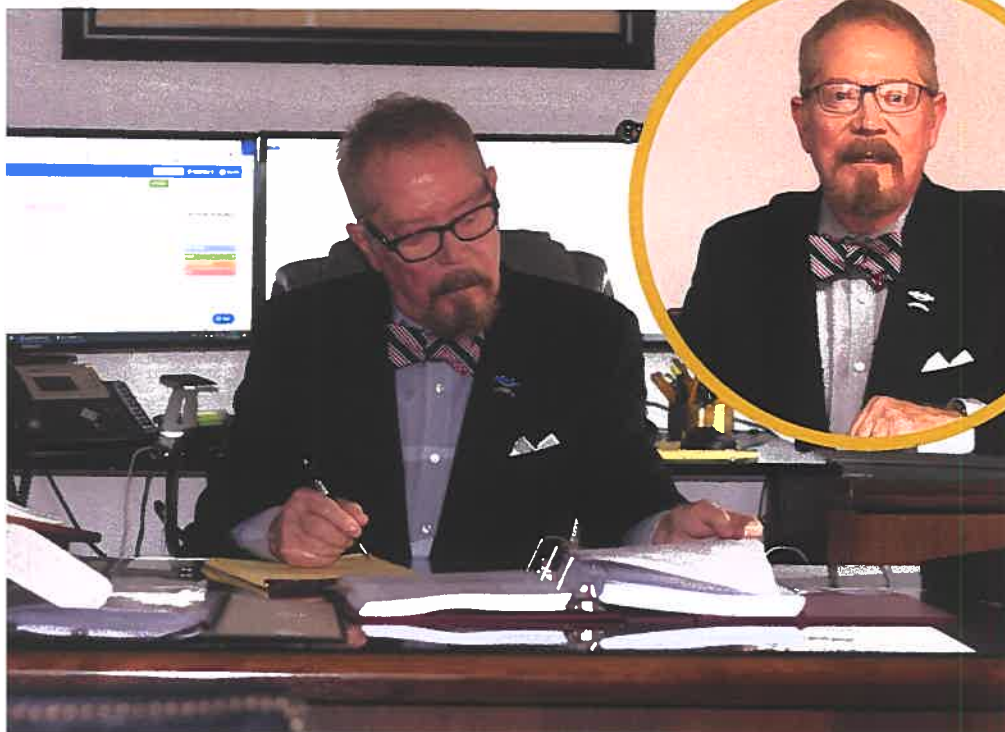


D.C. LEADERS IN LAW

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

At the Law Offices of Michael Kevin Murphy, we understand the often unique complexities of family law—divorces particularly—when current or former service members are involved.



“Most civilian lawyers have no experience with military culture,” says Mike Murphy, a family law attorney who has the highest possible rating for competence and integrity with Martindale-Hubbell*, which has been rating lawyers for over 150 years. “No matter how good those lawyers are, lack of a military background puts them at a disadvantage; they don’t understand the experience and sacrifices service members make, nor do they speak the language or understand the basics, like how pay, benefits, and retired pay are addressed.”

Since 1982, the Law Offices of Michael Kevin Murphy has represented active duty and retired service members and their spouses in divorces and other family law matters as well as civilian professionals from the federal government and military contractors. While based in Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C., the firm

collaborates on divorces with civilian attorneys across the country.

After graduating from the Virginia Military Institute, Murphy served as a company commander and later a battalion operations officer with the 199th Infantry Brigade during the Vietnam War. Once he returned home, Murphy attended law school at George Mason University. While there, he realized how few attorneys had both military experience and a knowledge of family law.

“When dealing with the military, special federal and state legal requirements must be considered,” Murphy says. “There’s the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act, for example, which protects service members by putting civil matters on hold while they are on active duty. Few civilian lawyers know about those protections or how to use them effectively.

“Few civilian attorneys have experience with security clearances, housing allowances, retirement pay, child custody and visitation

statutes for those who are deployed, disability benefits, or the Uniformed Services Former Spouses’ Protection Act, which often figure prominently in military divorces,” he continues.

“Things like military pay structures and taxes can be extremely hard to understand,” Murphy says. “We get referrals every month from civilian family law attorneys who have taken a military divorce client and get frustrated trying to figure this stuff out. You really have to know what you’re doing here or your clients will lose out—often without those lawyers knowing where they went wrong.”

SHARING THE LOAD

In recent years, the Law Offices of Michael Kevin Murphy has become closely associated with The Irving Law Firm, a civilian family law office located in the D.C. area. Murphy regularly shares cases with senior associate attorney Rebecca Thacher. Doing so provides clients at both firms with a wider range of services, and this strong working relationship has enabled Murphy to focus on his clients by working with a team of younger attorneys with impeccable trial experience and credentials similar to his own for excellence.



Rebecca Thacher
The Irving Law Firm

“People often get lost when they’re going through a divorce,” says Murphy, “and they can easily lose sight of what’s important. It’s much easier to listen to someone’s advice when you have a shared experience with them.”

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