

DAVID J. GUARNIERI

Member

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HONORS & AWARDS

- The Best Lawyers in America®, 2014-2027, Criminal Defense: General Practice, Criminal Defense: White-Collar, Personal Injury Litigation - Plaintiffs
- The Best Lawyers in America®, "Lawyer of the Year", 2018, 2022, 2025, Criminal Defense: General Practice
- The Best Lawyers in America®, "Lawyer of the Year", 2014, 2016, 2019, 2021, 2023, Criminal Defense: White-Collar"
- Kentucky Super Lawyers®, 2014-2016, 2018 (Criminal Defense)
- Kentucky Super Lawyers®, 2019, 2021, 2022 (Civil Litigation: Defense)
- Kentucky Super Lawyers®, 2023, 2025 (Civil Litigation: Plaintiff)
- Top 50 Kentucky Super Lawyers®, 2022
- A. M. Best Client

As a litigator, David Guarnieri is no stranger to competition—and he fights to win. His Lexington, Kentucky, practice focuses on criminal defense, grand jury investigations, complex personal injury matters, and investigations conducted by state and federal regulatory and administrative agencies. The scope of his work, however, is not limited to these—in his over 25 years as a trial lawyer, David can count on one hand the types of issues he has *not* handled for his clients. Regardless of the matter at hand, David brings his knowledge, experience, and sound judgment to help his clients understand the scope of the legal problem and give them options and advice to reach the best outcome.

David approaches even the most daunting legal matters with a level head and even hand. He handles cases ranging from white-collar criminal defense investigations and prosecutions to medical negligence and product liability claims. David's practice covers a wide range of both business and personal issues in both state and federal settings.

In handling any matter, David prioritizes considering the issue from the client's point of view. Though the facts and circumstances of a case are set in stone, a dedicated attorney like David will invest the time and effort to see the situation from the client's perspective. With this approach, David can mold his advice according to the client's unique needs, concerns, and

Recommended, 2018

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- Nationally Ranked Top Ten Attorney Award, National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys, 2015

PRIMARY PRACTICE

Criminal Defense

Corporate Investigations

Business Executive Defense

Employee Member Wrongdoing

Government Investigations

Criminal Investigations

Family Law

Child Custody

Divorce

Prenuptial Agreements

Property Division

ADDITIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Civil Investigations

Commercial and Business Litigation

Medical Malpractice

Product Liability Litigation

Regulatory & Licensing Issues

Securities and Corporate Finance

U.S. Department of Labor Investigations

ADMISSIONS

Kentucky, 1996

U.S. District Court Eastern District of Kentucky, 1996

U.S. District Court Western

goals. To David, success means finding a way to accomplish those goals in the most satisfactory way possible within a sound legal framework.

CAPABILITIES, SUCCESSES, AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Advises clients on investigations conducted by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions, and other state and federal agencies.

Kentucky Leader

- United Way, Franklin County Board Member, 2000-2003
- Kentucky State University, Board of Regents, 2010-2016

Professional Activities

United States Magistrate Judge Selection Panel, Member, 2009
Federal Bar Association, Kentucky Chapter, Secretary, 2005.
Franklin County Bar Association, Secretary, 2002-2004
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Member, 2000-2006
American Bar Association, Member, 1996-Present
Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys, Member, 1996-2006

News

IN THE MEDIA - Fifty McBrayer Attorneys Recognized by *Best Lawyers® for 2027*
August 20, 2026

Celebrating Excellence: 40 McBrayer Attorneys Recognized by Super Lawyers
December 16, 2025

McBrayer PLLC Achieves Record-Breaking Recognition in *Best Lawyers in America® 2026*
August 21, 2025

District of Kentucky, 1996

U.S. Court of Appeals 6th Circuit, 1996

U.S. Supreme Court, 1999

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky College of Law, Lexington, Kentucky, J.D., 1996

- Honors: CALI Award for Litigation Skills, 1996; Best Oral Argument; Legal and Research Writing Award 1994

Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, B.A., 1993

- Major: History

Leading the Way in Legal Excellence: 38 McBrayer Attorneys Honored in 2025 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
December 17, 2024

New Record Set: 51 McBrayer Attorneys Honored in Best Lawyers 2025
August 15, 2024

McBrayer Earns Record Number Named to Super Lawyers Lists for 2024
January 9, 2024

Another Record! 49 McBrayer Attorneys Named to Best Lawyers® 2024
August 17, 2023

25 McBrayer Attorneys Named to Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists for 2023
December 29, 2022

A Record Number! Thirty McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* Lists for 2023
August 18, 2022

22 McBrayer Attorneys Recognized in 2022 Edition of Super Lawyers
December 30, 2021

McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* List for 2022
August 19, 2021

Once Again, McBrayer Attorneys Receive Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2021
Super Lawyers, December 10, 2020

McBrayer Attorneys Named to *Best Lawyers® in America* List for 2021
August 20, 2020

We Made the List Again! McBrayer Attorneys Receive Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2020
Super Lawyers, December 2, 2019

McBrayer Attorneys receive U.S. News Best Lawyers Distinction for 2020
U.S. News – Best Lawyers® in America, September 4, 2019

Exploring the Alternatives: Courts and Clients Increasingly Look to Mediation and Arbitration in Resolving Disputes
Business Lexington, March 22, 2019

McBrayer Attorneys receive U.S. News Best Lawyers and Super Lawyers Distinctions for 2019
December 19, 2018

McBrayer attorneys named to U.S. News Best Lawyers including 3 Lawyer of the Year honors
Attorneys from McBrayer law offices in Lexington and Louisville achieved a 2018 listing in U.S. News Best Lawyers in America
August 15, 2017

Pill Ring Earns Organized Crime Status
September 14, 2011

Seminars & Speaking Engagements

Applying the Rules of Civil Procedure in Kentucky
Using Motions to Enhance Your Case, Voir Dire/Jury Selection: Veteran Strategies
Louisville, Kentucky, August 26, 2016

Applying the Rules of Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know
Louisville, KY, August 20, 2015

Annual Kentucky Law Update, Federal Court Updates, September 26, 2013

Presenter, Kentucky Supreme Court Review (Criminal Law), Kentucky Bar Association Annual Convention, June 21, 2013

Presenter, Applying the Rules of Evidence: What Every Attorney Needs to Know, National Business Institute, November 28, 2012

Presenter, Employment Issues and Anti-Discrimination Laws, National Business Institute, 2000 - 2004

Adjunct Professor, Law Office Management Paralegal Studies Department, Midway College, 1998