The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

Martindale-Hubbell®, the company that has long set the standard for lawyer ratings, has supplied ALM with a list of Top Rated Lawyers who have achieved an AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating, the highest rating in legal ability and ethical standards. To create this section, Martindale-Hubbell® tapped its comprehensive database of Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™ to identify lawyers who have been rated by their peers to be AV® Preeminent™.

Martindale Hubbell Peer Review Ratings are driven by the confidential opinions of lawyers and members of the judiciary who receive invitations from Martindale-Hubbell®, via an online survey or by mail, to provide reviews of lawyers of whom they have professional knowledge.

A complete directory of all AV® Preeminent™ lawyers can be found online at Lawyers.com® and Martindale.com, in the Martindale-Hubbell® Law Directory in print and CD-ROM formats, and online through the LexisNexis® services and at lexis.com. Attorneys shown do not constitute the full list of “Top Rated Lawyers”

James Neuberger

An experienced trial lawyer, James Neuberger is the founder of Neuberger Law, LLC, a personal injury litigation firm in Atlanta. After spending a decade defending insurance companies, he now focuses his practice on protecting plaintiffs’ rights in complex personal injury claims and lawsuits arising out of motor vehicle collisions. Mr. Neuberger handles cases with serious injuries; such as head injuries, broken bones, and spinal injuries that require surgery. He also helps spouses, parents, and children who have lost family members due to the wrongful conduct of drunk drivers or incompetent tractor-trailer drivers.

Other attorneys refer cases to Mr. Neuberger because of his reputation for leaving no stone unturned during litigation, and his intense scrutiny of all evidence in complex cases. “I enjoy the challenge of assessing the facts and testimony in a case, anticipating what a defense attorney will do, and then finding countermeasures,” said Mr. Neuberger. “Presenting a case in the right way starts early on. I spend a significant amount of time before any deposition framing questions to prevent a defense witness from misleading the jury with false statements or half-truths. When I ask the right question in the right way, a witness cannot run from the truth.”

Mr. Neuberger graduated from the University of Illinois, where he also received a commercial pilot license. Looking for a change of scenery, Mr. Neuberger moved to Georgia in 1993 and enrolled at the Emory University School of Law. After law school, Mr. Neuberger landed at a medium sized defense firm where he learned his trade from top-notch lawyers. He has been selected for inclusion to the Georgia Super Lawyers list as seen in Atlanta Magazine every year since 2010.

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Mary A. Prebula

Prebula & Associates LLC is a general practice civil litigation firm focused on pragmatic problem-solving providing clients with objective legal evaluation and best outcomes. In recognition of excellence in practice of law, commitment and contributions to legal community, Mary Prebula was awarded the Tradition of Excellence for General Practice, State Bar of Georgia. On Legal and Ethical Standards, she is rated AV Preeminent in Martindale-Hubbell Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers© and Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers©, and is a member of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, a Fellow in the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia, and a Charter Lifetime Fellow of the Atlanta Bar Foundation.

Mary practices in Georgia, southern states, and federal court representing individuals to multi-state companies. She is dedicated to family law, including complex financial issues, prenuptial agreements, child support, visitation, and interstate and international custody cases. Mary is regarded as authoritative on discovery matters including emerging electronic discovery issues, lectures on such topics, and is co-author of Georgia Procedure, Civil Procedure: Discovery, Pretrial Procedure and Conduct of Trial, Generally.

As a member of the American Bar Association, she serves on the Pretrial Practice & Discovery Committee. For the State Bar of Georgia, she has chaired or co-chaired General Practice & Trial Law Section, Judicial Procedure & Uniform Rules, Overview of General Counsel’s Office, Women & Minorities in the Profession, and Task Force on Electronic Discovery. Mary helped establish Gwinnett Legal Aid as a member of the Founders Committee and Steering Committee. She is a graduate of Emory University School of Law, UNC Greensboro and UNC Chapel Hill and serves as an emeritus member of UNC Chapel Hill Parents’ council.

Prebula & Associates LLC
Robert W. Hughes & Associates, one of Georgia’s leading law firms specializing in helping clients resolve issues within the probate court system and providing counsel for families and small business owners. Among the various matters we handle are:

- Assisting personal injury attorneys navigate Georgia probate courts when their cases require. We provide complete turnkey services, whether it involves opening an estate, compromising a claim or establishing a guardianship or conservatorship. We work with clients to gather the required information, file the necessary documents and work with the court personnel to obtain the desired results. We attend all hearings with the client. Our services free up personal injury attorneys so their focus can be on litigating or settling their cases for their clients.
- Assisting administrators and executors in carrying out their duties efficiently and properly. We adapt our services to the needs of each client, whether it be simply answering a few questions as needs arise, or handling the entire administration process from beginning to end.
- Assisting heirs to obtain their rightful inheritance, whether they’ve been omitted, or wronged, by an improperly drafted or executed Will.
- Assisting beneficiaries to ensure they receive all bequests to which they are entitled.

A sensible approach to probate, guardianships, conservatorships and trusts.

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Thomas G. Sampson
PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Thomas G. Sampson is the Managing Partner of Thomas Kennedy Sampson & Tompkins, LLP, which is the oldest minority-owned and operated firm in Georgia. He has practiced law for more than 40 years, building a national trial practice and reputation in the fields of personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice litigation. Sampson has been listed in every published edition of The Best Lawyers in America since 1993, and Sampson has blazed trials for minorities in his profession. He has represented the City of Atlanta, the State of Georgia, and Fortune 500® Companies in major litigation, and has prosecuted catastrophic injury cases resulting in several record-setting, seven-figure verdicts.

In 2006, Mr. Sampson was honored by his Alma Mater, Morehouse College by being named the recipient of the 2006 Bennie Trailblazer Award.

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Donald W. Singleton
PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, PREMISES LIABILITY

The named partner at Singleton Law Firm, LLC, Don Singleton has extensive experience in multiple areas of personal injury litigation such as motor vehicle accident, catastrophic injuries, drunk driving accidents, construction accidents, spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries, pedestrian and bicycle accidents, and product liability cases. For the past 25 years, he has assisted in numerous cases at both the trial and appellate levels. Mr. Singleton earned his Juris Doctor from Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. Since 1990, he has dedicated his career to assisting thousands of victims in personal injury cases. He is a member of the North Fulton County bar association, the American Association for Justice and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and the state courts of Georgia.

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Lawrence A. Cooper
PERSONAL INJURY, FAMILY LAW, CIVIL LITIGATION

During more than 40 years of practice, Larry Cooper has represented parties successfully in cases involving complex divorce, custody, catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, legal malpractice, complex commercial litigation, and has served as a civil and domestic mediator. He has successfully tried significant jury cases involving medical malpractice, wrongful death, brain damage, spinal cord injury, blindness, traumatic injury, and invasion of privacy. He has also tried both jury and non-jury complex divorce and custody cases. Larry and his law firm COHEN, COOPER, ESTEP & ALLEN, LLC also represent parties in complex commercial disputes.


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Kurt R. Hilbert

**Top Rated Lawyers**

Kurt R. Hilbert is the founder and Managing Member of The Hilbert Law Firm, LLC and the founder and President of The Roswell Attorney Project, a non-profit dedicated to bring back civility to the law. A certified mediator, Mr. Hilbert considers himself a counselor and advocate and he has crafted a practice that focuses on business and contract litigation, all aspects of real estate litigation, and employment litigation matters in both state and federal courts. Recognized as a 2016 Business Person of Excellence by the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Hilbert specializes in analyzing complex matters and finding successful outcomes. The Hilbert Law Firm provides skillful representation that is versatile, efficient and personal, achieving results in court and in alternative forums that other firms are afraid to tackle. It is a dynamic law firm well-appointed to listen and protect the client’s needs, solve their problems and give back to the community in a meaningful and productive way.

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Tom Lacy

The Lacy Law Firm P.C. is dedicated to serving the legal needs of individuals and businesses throughout all of Georgia. I take pride in helping my clients get through difficult times in a caring and cost-effective manner. As a former Army officer I am dedicated to the highest levels of integrity and professionalism.

I represent corporations, corporate directors and officers, small businesses, and individuals in their disputes with insurance companies. Over the last 10 years I have recovered millions of dollars for policyholders when insurance companies wrongfully denied claims in all types of insurance disputes. I primarily sue insurance companies when they do not honor their coverage obligations or deny claims in bad faith. I also handle most other business litigation matters including claims for breach of contract, breach of fiduciary duty, and related business torts. My clients have routinely recovered six figure settlements on commercial and personal property losses and I have represented many directors and officers after bank failures here in Georgia. I look forward to helping you and your clients.

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Duke Groover

Duke Groover focuses his law practice on commercial and business litigation, including business torts, class actions and complex commercial cases. Over the years, he has resolved complex matters for a wide variety of businesses and public entities. Mr. Groover’s experience includes serving as lead counsel in numerous trials, arbitrations, appellate arguments, court appearances and mediations. He has prosecuted and defended successfully a number of multimillion-dollar disputes on behalf of various clients. Additionally, as General Counsel for the Georgia Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, the largest domestic insurer in Georgia, Mr. Groover has developed an expertise in insurance law and regulation. Mr. Groover also represents physician practices and hospitals in connection with regulatory issues and complex litigation.

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Robert P. Killian / Roy J. Boyd, Jr.
PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH

Killian & Boyd, P.C. has two lawyers in Georgia’s Top Rated Lawyers, Robert P. Killian and Roy J. Boyd, Jr., both of whom practice in the areas of personal injury and wrongful death.

Robert P. Killian, a 1976 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, is a regional Vice President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He has tried over 200 civil trials to verdict. He is rated AV® Preeminent, has been named in Super Lawyers Magazine, and is a member of The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Georgia. He is a member of the American Association of Justice.

Roy J. Boyd, Jr. is an Honors, Law Review Graduate of Georgia Law School (1983) and Vice President at Large of The Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is rated AV Preeminent®, has been named in Super Lawyers Magazine, and is a member of The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers in Georgia. He is a member of the American Association of Justice. Roy routinely tries civil cases before juries.

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Michelle B. Rapoport
FAMILY LAW

With over 30 years of experience handling all types of family law matters and dedication to tailoring both process and solutions to each client’s specific needs, Michelle B. Rapoport practices in Metropolitan Atlanta and surrounding counties.

Michelle is a member of the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Attorneys, and is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest possible ratings for ethics and legal ability.

She also regularly serves as a Guardian ad Litem in child custody matters. She is trained and experienced in Collaborative Practice as well as litigation, mediation, has taught Family Law Litigation at Georgia State University College of Law, Litigation in the Emory University School of Law Trial Techniques program, and has served as a Special Assistant Attorney General representing the Department of Family and Children Services.

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For over 40 years, Rob Wellon has dedicated his legal career to professionally and empathetically achieving successful resolution for individuals in divorce, custody, and other complex litigation.

He graduated from Emory College and Stetson Law School and is a part-time adjunct professor at Emory School of Law, where he created and wrote a course book for a family law advocacy course. As a former Chairman of the Litigation Section and past President of the Atlanta Bar Association, Rob has been recognized by Who’s Who in American Law for his leadership and effective advocacy. He helped found, and served, as first President of the Weltner Family Law Inn of Court and founded The Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy.

In 2012, Rob was honored by receiving the Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award from the State Bar. He was named Super Lawyer (2004-2017) and named among Georgia Trend’s “Legal Elite.”

Rob welcomes the opportunity to serve clients during the most emotional and financially challenging time in their lives by guiding them to result-oriented resolution.

Edward (ned) Flynn, III
PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Ned Flynn has over 30 years experience as a trial attorney, and has handled many personal injury and death cases throughout Georgia. His goal is to provide every client with superior legal representation with compassion and care.

Mr. Flynn’s practice focuses on representing people with serious injuries particularly from trucking, motorcycle, bicycle, car accidents and dangerous property (such as slip-and-falls). Mr. Flynn handles all types of injury cases, particularly those involving surgery to the neck and back, paralysis, traumatic brain injuries, broken bones, and severe burns or scarring. His experience enables him to obtain recoveries from insurance companies needed to fully compensate his clients for all their injuries and financial losses.