

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”



TOP RATED LAWYERS

GEORGIA ATLANTA

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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ADAM MALONE

Adam Malone continues to honor the Tradition of Excellence and advance the commitment to justice his father, veteran attorney Thomas W. "Tommy" Malone, began more than 50 years ago.

Built upon a history of record-setting verdicts, Malone Law relentlessly pursues justice for those who have been severely injured or killed by the carelessness of others, whether those tragic losses occurred on the highway, in the hospital, or elsewhere.

Making history is nothing new to Malone Law. In addition to the firm's record-setting verdicts in medical negligence and trucking cases, Malone Law's cases also bring about changes in the laws to improve citizen rights. While his father helped change how managed care companies do business in Georgia, Adam is also proud of his role as lead counsel in a case that brought about the Georgia Supreme Court's decision declaring the right to trial by jury includes the right of the injured and their families to have the value of their losses determined by citizen jurors as opposed to politicians.

Adam is a nationally known Trial Lawyer, and AV Preeminent® rated by Martindale Hubbell. He is selected annually for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers. Adam's colleagues frequently honor him by inviting him to speak to organizations across the country to teach and share his trial knowledge and experience.

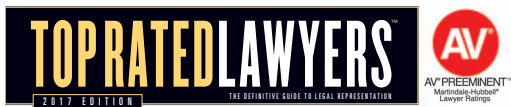
Through the skillful handling of complex cases, Adam carries on his father's passion for justice, which has earned Malone Law a reputation of excellence. This reputation has become a tradition as Adam and his team continue to achieve meaningful compensation for those they are privileged to represent.

"We are continuing the standard established by my dad, who was inspired daily to give no less than his best to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others," says Adam Malone.



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LITIGATION, INSURANCE, TRANSACTIONAL

Taylor Odachowski Schmidt & Crossland, LLC is a **Martindale-Hubbell AV™ rated law firm** representing clients throughout Georgia and the Southeast. Our attorneys have over 350 years of combined legal experience - a rarity in a firm of our size. As a full service law firm, we offer skilled representation to handle all your legal needs. We represent clients with liability, insurance and coverage matters, counsel clients involved in complex litigation and corporate matters, and provide clients having debtor/creditor, bankruptcy and real estate matters superior representation. We have the resources, professionalism and experience typically found only in significantly larger law firms. At the same time, we have not forgotten the personal side of our representation. We make it our business to understand your business. Whatever your needs, we are confident that you will find Taylor Odachowski Schmidt & Crossland dedicated and determined in representing your legal and business interests with a personal touch, and in a time and cost effective manner.

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GEORGIA ATLANTA

JOSEPH R. NEAL, JR., Esq.

CATASTROPHIC INJURIES, WRONGFUL DEATH, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Joseph R. Neal, Jr., Esq. is an AV Pre-Eminent rated, second generation Georgia Trial Lawyer with over 24 years of litigation experience. Mr. Neal is the principal and founder of NEAL LAW, a Plaintiff's personal injury law firm with a state wide practice, with offices in Atlanta and Augusta, which provides first class legal representation for victims of catastrophic injuries and wrongful death. Mr. Neal's success as a compassionate and aggressive Plaintiff's trial lawyer in trucking cases, fire and burn cases, and medical malpractice cases has led to lifetime memberships in the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum, known as the Top Trial Lawyers of America®, America's Top 100 Attorneys and Top 100 High Stakes Litigators, the National Trial Lawyers Top 100, and the Best Attorneys of America. Mr. Neal considers his vocation both an art and a craft and he is a graduate of Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyer's College (2000 and 2001) and the American Assoc. for Justice's Ultimate Trial Advocacy Course, *The Art of Persuasion*, at Harvard Law School (2012). A fierce advocate for his clients, Mr. Neal dedicates all of his energies to achieving justice for those wrongfully harmed or killed.



NEAL LAW

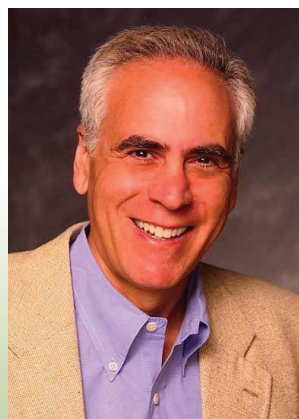
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GEORGIA ATLANTA

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.



He received his Master of Laws from Emory University and has taught for many years at the Emory Law School Trial Techniques Program. He is AV rated® by Martindale-Hubbell since 1989, the highest lawyer rating. Larry has also been chosen by his peers as one of Georgia's *Super Lawyers*, as published in *Atlanta Magazine* for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017, and the *Journal of Law & Politics*, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017. He is a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, Southern Trial Lawyers Association, and Old Warhorse Lawyers Club.

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GEORGIA PEACHTREE CITY

TOM LACY

The law firm of Lindsey & Lacy, PC is dedicated to serving the legal needs of individuals and businesses throughout all of Georgia. We take pride in helping our 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 20 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. Also, I have represented many directors and officers after bank failures here in Georgia.

Some law firms focus on representing businesses. Other law firms devote their efforts to serving individuals. At Lindsey & Lacy, PC, we offer a combination of legal practice areas you won't find at many other law firms. Areas of Practice include: Business Law, Litigation, Insurance Law, Government & Administrative Agencies, Estate Planning and Adoptions. I look forward to assisting you and your clients.



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**GEORGIA** MACON**DUKE R. GROOVER****Insurance Law, Commercial Litigation, Business and Commercial**

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.

**JAMES-BATES-BRANNAN-GROOVER-LLP**

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GEORGIA JONESBORO**JOHN M. TURNER**

John M. Turner is a veteran criminal lawyer with 45 years of experience trying serious state and federal felony cases including homicides, sexual assaults, gang cases, robberies, drugs and DUIs. He prosecuted many high profile cases for 22 years and, in private practice, has also defended many high profile cases. John is an Honors graduate of The National Law Center, George Washington University School Of Law and has taught as an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School and Emory University School Of Law. John has served as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corp for 22 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Georgia Army National Guard.



John is a skilled advocate known for his ability to achieve positive results for his clients in the most difficult cases. He has consistently earned AVO's "Superb" rating and is also rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell. He is also rated in "Top Attorneys Of Georgia" as published in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

SCOTT & TURNER LAW GROUP LLC

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GEORGIA ROSWELL**KURT R. HILBERT****BUSINESS – REAL ESTATE –
EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION**

Kurt R. Hilbert is the founder and Managing Member of The Hilbert Law Firm, LLC and the founder and inaugural President of The Roswell Attorney Project, a non-profit dedicated to bringing 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.

**THE HILBERT LAW FIRM**

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GEORGIA ATLANTA**THOMAS G. SAMPSON****PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, MEDICAL MALPRACTICE**

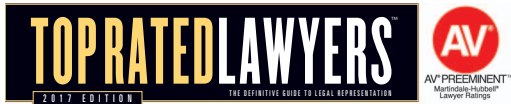
Thomas G. Sampson is the Managing Partner of Thomas Kennedy Sampson & Tompkins, LLP, which is the oldest minority-owned and operated firm in Georgia. He has practiced law for more than 40 years, building a national trial practice and reputation in the fields of personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice litigation. Sampson has been listed in every published edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1993, and Sampson has blazed trails 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.

**THOMAS KENNEDY SAMPSON
& TOMPKINS, LLP**

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GEORGIA ALPHARETTA

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, bicycle, and bus accidents. For over 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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GEORGIA DECATUR

ROGER W. ORLANDO

Roger W. Orlando has been a trial lawyer for 30 years, the first decade as an insurance defense lawyer. The ORLANDO Firm, P.C. maintains offices in Georgia, Florida and New Jersey and specializes in pharmaceutical, diet drug and medical device litigation (mass torts) nationwide. Mr. Orlando and the firm have served on various Plaintiff Steering Committees in federal and state court MDLs (Lead Counsel, MDL No. 2087) and have served as Lead Counsel in a number of class action cases. Mr. Orlando is a Leader's Forum member of the American Association of Justice and has been peer-rated a "Top Rated Lawyer" in both Georgia and New Jersey 2011-2017. Mr. Orlando also has been peer-rated a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association 2010-2017. He is a member of the million and multimillion dollar advocates forum and is AV-Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell. Mr. Orlando is a Champion member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers. Similarly, Mr. Orlando is a member of the New Jersey Association of Justice and is a NJAJ PAC member. Member: Mass Tort Trial Lawyers Association.



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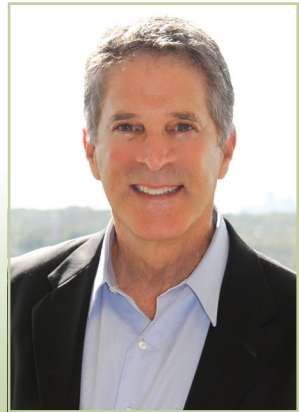
DARRYL COHEN

A preeminent Entertainment, Criminal Defense, and Hospitality lawyer, Darryl Cohen either does it right or not at all. He simply makes it happen. Darryl has a Martindale-Hubbell AV rating, has been named a Super Lawyer and Georgia Legal Elite, and has been designated a Legal Legend from the Fulton County Daily Report. Darryl believes the word no is spelled know.

His current A-list, on camera personalities include Meteorologists Jim Cantore and Jen Carfagno from TWC, David Chandley of Fox 5, and Fox 5 evening news anchor, Tom Haynes. Darryl has vast experience representing production companies, talent agencies, individual talent, and working with reality/non-scripted television shows.

A former Assistant State Attorney in Dade County, Florida and Assistant District Attorney in Fulton County, Georgia, Darryl brings incredible expertise, savvy, and finesse to every criminal case he takes. From Axl Rose, Lisa Lopez, and Kid Rock to the last living member of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Darryl's success rate is unparalleled.

A long-time meeting planner for Entertainment, Sports, and IP lawyers, Darryl has developed a significant client base in the hospitality industry as well.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

ROBERT G. WELLON

FAMILY LAW

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.



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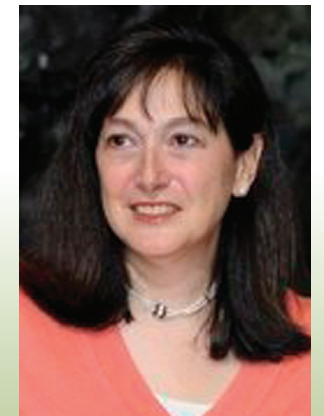
MICHELLE B. RAPOPORT

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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