



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



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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 26 years of trial experience as lead counsel. Mr. Neal is the principal and founder of NEAL LAW, which provides first class legal representation for victims of catastrophic injury and wrongful death across the State of Georgia, with offices in Atlanta and Augusta. Neal Law collected over \$6,400,000 in settlements and verdicts in the first six months of 2019 alone - from a nursing malpractice case (Richmond County), a commercial trucking wreck case (Gwinnett County), and a single car wreck case (Fulton County). Mr. Neal's success as a compassionate and aggressive Plaintiff's trial lawyer in trucking cases, brain injury cases, fire and burn cases, and medical malpractice cases has led to his inclusion in Georgia's Top Rated Lawyers from 2013-2019, and 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 is a champion and fierce advocate for the common man, has a knack for winning difficult cases against powerful entities, and loves trying cases before juries. Mr. Neal is a former felony prosecutor, and is a certified graduate of both 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). Mr. Neal enjoys co-counseling with lawyers who need assistance and financial backing in the litigation and trial of complex damages cases in excess of \$1,000,000.



GEORGIA ATLANTA

LLOYD BELL

With more than 25 years of legal experience, Lloyd Bell has built a sterling courtroom record and recovered over \$100 million for medical malpractice victims throughout the State of Georgia. Bell began his legal career in the early 90's serving as a U.S. Army JAG Corps officer. After working for several large defense firms, Bell founded Bell Law Firm in 1999, and since that time, has been consistently recognized as one of the top trial attorneys in Georgia. In 2018, Bell Law Firm was recognized as Personal Injury Litigation Team of the Year by Daily Report, the leading source of legal news in Georgia. In 2019, Bell was named as the second ever Georgia attorney to join the Inner Circle of Advocates, an elite, invitation-only group of the nation's top plaintiff lawyers.

Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys – Medical Malpractice, Lloyd Bell is a leader in the creative and innovative use of trial technology, which has contributed to his record jury verdicts. Bell makes extensive use of his iPad and captivates juries with digital tools that illustrate human anatomy and help bring clarity to often complex issues involving medical malpractice. Bell's seamless integration of technology makes him one of Georgia's most formidable trial attorneys.

Bell has been included on Atlanta Magazine's prestigious Super Lawyers list every year since 2005, and for the past five years, he has been recognized on the Super Lawyers "Top 100 Lawyers in Georgia." Bell is one of the few personal injury lawyers in Georgia to be selected as "Legal Elite" by Georgia Trend Magazine, an honor he has received every year since 2015.

Over the past five years, Bell won more seven- and eight-figure verdicts for his clients in medical malpractice cases than any other attorney in the state of Georgia, including a \$15 million verdict against a large Atlanta hospital group in 2016 and a record-breaking \$26 million verdict against a Columbus hospital in 2017. Bell was recently selected for membership in the Melvin M. Belli Society, a group of distinguished trial lawyers from around the country who have achieved outstanding jury verdicts for their clients while maintaining the highest level of ethics and professionalism.


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GEORGIA ROSWELL

KURT R. HILBERT

MEDIATION; BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE & EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

Kurt R. Hilbert is the founder and Managing Member of The Hilbert Law Firm, LLC and ADR Georgia LLC, the preeminent mediation company representing clients north of the Perimeter. A certified mediator, seasoned litigator and expert witness in several GA cases involving real property, 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.

Mr. Hilbert specializes in analyzing complex matters and finding successful outcomes. Mr. Hilbert oversees all matters and cases at the firm to provide comprehensive customer service. He believes that each client's needs are unique and singular. Recent accolades include being voted "Best Attorney" by Family Life Publications Best of Life Awards 2017-2019; a 2019 Top 100 High Stakes Litigators in the Country and continually rated by Martindale-Hubbell as an AV Preeminent Attorney. His success comes from his ability to maintain a flexible working environment that allows the Hilbert Law team to use their well-established foundation of knowledge to dissect the details of each unique matter, listen to each client's needs and create and implement a plan to accomplish the goals of each client.

Through Mr. Hilbert's guidance and management, Hilbert Law has crafted a unique team of capable attorneys that provide 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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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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GEORGIA ATLANTA, BRUNSWICK

PATE, JOHNSON & CHURCH

PJC.LAW



Pate, Johnson & Church is a client-focused law firm dedicated to helping people fight for what's fair. Whether it's defending someone in a serious criminal case, helping a catastrophically injured victim recover damages, or standing up for a courageous whistleblower who is reporting multi-million dollar fraud, we fight for our clients every step of the way.

There are three lawyers in our firm. Page Pate is our Senior Trial Attorney with over 25 years of experience in criminal defense and civil litigation. He has a national practice and has represented people in federal district courts from Key West, Florida to Seattle, Washington, and from Del Rio, Texas to Fargo, North Dakota. Page is a founding member of the Georgia Innocence Project, and previously served as a board member of the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta. Page is a regular contributor to local and national media on legal issues and high-profile trials. Page is a frequent guest on CNN and has appeared regularly on Fox News, 11 Alive News, CBS Atlanta, and Fox 5 Atlanta. For over a decade, he has been the Legal Analyst for WABE FM 90.1, Atlanta's NPR affiliate.

Trial Attorney Jess Johnson has over a decade of experience practicing criminal defense and civil litigation in courts across the country at both the trial and appellate levels. Jess has been selected as a "Rising Star" in criminal defense and civil litigation by Super Lawyers Magazine every year since 2012. Jess holds bar licenses in both Georgia and Washington, D.C. He is an active member of the Federal Bar Association, the Atlanta Bar Association, and the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Jess previously served as a staff member for a prominent Georgia congressman in Washington, D.C. where he helped to craft policy and legislation. He also worked for the International Center of Democratic Governance in Beijing, China which focused on the fair and equal application of law.

Trial Attorney Tom Church graduated with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was a member of the school's Moot Court and Mock Trial teams. Tom also won awards for achieving the highest marks in his Torts and Constitutional Law classes. Tom served as a research assistant to Professors Dan Coenen and Michael Wells, experts in constitutional law and constitutional litigation, respectively. In his last year of school, Tom was one of a few students selected to participate in a week-long seminar with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Most recently, Tom got criminal racketeering charges dismissed against a client in Fulton County after filing a motion challenging the State's indictment. Tom has also filed sentencing motions that have resulted in our clients receiving no jail time, a rare outcome in federal criminal cases. Tom is bilingual and assists our Spanish-speaking clients in both criminal and civil matters.

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GEORGIA AVONDALE ESTATES

JOE A. WEEKS

Joe Weeks has practiced law since 1983, when he graduated, J.D. cum laude, from John Marshall Law School of Atlanta. From 1989 until 2009, he served as a Municipal Court Judge. He was selected as a Vice President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, Regional Chairperson for the Georgia Civil Justice Foundation, Chairman of the General Practice and Trial Section of the State Bar of Georgia, and he is a regular lecturer at seminars for new and experienced lawyers across Georgia. In 2014, Joe received the Tradition of Excellence Award from the State Bar of Georgia. In 2018, Joe was recognized as one of Atlanta's outstanding lawyers by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

A trial lawyer, with more than two hundred jury verdicts, Joe Weeks is one of the most experienced and accomplished personal injury attorneys in Georgia. His vast trial experience includes representing doctors, insurance companies and financial institutions in civil cases as well as representing defendants in criminal cases. However, for the past 25 years, his trial practice has focused on representing people who have suffered personal injuries.

"The most important aspect of my practice is preparation, beginning with the initial client meeting. While the big television advertising law firms sign up thousands of cases without personally meeting the client, I would never engage in such conduct. If a lawyer cannot take the time to meet with you, personally, and provide answers to any questions that you have, that lawyer will take other shortcuts while handling your case. This is not acceptable in my practice."

Attorney Joe A. Weeks is AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. This is the highest rating possible for both legal ability and ethics.



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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 client's get through difficult times in a caring and cost-effective manner. As a former Army officer, Mr. Lacy is dedicated to the highest levels of integrity and professionalism.

Mr. Lacy focuses his practice on insurance coverage, business litigation, antitrust, personal injury, and consumer class actions. Prior to forming Lindsey & Lacy PC, he practiced law in Fayette County for ten years after working in the litigation section at several large Atlanta firms. Tom has tried cases to jury verdicts in both State and Federal courts. He also frequently arbitrates and mediates cases for his clients. Tom's experience varies from billion-dollar pollution suits to smaller first- and third-party coverage disputes. He has litigated national, as well as Georgia, class actions. Mr. Lacy has an AV® Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell.

Since he began practicing law, Tom has served as the President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and on the State of Georgia Bar's business court and judicial selection standing committees. Tom served as the Vice-Chairman of the Georgia World War One Centennial Commission and currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Peachtree City Airport Authority and as a board member of the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Georgia.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

ADAM MALONE

Adam Malone continues to advance and honor the Tradition of Excellence he and his father, Thomas W. "Tommy" Malone, pursued together for the last 20 years and which his father and grandfather 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 and safety for all. 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 - where for the past two years Adam was voted one of the top 10 Super Lawyers in Georgia. 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 continues achieving record results, which has earned Malone Law a reputation for excellence. This reputation has become a tradition as Adam and his team continue to carry on his father's legacy.

"We are inspired daily to give no less than our best to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others," says Adam Malone.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

ALLEGRA LAWRENCE-HARDY

Allegra Lawrence-Hardy is the co-founding partner of Lawrence & Bundy LLC, a commercial litigation firm with a comprehensive breadth of experience representing and advising clients across a wide spectrum of industries. Allegra uses creativity and results-oriented strategic analysis to develop legal solutions that work for her clients. Allegra focuses her practice on Business and Commercial Litigation and Labor and Employment law. She has successfully defended Fortune 100 companies throughout the United States and abroad in numerous trials, arbitrations and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. Allegra is known for her skill in trying cases, negotiating complex settlements and finding creative solutions. She helps develop processes and tools for improving the efficiency and delivery of legal services.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

ROBERT G. WELLON

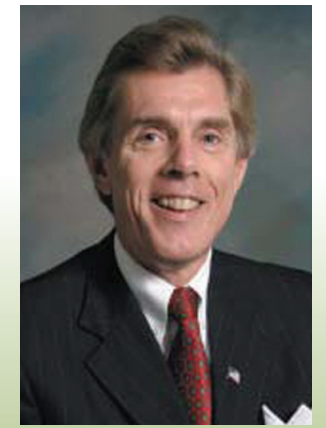
FAMILY LAW

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* (2004-2018) 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.



ROBERT G. WELLON, ESQ.

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GEORGIA ATLANTA

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.



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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.



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ROGER W. ORLANDO

Roger W. Orlando has been a trial lawyer for 33 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 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 class action cases. Mr. Orlando is a Leader's Forum and Board of Governors member of the American Association of Justice and has been peer-rated a "Top Rated Lawyer" in both Georgia and New Jersey 2011-2019. Mr. Orlando also has been peer-rated a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association 2010-2019. He is a member of the million and multimillion dollar advocates forum and is AV-Preeminent rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been selected as a Super Lawyer, 2019 & 2020. 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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GEORGIA ATLANTA

LISA SMITH SIEGEL

Lisa Smith Siegel, a Social Security Disability attorney, has practiced law for 30 years in the state of Georgia. She is an AV-rated, Super Lawyer, and Legal Elite honoree. With a background in civil litigation and healthcare legislation as a Congressional Legislative Fellow, Lisa has combined her interest in law and public health. Since 2012, she has focused her practice entirely on Social Security Disability. A fierce advocate, she represents claimants of all ages before the Social Security Administration and at the Federal Court level. When not in the courtroom, she meets personally with each client, assuring that she knows the client and understands the case before stepping into court on the client's behalf. She is a member of the National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives; the Georgia Bar; the Atlanta Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She speaks regularly on Social Security Disability for lawyers and health care professionals. In addition to speaking at professional events, she blogs regularly on disability, public health and poverty legislation.

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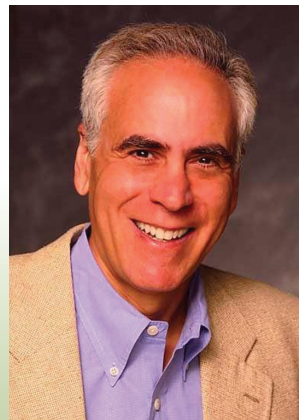
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LAWRENCE A. COOPER

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.

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 from 2009 through 2019. He is a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, Southern Trial Lawyers Association, and Old Warhorse Lawyers Club. Larry is also a past president of the Family Law Section of The Cobb County Bar Association.

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GEORGIA ATLANTA

BILL KASPERS

Bill Kaspers is a phi beta kappa graduate of Princeton and received his law degree from the University of Michigan. For 39 consecutive years, he has maintained the highest ("av") rating for his legal skill and ethical standards in the employment law bar while representing employers and selected executives and/or employees. Mr. Kaspers' **golden rule for success**, both at work and in court, is to "treat others as you would expect to be treated."

For an appointment and expert employment law advice, call Mr. Kaspers at 404-888-3740 or email him at bill@kasperslaw.com.



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STEVEN E. WOLFE

Steve Wolfe has devoted his career to aggressively protecting employee rights. He represents people from all walks of life, all industries, and all rungs of the corporate ladder.

For nearly fifteen years, Mr. Wolfe has represented individuals injured by employers' discrimination, harassment, retaliation and illegal denial of overtime pay. He also represents executives in severance and employment contract disputes. His successes have earned him professional distinctions including appearing in the Daily Report's On The Rise list (2014), an AV-Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbe, and a SuperLawyers selection every year since 2014.

Mr. Wolfe is a founding member of, Legare Attwood & Wolfe, LLC, which specializes in employee rights work. He is a member of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, the National Employment Lawyers Association – Georgia Affiliate (past president and board member), the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association and the Atlanta Bar Association's Labor & Employment Section, in which he is a board member.



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GEORGIA ATLANTA

JACQUELYN H. SAYLOR

**ESTATE PLANNING, TRUSTS & ESTATES,
PROBATE LAW**

Jackie Saylor is the Immediate Past Chair of the Estate Planning & Probate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association; she was the 107th President of that Bar. Jackie is again a Super Lawyer this year in Estate Planning & Probate and was earlier named to the top 50 Women Super Lawyers List. She serves on the Board of Councilors of the Carter Center. Among Jackie's awards are Outstanding Woman in the Profession and the State Bar of Georgia Community Service Award. Jackie has spoken at a variety of legal seminars and has written numerous articles on estate law and the practice of law. She is co-editor and co-author of *Women and Law: A Guide to Legal Rights in Georgia* which she coordinated while she was Treasurer of the Georgia Commission on Women. Jackie graduated from UGA, UNC with an M.A. and Mercer Law School with a J.D. Jackie's husband and legal partner, Murray Saylor, an Attorney-CPA, Accredited Estate Planner, and Wharton Graduate (B.S., M.S.), is a former President of the American Academy of Attorney-CPAs.



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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 45 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.



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NEW BOOK


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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Corey R. Chivers is a partner in Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP's Capital Markets practice. He has represented corporations, investment banks, national governments and multinational financial institutions in a wide range of public and private securities offerings, including initial public offerings, major high-yield transactions and investment grade debt offerings.

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