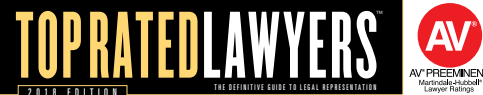


The following section features attorneys who have demonstrated leadership qualities and have achieved the AV Preeminent rating by Martindale-Hubbell®.

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 on-line 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"



**GEORGIA** ROSWELL

**MIKE BOTHWELL**

As one of the first lawyers in the United States to represent whistleblowers under the False Claims Act (FCA), Mike Bothwell helped shape the scope of FCA law and is acknowledged by scholars and practitioners as a national leader in the field. Mr. Bothwell has litigated every aspect of the FCA, including matters between relators and the government. He has been instrumental in obtaining over \$500,000,000 in settlements and has been voluntarily offered the maximum relator's share by the government in both intervened and non-intervened cases.



Mr. Bothwell has been lead counsel against some of the largest federal contractors and has measured up to defense lawyers at some of the largest firms in the nation. Mr. Bothwell has also received client referrals from some of those attorneys and has been asked to make presentations on the FCA by and with many of the leading FCA defense counsel. Mike Bothwell graduated magna cum laude from BYU Law School in 1991 and in 1996 he started the Bothwell Law Group (BLG). BLG exclusively represents FCA whistleblowers.

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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 25 years of trial experience as lead counsel. Mr. Neal is the founder of NEAL LAW, a Plaintiff's catastrophic injury and wrongful death firm with a state wide practice, with offices in Atlanta and Augusta. Neal Law 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, brain injury 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 has a knack for winning difficult cases, is a fierce advocate for his clients, and loves trying cases. A former felony prosecutor who has tried hundreds of jury trials, Mr. Neal is also 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). Seeking justice for those wrongfully harmed, who have no adequate voice of their own, is both a family tradition and a lifetime calling for Mr. Neal. At Neal Law, we do not stop fighting for our clients until Justice is served, the perpetrators are held accountable, and our clients are made whole.



**NEAL LAW**



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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

## LOYD BELL

With more than 25 years of trial experience, Lloyd Bell has 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, Lloyd 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 The Daily Report, the leading source of legal news in Georgia.

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. For example, 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 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** 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** 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 former President of The Roswell Attorney Project, a non-profit dedicated to bringing back civility to the practice of law. A certified mediator, seasoned litigator and expert witness in several GA cases involving real estate, 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. 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 & 2018, a "Business Person of Excellence" by the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce 2016 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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Left to Right: James Stone, Ryals Stone, Bill Stone, Mike Regas, Ryan Barnes

**A**t Stone Law Group, the firm's trial-tested lawyers are known for delivering results, and with good reason: besides recovering more than \$1.2 billion for its personal injury and business and consumer fraud clients, the firm has achieved record-setting results that set it apart from other plaintiffs' firms.

**Among its recent victories are:**

- A record \$45.8M medical malpractice verdict in a medical malpractice case that resulted in a mother's permanent brain injury after her baby was born. That case included \$9.8M in economic damages and \$18M in compensatory damages for the mother, and a record \$18M for her husband's loss of marital relationship.
- A record wrongful death verdict – a \$40.1 million judgment against a trucking company arising out of a tractor-trailer crash killing two people and injuring a third.
- A record \$250 million fraud settlement against the giant pharmaceutical company, Merck, for cheating taxpayers by concealing the actual price of a drug from Medicaid best price rebate requirements.
- A confidential multi-million dollar settlement in an industrial explosion case causing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns over 65% of a worker's body.
- A confidential multi-million dollar settlement in a plane crash case involving multiple parties.
- A confidential multi-million dollar settlement in a malpractice case causing serious birth injuries to a newborn baby.

"We focus-group our cases many times before trying them, so we usually are not too surprised by the verdict we receive," says Bill Stone, the firm's founding partner. "Our promise to our clients is that we will aggressively pursue their cases, preparing for trial from day one. If defendants want a trial, they'll get their money's worth from Stone Law Group."

The firm was initially founded by Stone's grandfather in 1915, and continues to grow, with offices in Atlanta, Blakely, and Rome, Georgia. Members of the firm are Michael Regas II, Ryals Stone, and James Stone. Last year, Ryan Barnes joined the firm as an associate.

Bill Stone has been listed for many years in The Best Lawyers in America, and was named as its 2013 Atlanta Plaintiff's Lawyer of the Year. In 2017 Stone was again named Georgia Plaintiff's trial lawyer of the year by Courtroom Video Network.

Stone and Regas have been rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell and named as SuperLawyers for many years. Ryals was recognized as a SuperLawyers Rising Star in 2017. The firm is rated by Best Lawyers as one of Atlanta's Tier One for personal injury cases.

"Ultimately, our success stems from the fact that we are ethically driven and pursue high standards of excellence," notes Stone.



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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

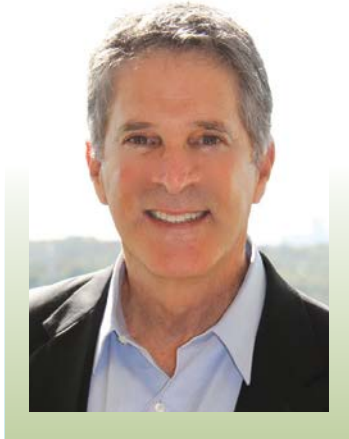
**DARRYL COHEN**

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 Lopes, 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.


**COHEN COOPER ESTEP AND ALLEN**

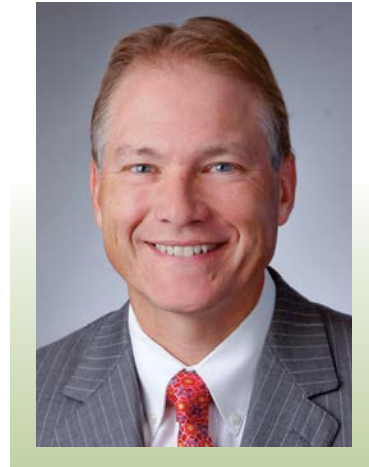
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**GEORGIA** MACON

**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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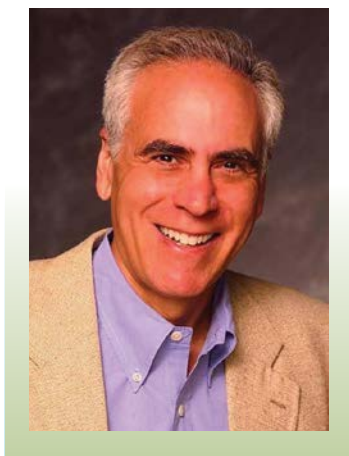
**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

**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 from 2009 through 2018. 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** 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 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 2011-2018. Mr. Orlando also has been peer-rated a Top 100 Trial Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers Association 2010-2018. 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. 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.



**The ORLANDO Firm, P.C.**

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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

## 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.



## MALONE LAW OFFICE

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## GEORGIA ATLANTA

## ANDREW "DREW" BEAL

Shareholder Disputes, Professional Negligence,  
Commercial Litigation

Drew Beal is one of the managing partners of Buckley Beal. For more than 30 years he has been dedicated to representing the needs of individuals and closely held companies in state and federal courts throughout the Southeast. For most of his career, Drew has maintained his own practice or has been the main partner specializing in business and individual litigation. Specifically, he specializes in handling commercial claims including shareholder disputes, professional negligence and company ownership disputes. He has also routinely handled a variety of claims for individuals involving the denial of benefits under policies of insurance and defined benefit plans, catastrophic injuries and wills and estate plan litigation.



Drew graduated from Duke University and the University of Georgia School of Law. He has been active in the Atlanta Bar Association, receiving the Distinguished Service Award and holding positions as a member of the Board of Directors, Chairman of the Judicial Selection and Tenure Committee, and Chairman of the Committee for Continuing Legal Education. He has maintained an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell, and was selected as one of the Legal Elite by Georgia Trend Magazine and by Atlanta Magazine as a Super Lawyer since 2007.

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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 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 MARIETTA

## PHILIP W. LORENZ

PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH,  
PREMISES LIABILITY, CIVIL LITIGATION

A veteran personal injury trial attorney, Philip W. Lorenz is a litigation partner with the firm of Morrison & Hughes. Phil has tried, mediated and settled tens of millions of dollars in cases ranging from wrongful death and catastrophic injuries to slip and falls, animal attacks, Dram Shop liability, trucking cases, and routine motor vehicle collisions. Having represented insurance companies for 11 years, Phil's in-depth "insider" knowledge of how claims are investigated and evaluated allows him to use that knowledge to the fullest benefits of his clients. Phil is a recent graduate of Civil Mediation training at Henning Mediation & Arbitration and is now a Registered Civil Mediator with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

Phil has been rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest possible rating for ethics and legal ability, since 2013. A decorated Chief Petty Officer in the U.S. Navy before law school, Phil dedicates the same devotion to duty to his clients as he did to serving our country.



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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

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

**T**homas 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.


**THOMAS KENNEDY SAMPSON  
& TOMPKINS, LLP**

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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

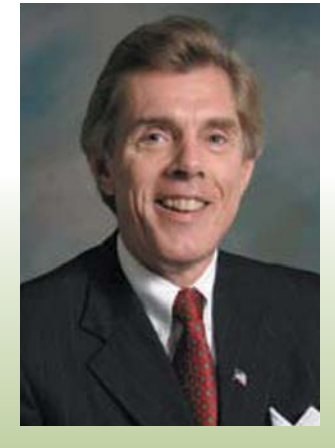
**ROBERT G. WELLON**
**FAMILY LAW**

**F**or 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** MARIETTA

**MELVIN M. GOLDSTEIN**
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, LICENSING LAW**

**M**el Goldstein has been serving clients with licensing issues in the State Of Georgia for over 35 years. He is an AV Preeminent lawyer rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been recognized in the Bar Register of Preeminent lawyers. After graduating from Wayne State University Law School (J.D., Magna Cum Laude, 1974), Mr. Goldstein did a 4-and-a-half year stint as an Assistant Attorney General, State Of Georgia primarily representing the licensing boards.

Thereafter, he heard thousands of cases as an Administrative Law Judge for various agencies.

For the past 25 years, his experience has been focused on representing businesses and individuals in licensure or disciplinary actions brought by the State. Mel Goldstein's unique perspective in the representation of these matters has been forged by the combination of being a prosecutor, judge and defense attorney.


**MELVIN M. GOLDSTEIN  
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**GEORGIA** ATLANTA

**BILL KASPERS**

**B**ill Kaspers is a phi beta kappa graduate of Princeton and received his law degree from the University of Michigan. For 38 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](mailto:bill@kasperslaw.com).


**KASPERS & ASSOCIATES**

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