

Georgia

The competitive litigation field in Georgia continues to grow as more and more firms find satellite offices here to compete with the heavy-hitters already located in Atlanta. The state recently saw a major case for pet owners when a former Humane Society employee and former state representative filed suit against the Georgia Department of Agriculture and commissioner, Tommy Irvin. Both were eventually found in contempt of court for the inhumane gassing of companion animals.

Highly recommended firms

While they may have lost a few attorneys this year to other firms, **Alston & Bird** remains a powerhouse in law. More than 400 attorneys occupy roughly 10 floors of the offices in Atlanta. The firm offers an array of services for litigation including, but not limited to, antitrust, bankruptcy, class action, commercial, energy, Employment Retirement Income Security Act, immigration and securities. The firm also continues to grow its intellectual property practice. Alston & Bird is consistently involved with pro bono work and the community with projects such as the Human Rights Campaign, AID Atlanta, The Carter Center and Atlanta chapter of The United Nations Children's Fund. In addition to its reach in Georgia, the firm recently expanded to Los Angeles with the acquisition of Weston Benschhof Rochefort Rubalcava & MacCuish, which now adds more than 80 lawyers to Alston & Bird. The firm also opened an office in Silicon Valley with several attorneys from Akin Gump.

Judson Graves focuses his practice on product liability, defamation and intellectual property. Graves is well known for his experience in handling medical malpractice cases. **Michael Kenny**, known for his work in antitrust and class action litigation, has a national trial practice. Kenny is heavily involved in work regarding telecommunications, financial services and life sciences companies. Chair of the products liability group, **Bernard Taylor** often leads teams on complex commercial litigation and toxic torts. Clients include Flexible Products, Louisiana Pacific and Union Carbide. **Cari Dawson** chairs the class action practice team for the litigation and trial practice group. Past clients include Safeco Property and Casual Insurance. **Debra Sydnor** defends complex and mass tort litigation matters that regularly involve products liability and toxic tort disputes. She also represents hospitals, clinics, physicians and nurses in various medical malpractice disputes. Associate **Kerry Vatzakas** handles securities litigation at the firm, and peers frequently recognize her for her quality work.

Boutique firm **Bondurant Mixson & Elmore** focuses all efforts toward litigation. With 26 attorneys, the firm handles several aspects of commercial litigation including

antitrust, business torts, class actions, employment, environmental, intellectual property and white-collar law. One client called Bundurant, "A firm that can deliver a high-quality product in complex litigation matters." The firm represents both plaintiffs and defendants in lawsuits with past clients including Delta Airlines, Choicepoint and Dynege. The lawyers are also prolific writers, frequently contributing scholarly works to the American Bar Association's antitrust section. The firm also recently took on a case to represent a prisoner, Ahmed Errachidi, at the US Naval station at Guantanamo Bay. Incarcerated for five years, without charges, the firm managed to secure his release back to his family. Clients also made note of the firm's ability to "staff in a lean, stable way with young partners and senior associates."

Consistently ranked as one of the best litigators in the state, **Emmet Bondurant's** practice focuses areas of antitrust, business torts, constitutional law, professional liability and securities. He participates in the legal community by taking part in Common Cause Georgia, a non-profit lobby organization that works to "strengthen public participation and to ensure that the political process serves the public interest, rather than the special interests." **Jeffrey Bramlett** specializes in aspects of complex business and civil rights enforcement problems. He often receives cases from other lawyers involving professional liability matters. Bramlett serves as the President of the State Bar of Georgia as well. **Frank Lowrey** often represents Fortune 500 companies in class actions and other complex litigation suits. He is noted by peers for having a strong antitrust practice. Specializing in business disputes, **Lamar Mixson**, practices in areas of business torts, corporate governance, insurance litigation, Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act cases and securities litigation. He holds several major jury verdicts under his belt totaling more than one billion dollars. Peers noted the work of associate **Sarah Shalf** for technology litigation in trademark, patent trade secrets issues. Shalf also handles electronic discovery issues that are common in those cases. **Darren Summerville**, an associate, handles cases for both plaintiffs and defendants. He often works with medical malpractice and personal

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

- Alston & Bird
- Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
- King & Spalding

Recommended

- Doffermyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine
- Greenberg Traurig
- Kilpatrick Stockton
- McKenna Long & Aldridge
- Powell Goldstein
- Smith Gambrell & Russell
- Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
- Troutman Sanders
- Vaughan & Murphy



Local litigation stars

William Boice
Kilpatrick Stockton

Emmet Bondurant
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Jeffrey Bramlett
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Susan Cahoon
Kilpatrick Stockton

Kenneth Canfield
Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

John Chandler
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Stephens Clay
Kilpatrick Stockton

William Custer
Powell Goldstein

John Dalton
Troutman Sanders

Everette Dofferymyre
Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Randolph Evans
McKenna Long & Aldridge

John Fleming
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Judson Graves
Alston & Bird

Scott Greene
Powell Goldstein

Michael Kenny
Alston & Bird

Ralph Knowles
Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Frank Lowrey
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Joseph Loveland
King & Spalding

John Marshall
Powell Goldstein

Lamar Mixson
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Charles Murphy Jr
Vaughan & Murphy

Ray Persons
King & Spalding

Michael Ross
Greenberg Traurig

Elizabeth Tanis
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

injury issues, business dissolution matters and trade secret disputes.

Another powerhouse litigation firm, **King & Spalding** has offices around the world, but maintains a strong base in Atlanta, where the firm was founded. The litigation from the Atlanta office is all encompassing, with practice areas including, but not limited to, asset management, climate change, ERISA, First Amendment law, mass torts, product liability, tax and trade secrets. The firm also deals with major clients such as Coca-Cola, General Electric, General Motors, The Home Depot, Sprint Nextel and UPS. The firm recently successfully defended GlaxoSmithKline in a product liability case that the judge dismissed, with prejudice. The suit involved the suicide of a young boy against the drug Paxil.

Joseph Loveland is well known among peers as one of the top business litigation lawyers in the country. His practice areas include antitrust, commercial disputes, franchise and professional liability litigation. Loveland also serves on the board for The National Institute for Trial Advocacy. Another top litigator, **Ray Persons** focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation in

all aspects of litigation at the firm. He is well known among his peers for work in ERISA, RICO, products liability, consumer fraud and insurance matters. Managing partner **Everette Dofferymyre** focuses his practice on business litigation such as contracts, breach of trust, lost profits, trade secrets, patents, trademark infringement and business torts. **Ralph Knowles** is noted for his work in matters of products liability and toxic torts. **Sheryl McCalla** predominantly focuses her work in areas of business and environmental litigation. She also actively participates in her community with groups such as GreenLaw and the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium.

The Atlanta office of **Greenberg Traurig** provides clients with extensive litigation expertise. Lawyers here don't just bring their "legal acumen," but industry specific knowledge that relates well for their clients. The firm also understands that cost matters to clients, and approach cases with this in mind at all times. This also leads to creativity in approaching a case, regardless of whether it goes to trial. The litigation team most often focuses on products liability defense, construction, employment and complex commercial matters. The firm is also well

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- Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Emmet Bondurant

class actions, mass torts and product liability. He recently helped secure a victory for Clear Channel Outdoor. The jury awarded the client nearly \$5 million in a breach of contract and fraud suit in a trial that lasted five years. Regularly cited for her work in litigation, **Chilton Varner** specializes in product liability, business torts and contract disputes. She recently successfully helped defend client GlaxoSmithKline. **Randall Bassett** centers his practice on product liability matters. Past clients include Brown-Forman Corporation, General Motors and Purdue. **Anthony Tatum** specializes in complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on insurance. Past clients include Kimberly-Clark, Shell Oil and Coca-Cola.

Recommended firms

Atlanta firm **Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine** concentrates on civil litigation for plaintiff. The have an extensive case load in bankruptcy, class action, insurance, personal injury and product liability matters. The firm is also well known for taking on unconventional cases. Clients include "United States Senators, members of the United States House of Representatives, a Georgia governor and two Atlanta mayors."

Kenneth Canfield actively participates in

known among peers for its extensive entertainment law experience. Clients include Clay Aiken, Alan Jackson, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow and BB King.

Mark Trigg specializes in corporate law, class action, defamation, sports and entertainment, real estate, securities, employment and white-collar criminal defense litigation. Peers noted him as a "fabulous trial lawyer" who truly understands the needs of his clients. **Michael Ross** maintains a practice in business litigation with emphasis on contracts, trade secrets, antitrust issues and healthcare. He frequently tries class action matters across the US. Associate **Hayden Pace** has several years of experience in entertainment, commercial, construction and banking litigation. **Richard Valladares**, an associate in the Atlanta office, deals with a broad base of litigation matters such as complex commercial, class action, construction, products liability and insurance coverage.

The international firm of **Kilpatrick Stockton** has offices in both Atlanta and Augusta. The firm boasts an extensive litigation practice with specialties in antitrust, class action, consumer product safety, insurance, product liability and toxic torts. Kilpatrick Stockton's intellectual property

group also won accolades from peers. Recently, the firm scored a trial win for client Adidas against Collective Brands. The verdict returned with a \$304 million victory in favor of Adidas, in what may be the largest amount ever for a trademark infringement case. The firm is also recognized in the community and participates in a generous amount of pro bono work, and was recently recognized for its efforts with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

William Boice currently serves as co-chair of the patent litigation team at Kilpatrick Stockton. His trial work focuses on complex litigation in patent and trade secrets, class actions and business torts. One client, Interface, secured a complete patent infringement victory thanks to Boice. **Susan Cahoon** specializes in complex business litigation as well as intellectual property issues, including patent litigation. With extensive experience in international arbitration disputes, **Stephens Clay** continues his service as a leader in litigation. He has successfully represented EI du Pont de Nemours in numerous trials across the country. Associate **Kali Wilson Beyah** specializes in product liability, commercial tort and business tort claims. She is also actively involved in the firm's pro bono efforts. Complex business litigation is the primary interest of associate **Michael Kaeding**. He handles matters in antitrust, commercial and toxic tort, contract, intellectual property, trade secret and product liability.

McKenna Long & Aldridge's "core" lies in their litigation practice. The firm specializes in product liability, toxic torts, white-collar crime and complex commercial litigation matters. The firm works closely with clients to develop the best approach to a case, whether or not that may include going to trial. Representative clients for the firm include Bechtel, Cisco Systems, Honeywell International, RadioShack and Valor Equity Partners. In order to promote diversity, McKenna Long & Aldridge recently developed the MLA Diversity Scholarship for up to three law students participating in the recruiting efforts of the firm.

Randolph Evans chairs the financial institutions practice where he handles business and commercial disputes, class action and insurance litigation. Former clients include Dennis Hastert, Newt Gingrich and JC Watts, former Oklahoma Representative to the House. **Jim Manley Jr** focuses his practice on class action, product liability and toxic tort litigation. Former clients include Ford Motor Company and Otis Elevator. **Dara Mann** specializes in toxic tort and environmental litigation. She has represented clients such as Cargill Incorporated and Syngenta Crop Protection.

Powell Goldstein considers litigation the "ultimate weapon of a business." With a strong presence in the Atlanta market, practice areas include antitrust, bankruptcy,

business, commercial, intellectual property, securities and white-collar criminal work. The firm also has a strong commitment to community service and regularly participates in Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, the Atlanta Women's Foundation, Senior Citizens Services of Metropolitan Atlanta and Refugee Resettlement and Immigration Services of Atlanta. The firm continues to expand their Southern presence with the opening of an office in Charlotte. The firm has, however, cut back on staff, a few of their associates and counsel.

William Custer handles cases within a wide range of litigation including banking, commercial, antitrust matters products liability and toxic torts. He regularly represents clients in matters of lender liability, RICO and fiduciary liability. **Scott Greene** has considerable first chair trial experience in business litigation arbitration. He frequently represents clients in the aviation, banking, energy and real estate development fields. **Robert Travis** focuses his practice on antitrust and various forms of business litigation and arbitration. John Marshall is well known among his peers for his tireless work as a litigator and teacher. He concentrates his practice in business litigation and arbitration. Associate **Paige Stanley** focuses her practice on torts and environmental litigation matters. She also takes an active role in her community by participating in the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. **Karen Wildau** handles complex commercial, contract, employment and banking litigation, as well as several other complex commercial issues for clients.

One of Atlanta's oldest firms, **Smith Gambrell & Russell** is a full-service law firm with several practice areas within litigation. Of the most notable are class actions, environmental, antitrust and securities. The firm also continues to expand their intellectual property group in Atlanta. Past clients of the firm include AirTran, Blue Bird Body Company and TimberStar. The firm also successfully represented the City of Atlanta in a case that involved the taxability of land for an additional runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Edward Wasmuth focuses his work on products liability and antitrust litigation as well as appellate matters. He also frequently lends his talents to antitrust, intellectual property rights and corporate director liability. **Laurence Colton** specializes in all aspects of intellectual property law including trademark, copyright, patent, trade secret and unfair competition litigation. **Rachel Powell**, an associate at the firm, works in general commercial and securities litigation. Trial matters include prosecuting and defending claims for breach of contract, fraud and breach of fiduciary duty.

Atlanta litigators **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan** specialize in several aspects of business, energy, corporate and intellectual

Bernard Taylor
Alston & Bird

Mark Trigg
Greenberg Traurig

Robert Travis
Powell Goldstein

Chilton Varner
King & Spalding

Edward Wasmuth
Smith Gambrell & Russell

William Withrow
Troutman Sanders



Future stars

Kelly Baker
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Randall Bassett
King & Spalding

Kali Wilson Beyah
Kilpatrick Stockton

Laurence Colton
Smith Gambrell & Russell

Cari Dawson
Alston & Bird

Michael Johnson
Troutman Sanders

Michael Kaeding
Kilpatrick Stockton

James Manley Jr
McKenna Long & Aldridge

Dara Mann
McKenna Long & Aldridge

Sheryl McCalla
Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Jamala McFadden
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Hayden Pace
Greenberg Traurig

Rachel Powell
Smith Gambrell & Russell

Thomas Reilly
Troutman Sanders

Sarah Shalf
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Paige Stanley
Powell Goldstein

Darren Summerville
Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Debra Sydnor
Alston & Bird

Anthony Tatum
King & Spalding

Richard Valladares
Greenberg Traurig

Kerry Vatzakas
Alston & Bird

Karen Wildau
Powell Goldstein

property law. A client-focus approach is important to the firm that prides itself on a “deep understanding of business, specific industry knowledge and the ability to manage complex matters across state and national borders.” The firm also employs significant technology capabilities to meet all communication needs a client may require.

John Chandler has represented clients in several professional liability, RICO and securities cases, specializing in business litigation. Peers also recognize his pro bono work on the many cases of detainees from Yemen held at at Guantanamo Bay. **John**

of Ross, Dixon & Bell. Past clients of Troutman Sanders include SeAH Steel, Husteel, North River, McGraw-Hill and the Telemundo Group.

John Dalton focuses his practice on white-collar, media and other forms of complex litigation matters. He also represents clients in cases regarding copyright infringement, breach of contract and patent litigation. He also recently represented a former chief operating officer at a healthcare company against allegations of securities fraud. Section chief of litigation, **William Withrow** specializes in several aspects of business law

“The firm is also well known among peers for its extensive entertainment law experience. Clients include Clay Aiken, Alan Jackson, Willie Nelson, Sheryl Crow and BB King.”

- Greenberg Traurig

Fleming focuses his practice on complex business litigation. Areas of specialty include franchise, professional liability, intellectual property, insurance and tax matters. **Elizabeth Tanis** handles several aspects of litigation including, class action, securities and cases involving public accounting firms. She is also the president of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, and frequently provides her time toward pro bono matters, including the Guantanamo case. Associate **Jamala McFadden** deals with all litigation including complex business, employment and fiduciary law. She also participates in several pro bono and philanthropic efforts including funding a scholarship for college-bound teenage parents. Civil litigation is the focus of associate **Kelly Baker**. She primarily works on land use disputes and unfair trade practices.

Jan. 1, 2009 brings forth the merger of **Troutman Sanders** with law firm Ross, Dixon & Bell to create a firm of 750 lawyers. The new firm, keeping the name Troutman Sanders, will combine the “multi-faceted corporate, finance, litigation, real estate and public policy practices” of Troutman Sanders, with the “insurance, professional liability and commercial litigation practices,”

including, class action, RICO, consumer finance, First Amendment and telecommunications. His recent work includes representation for an insurance company in a class action suit that alleges wrongful collection of premium taxes on personal lines of insurance. **Michael Johnson** focuses on “commercial and business litigation, with emphasis on banking, healthcare and the defense of professional liability actions.” **Thomas Reilly** frequently represents large media companies in aspects of media law and complex litigation. Past clients include Time Warner and Turner Broadcasting System.

Vaughan & Murphy focuses in the defense of antitrust litigation, in matters civil, criminal and basic compliance. A small firm, practices also include business, class action, employment and white-collar litigation. With only four lawyers at the firm, there are 75 years of combined experience in litigation.

Charles Murphy Jr focuses most of his time completely devoted to litigation. He has experience from working at the Federal Trade Commission as well as prosecuting cases for the antitrust division of the Department of Justice.



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Doffermyme Shields Canfield & Knowles, LLC is an Atlanta-based firm specializing in complex civil litigation. While experienced in a number of areas of litigation, the firm's attorneys concentrate in four areas: business litigation, environmental litigation, consumer class actions and personal injury matters involving serious or catastrophic injuries. Most of the firm's work is on behalf of plaintiffs, ranging from individuals to major corporations. Our present caseload is about equally balanced between cases handled in Georgia and cases litigated in other jurisdictions around the country.

An increasing amount of our work is in the area of commercial and business disputes, including intellectual property and claims for professional negligence, as well as matters involving trusts and estates. Our firm is among a handful in Atlanta selected by *Chambers USA* as one of "America's leading business law firms." The 2008 edition states that "This highly reputable Atlanta boutique is respected particularly for complex plaintiff litigation work", adding that "defence firms revere and fear its superb lawyers, interviewees say". An unusual feature of our business practice is a willingness to handle matters on a contingent fee basis, allowing clients to reduce the risk of litigation and to pursue matters that otherwise could not be brought.

The firm's attorneys have graduated from the nation's top law schools and have been elected to such prestigious organizations as the American College of Trial Lawyers, the American Law Institute, and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. One has served as president of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association; others have been recognized by listing in *Best Lawyers In America* and yet another has been named as among the "100 Best Lawyers in Georgia." We have been praised for the fact that our "lawyers really understand and care about their clients."

The firm's attorneys have, collectively, tried hundreds of cases – and litigated thousands more through settlement – involving an extraordinary variety of legal issues and factual settings. The experience of our attorneys benefits both people with individual problems and businesses suffering major losses.

The firm frequently works with other firms on cases of national significance. Examples include the breast implant litigation (one of our attorneys served as co-chair of the plaintiffs' steering committee), the managed care multi-district litigation maintained on behalf of doctors nationwide, and the Masonite hardboard siding litigation. Each of these litigations has resulted in recoveries of more than \$1 billion.

The firm is committed to handling public interest cases, generally on a pro bono basis, in such matters as civil rights, constitutional law and elections. Our past clients include such organizations as Common Cause, Public Citizen and NOW.

EVERETTE L DOFFERMYRE



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Everette Doffermyme specializes in business and commercial litigation and in consumer class actions. He also serves as managing partner for his firm.

Mr Doffermyme was born in Dunn, North Carolina in 1948. He attended the University of Virginia where he received his undergraduate degree in economics, with high honors, in 1970, and his law degree in 1973. He began his career in with the Atlanta firm now known as Kilpatrick Stockton. Elected partner in 1979, he practised with the Kilpatrick firm until he left in 1988 to establish his own firm.

Mr Doffermyme's business litigation encompasses contract disputes, business torts, including claims for professional negligence and for breaches of fiduciary duty, derivative actions and actions involving trade secrets, patent and trademark infringement. He also has substantial experience in litigating trust and estates disputes.

In the area of class actions, Mr Doffermyme has served as lead or co-lead counsel on behalf of consumers in a number of nationwide and statewide class cases, including in particular cases involving defective building products.

He has spoken at conferences and seminars in Washington, DC, San Diego, Atlanta and elsewhere and has authored articles on subjects ranging from trade secrets to class actions. Mr Doffermyme has served as a member of the American Bar Association's Task Force on the Quality of Mediation and Arbitration.

Among distinctions of note: Mr Doffermyme has been selected by *James*

Magazine as one of the "100 Best Lawyers in Georgia;" as one of "Georgia's Elite" by *Georgia Trend magazine*; as one of Atlanta's "litigation stars" by *Benchmark*; and as a "Super Lawyer" by *Atlanta Magazine*. In the most recent edition of *Chambers USA* compendium of "America's leading business law firms", Mr Doffermyme is described "as a 'fine and impressive commercial litigator."

Mr Doffermyme is involved with a number of charitable and educational concerns. He is the Vice-Chair of the University of Virginia's \$3 Billion Capital Campaign and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences. He is a past president of the University of Virginia Alumni Association. He also currently serves on the boards of CureSearch National Childhood Cancer Foundation, Crossroad Community Ministries in Atlanta, and the Georgia State Golf Foundation. He is a member of the Junior Championship Committee of the United States Golf Association and is a 1988 graduate of Leadership Atlanta.