

GEORGIA

Local litigation firms

Highly recommended

Alston & Bird

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Bryan Cave

King & Spalding

Recommended

Ashe Rafuse & Hill

Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Greenberg Traurig

Kilpatrick Stockton

McKenna Long & Aldridge

Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker

Rogers & Hardin

Smith Gambrell & Russell

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Troutman Sanders

Vaughan & Murphy

Local litigation stars

Lawrence Ashe

Ashe Rafuse & Hill
Civil Litigation, Employment Litigation

William Boice

Kilpatrick Stockton
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Products Liability

Emmet Bondurant

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

Jeffrey Bramlett

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

Susan Cahoon

Kilpatrick Stockton
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Securities

Kenneth Canfield

Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine
Complex Commercial Litigation

Stephens Clay

Kilpatrick Stockton
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

William Custer

Bryan Cave
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

John Dalton

Troutman Sanders
Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

Dwight Davis

King & Spalding
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Everette Dofferymyre

Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property

Randolph Evans

McKenna Long & Aldridge
Commercial Litigation, Insurance

John Fleming

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, Professional Liability

Judson Graves

Alston & Bird
Products Liability

Scott Greene

Bryan Cave
Commercial Litigation

Hunter Hughes

Rogers & Hardin
Employment Litigation

Joel Katz

Greenberg Traurig
Entertainment Law

Michael Kenny

Alston & Bird
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Ralph Knowles

Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine
Complex Civil Litigation

Joseph Loveland

King & Spalding
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Securities, Professional Liability

Frank Lowrey

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

John Marshall

Bryan Cave
Appellate, Commercial Litigation

Matthew Martin

Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker
Bankruptcy, Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

Lamar Mixson

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore
Antitrust, Appellate, Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Litigation, Intellectual Property, White Collar Crime

Charles Murphy

Vaughan & Murphy
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, White Collar Crime

John Parker

Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker LLP
Intellectual Property, Securities

Ray Persons

King & Spalding
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Robert Remar

Rogers & Hardin
Complex Commercial Litigation, Employment Law

Michael Ross

Greenberg Traurig
Appellate, Antitrust, Commercial Litigation, Insurance, Intellectual Property



Richard Sinkfield

Rogers & Hardin
Complex Commercial Litigation

Michael Smith

King & Spalding
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Bernard Taylor

Alston & Bird
Commercial Litigation, Products Liability

Robert Thornton

King & Spalding
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Robert Travis

Bryan Cave
Antitrust, Commercial Litigation

Mark Trigg

Greenberg Traurig
Commercial Litigation, Securities, White Collar
Crime

Chilton Varner

King & Spalding
Products Liability

Edward Wasmuth

Smith Gambrell & Russell
Antitrust, Appellate, Commercial Litigation, Products
Liability

William Whitner

Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker
Complex Commercial Litigation, Intellectual
Property

Jeffrey Willis

Rogers & Hardin
Commercial Litigation, Securities

William Withrow

Troutman Sanders
Commercial Litigation, Securities

Future stars

Randall Bassett
King & Spalding

Kali Wilson Beyah
Kilpatrick Stockton

Yonette Buchanan
Ashe Rafuse & Hill

Cari Dawson
Alston & Bird

Michael Johnson
Troutman Sanders

Michael Kaeding
Kilpatrick Stockton

Dan Laney
Rogers & Hardin

James Manley
McKenna Long & Aldridge

Dara Mann
McKenna Long & Aldridge

Sheryl McCalla
Dofffermyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Thomas Reilly
Troutman Sanders

Debra Sydnor
Alston & Bird

Anthony Tatum
King & Spalding

Richard Valladares
Greenberg Traurig

Karen Wildau
Bryan Cave



Georgia

With businesses continuing to migrate into the Atlanta area, Georgia has emerged as the Southeast's hub for technology startups, health care providers, insurance agencies and financial services companies. The demand for skilled litigators in Georgia has been on the rise in order to meet the legal needs that accompany this kind of rapid expansion.

Highly recommended firms

Alston & Bird

One of the largest firms in Georgia, Atlanta-based Alston & Bird has seen some internal shifts over the past year. The loss of several partners has not diminished the firm's reputation amongst local peers; the firm receives almost unanimous positive feedback. "They are a great firm, a mega-firm," says one regional peer. Known for handling high-profile cases outside of Georgia, the firm announced in August 2009 that it would represent Pez Candy in a trademark infringement suit against an unofficial Pez museum in California.

Judson Graves is consistently mentioned by peers. "Everybody knows him around here," claims one competitor, while another asserts that he is an "excellent lawyer." His practice is focused on civil jury trial work with concentration in products liability, medical malpractice, defamation and intellectual property.

firms in professional liability matters. He also has significant experience in insurance coverage litigation and executive severance disputes.

King & Spalding

Founded in Atlanta in 1885, King & Spalding has grown to become an international firm, with over 880 lawyers in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East. One local lawyer describes the firm as "very strong across the spectrum," while another claims that "they have a strong reputation for solid litigators, and that reputation is well founded."

W Ray Persons receives numerous mentions for his trial capabilities in complex litigation matters including class actions, mass torts and products liability. According to one peer, he is "intelligent, thoughtful, persuasive, and has the highest degree of professionalism." Peers acknowledge Dwight Davis as "a standout." He specializes in consumer class actions, with particular

GeorgiaCarry.org regarding licensed firearms holders being prevented from carrying guns in Georgia airports. The claims against the city were dismissed. One peer remarks that R. Lawrence Ashe has "tried more employment cases than any lawyer in the state."

Bryan Cave

Bryan Cave has operated in Atlanta since 1909 and has increased its local presence with the 2009 acquisition of Powell Goldstein. The Atlanta office has 170 lawyers practicing in the areas of banking, business and finance, employment, real estate, and litigation. William Custer is noted for his products liability and related toxic tort litigation practice. Securities lawyer Jennifer Odom advises fiduciaries, including executors, administrators, trustees, and officers and directors.

Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine

Peers know litigation boutique Dofferymyre Shields Canfield Knowles & Devine as a firm of "good, hard-nosed plaintiffs' lawyers." The firm prides itself on being composed exclusively of litigators. In 2006, long before the Bernard Madoff scandal, partners at the firm successfully litigated against a hedge fund manager that was running a Ponzi scheme. The defendant was convicted on numerous counts of securities fraud. Robert Shields is identified by peers as being "a great plaintiffs' attorney and very tough." Everette Dofferymyre is also mentioned for his business litigation and consumer class actions practice.

Greenberg Traurig

The Atlanta office of Greenberg Traurig is home to one of the country's leading entertainment and music industry practices. The firm also focuses on products liability defense, including medical device and pharmaceutical cases across the U.S., as well as construction, employment and complex commercial litigation. Joel Katz is noted as "one of the top five entertainment lawyers in the field" by a competitor. Mark Trigg focuses on corporate and partnership disputes, class action litigation, defamation and media claims, sports and entertainment litigation, real estate disputes, securities litigation, labor and employment litigation, contractual claims and white-collar criminal defense.

"(Bondurant Mixson & Elmore) are a top-drawer plaintiffs' firm, and if you're unfortunate enough to be on the other side of a case from them you'd see why."

Bondurant Mixson & Elmore

Small in size but large in stature, litigation boutique Bondurant Mixson & Elmore operates out of a single Atlanta office and garners a lot of respect locally. One competitor observes that "they are a top-drawer plaintiffs' firm, and if you're unfortunate enough to be on the other side of a case from them you'd see why." Another says that "they are very strong and very innovative in commercial matters." In 2008, the firm obtained a \$281 million jury verdict against Turner Broadcasting Systems, Inc. for Turner's breach of its agreement to sell two Atlanta sports franchises and an arena.

Emmet Bondurant, described by peers as a "legend," specializes in antitrust law and has also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in patent, securities, trade secret, professional malpractice and complex corporate disputes. Jeffrey Bramlett receives accolades from peers, and he is frequently called upon to represent lawyers and law

emphasis on the pharmaceutical and health care industries. L Joseph "Joe" Loveland is noted for his trial experience, which includes work for Coca-Cola, WellCare Health Plans and Ernst & Young. Chilton Varner is recognized by peers as "one of the leading litigators" for her defense of corporations in products liability, business torts, contract and other commercial disputes.

Recommended firms

Ashe Rafuse & Hill

Boutique firm Ashe Rafuse & Hill emphasizes that it can offer clients a team of seasoned trial lawyers, not simply litigators. The firm was established in 2003, and makes its debut in this year's rankings. William Hill concentrates on commercial and complex litigation, with an emphasis on products liability, Lanham Act cases, and employment defense. Yonette Buchanan defended the city of Atlanta in 2008 in a case against

Kilpatrick Stockton

With an office in Atlanta and another in Augusta, Kilpatrick Stockton offers a deep bench, including an intellectual property practice that, according to one peer, "is worthy of notice." In May 2009, the firm won a \$37.3 million verdict on behalf of client Lockheed Martin for a Texas defense contractor's misappropriation of trade secrets associated with the design and construction of Lockheed's anti-submarine bomber. The

two attorneys on this case, **Audra Dial** and **William Boice** are commended by peers, with one calling Boice “extremely steady and intelligent.”

McKenna Long & Aldridge

McKenna Long & Aldridge offers services related to products liability, white-collar crime and commercial litigation. Clients include Honeywell, Citibank and Coca-Cola. **Randolph Evans** is the chair of the firm’s Financial Institutions practice, and he handles high-profile complex commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts, both locally and nationally. **James Manley** represents parties in high-exposure commercial and tort suits throughout the Southeastern U.S. Clients include domestic and foreign corporations operating in the manufacturing, retail, environmental, construction, banking and insurance industries.

Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker

International firm Paul Hastings Janofsky & Walker makes its debut in this year’s Georgia rankings. The Atlanta office maintains a litigation team made up of trial lawyers who pursue “aggressive case management.” **John Parker** specializes in high-stakes franchising, trademark, securities, environmental, and products liability issues, often with an international aspect. He is currently litigating a \$500 million shareholder dispute in London on behalf of telecom group TSI. The first round of this litigation was a complete victory, with the Supreme Court denying *certiorari*. Parker’s other clients include Reed Elsevier and Avis.

Rogers & Hardin

Boutique firm **Rogers & Hardin** makes its first appearance in the Georgia rankings this year. The firm’s litigation team offers services related to antitrust and labor and employment. “Their antitrust practice is very strong for a small firm,” notes one competitor. **Jeffrey Willis** represents clients in

complex business litigation, securities litigation, and securities regulatory and enforcement matters. These clients include companies and individuals under investigation by the SEC for potential violations of the securities laws, involving

franchise litigation, professional liability, intellectual property, insurance and tax litigation.

Troutman Sanders

Troutman Sanders is a full-service

“According to one peer ‘W Ray Persons (King & Spalding) is intelligent, thoughtful, persuasive, and has the highest degree of professionalism.’”

issues such as market manipulation, insider trading, and conflicts of interest.

Smith Gambrell & Russell

Smith Gambrell & Russell is one of Georgia’s oldest firms, and it continues to offer a wide array of litigation services, including antitrust, appellate, intellectual property, products liability and white-collar crime. The firm also maintains a prominent environmental litigation practice, and one of its partners, **Stephen O’Day**, recently achieved victory for a client in a toxic tort lawsuit in which the plaintiff had claimed that his alleged exposure to vapors from a concrete sealant at the client’s facility caused him permanent illness. The district court dismissed the case.

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

Atlanta-based Sutherland Asbill & Brennan represents regional, national and international clients from a broad range of industries including insurance, energy, construction, manufacturing, banking, pharmaceuticals, computers and defense. “Their patent and overall intellectual property skills are deep,” observes one competitor. **John Fleming** focuses his practice on complex business litigation, including

international law firm with more than 700 lawyers in 15 offices worldwide, with the Atlanta office serving as its world headquarters. The firm’s particular strengths are in real estate, securities, labor and employment, e-commerce, telecommunications and technology, energy, environmental and entertainment law. **William Withrow** specializes in class actions, RICO, consumer finance, First Amendment, telecommunications and business litigation, and recent clients include Associates First Capital Corporation and AT&T. Peers recognize **Michael Johnson** for his commercial and business litigation practice, with an emphasis on banking and healthcare.

Vaughan & Murphy

Vaughan & Murphy is a four-partner boutique firm based in Atlanta which represents clients from across the Southeast and is acknowledged by peers as having “an excellent reputation, which they deserve, for having a handful of very solid attorneys.” Of these, **Charles Murphy** receives specific mention as a “really sharp guy”, and practices in antitrust, commercial litigation and white-collar crime. Murphy prides himself on devoting the majority of his practice specifically to litigation.



KENNETH S CANFIELD



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Ken Canfield founded the firm with Bob Shields and Everette Doffermyre. He is now active in all areas of the firm's practice.

Mr Canfield was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania in 1952 and grew up in the Philadelphia area and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He received his undergraduate education at Dartmouth College, *summa cum laude*, and legal education at Yale Law School, where he was an editor of the *Yale Law Journal*.

In 1977, Mr Canfield became a law clerk to federal judge Frank M Johnson, Jr in Montgomery, Alabama. He then joined the Carter Administration, serving as a special assistant to the Assistant Attorney General in the Justice Department and to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. From 1981 through 1985, Mr Canfield practiced law in Denver, Colorado with the firm of Haddon, Morgan & Foreman. He then joined the Atlanta firm now known as Kilpatrick Stockton until leaving in 1988 to start his own firm.

The major focus of Mr Canfield's practice is complex civil litigation, particularly class actions, personal injury cases, and business disputes. He has been appointed as lead counsel or a member of plaintiffs' steering committees in class actions and federal multi-district litigation proceedings involving a wide range of subject areas, including ERISA, RICO, products liability, consumer fraud, and insurance practices. He has also represented plaintiffs in numerous constitutional, civil rights, and election cases.

In April 1999, Mr Canfield was appointed by the state's governor to the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission, which screens applicants for state judgeships. He served until January 2003. He has also sat on committees screening applicants to the federal bench.

Mr Canfield is recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*, has been named a "Georgia Superlawyer" by *Atlanta Magazine*, and is listed in the *Chambers and Partners* guide to "America's leading lawyers for business." The 2007 edition of the guide hails Mr Canfield as a "great trial lawyer and strategist."

Mr Canfield is a past president of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, a past director of the Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy, a past member of the executive committee of the Colorado Trial Lawyers Association, and a contributing author of the *Georgia Trial Practice Manual*. He is a frequent lecturer on legal topics. Among other forums, he has spoken before the American Bar Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is a Master of the Lumpkin Inn of Court.

EVERETTE L DOFFERMYRE



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

Mr Doffermyre 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 practiced with the Kilpatrick firm until he left in 1988 to establish his own firm.

Mr Doffermyre'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 Doffermyre 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 Doffermyre 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 Doffermyre 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 Doffermyre is described as "a fine and impressive commercial litigator."

Mr Doffermyre is involved with a number of charitable and educational concerns. He is now 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 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.

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Doffermyre 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 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 "defense 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 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.

RALPH I KNOWLES



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Ralph Knowles has been with Doffermyre Shields Canfield & Knowles since 1991. Prior to joining the firm, he was a long time partner with Drake, Knowles & Pierce in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Earlier in his career, Mr Knowles served as associate director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, DC and was staff attorney with the Selma Inter-Religious Project.

In 1982, a United States District Court Judge included the following statement about Mr Knowles in a published opinion that lauded his, "experience and consummate ability as a trial advocate:"

Mr Knowles graduated in 1969 from the University of Alabama Law School. Finishing fourth in his class, he was awarded membership in the Order of the Coif and the Farrah Law Society and served as an editor of the Law Review. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama where he was elected president of the student body.

During his legal career, Mr Knowles has represented plaintiffs in a number of cases which resulted in landmark constitutional decisions on behalf of prisoners, mental health patients, and others. He has also been counsel in major political litigation.

Mr Knowles is now active in all areas of the firm's practice, but concentrates in cases involving products liability, toxic torts and consumer class actions. He serves as the co-chairman of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the breast implant litigation. Mr Knowles has authored a number of professional articles and is frequently asked to speak on subjects involving complex civil litigation.

Mr Knowles is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is a member of the American Law Institute, and a Past President of the Tuscaloosa County Bar Association. He has received the highest awards of the Civil Liberties Union of Alabama and the Alabama Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association.

Previously, he was appointed by the Alabama Supreme Court to its Committee on the Promulgation of Rules of Evidence and was chair of the Alabama State Bar Association Task Force on Judicial Election, Selection and Evaluation.

Mr Knowles now serves on the board of directors of Legal Momentum (previously known as the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund). He also has served on the national board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union.

He is a Master of the Bleckley Inn of Courts and a member in good standing of the Alabama and Georgia bars.