

---

## VERNON M. STRICKLAND

---

WARGO & FRENCH LLP  
999 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E.  
26<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309  
404.853.1535 *DIRECT DIAL NUMBER*

### **Practice Areas:**

Mr. Strickland practices in the following areas:

Financial Services Litigation  
Intellectual Property  
Employment Law  
Internal Investigations

### **Representative Matters:**

- Defended automated water meter supplier in a purported class action brought by residential and commercial water users.
- Defended major supplier of medical devices to Veterans Administration hospitals in defense of antitrust claims; obtained a dismissal of action following two hearings for temporary restraining orders.
- Defended antitrust claims and a purported class action challenging mandatory electronic filing in Texas and Georgia, obtaining summary judgment in both cases; Georgia case also affirmed on appeal.
- Defended CEO of publicly traded company against claims relating to alleged Ponzi scheme and CEO's purported role as venture capitalist in another company; obtained dismissal of action following motion to dismiss.
- Represented automotive financial services company in prosecuting rogue automobile dealerships for providing false information to induce the purchase of several vehicle retail installment contracts.
- Represented automotive financing companies in state and federal courts for claims involving state and federal forfeiture, replevin, warranty of title.
- Represented major ride-share technology company's automotive lease provider in obtaining dismissal of citations concerning vehicle registrations.

- Obtained summary judgment in defense of *Fortune 100* beverage company in copyright infringement action claiming the plaintiff to be the author of song used in worldwide marketing campaign.
- Represented certified platinum and *U.S. Billboard Hot 100* hip-hop recording artist in publishing dispute against his former managers.
- Prosecuted copyright infringement actions throughout Georgia on behalf of members of one of the world's largest performing rights licensing societies to protect those members' copyrighted musical compositions.
- Obtained reversal of \$32 million premises liability plaintiff's verdict against amusement park.
- Prosecuted claims on behalf of biomaterial products company for misappropriation of trade secrets and associated breaches of duty against former employees and competing companies
- Represented data analytics airline industry company and its chief executive in defending claims for misappropriation of trade secrets and enforcement of restrictive covenants
- Represented employers in litigation concerning claims of unlawful discrimination.
- Advised employers on compliance with Fair Labor Standards Act.
- Prosecuted trademark applications before USPTO.
- Represented college and university clients in defense of wrongful termination and wrongful expulsion claims filed by former employees and students.
- Provided advice to college and university clients on Title IX compliance and investigation procedures.
- Represented NCAA member institution in athletics investigation concerning alleged NCAA infractions.
- Represented and advised companies and institutions regarding technology services agreements.

#### **Reported Decisions:**

- *Best Jewelry Mfg. Co., Inc. v. Reed Elsevier Inc.*, 780 S.E.2d 689 (Ga.App. 2015)
- *Six Flags Over Georgia II, L.P. v. Martin*, 780 S.E.2d 796 (Ga.App. 2015)
- *City of Atlanta v. Benator*, 714 S.E.2d 109 (Ga.App. 2011)

- *Vergara Hermosilla v. Coca-Cola Co.*, 2011 WL 744098 (S.D. Fla. 2011)
- *Khttab v. Morehouse School of Medicine*, 2009 WL 2600523 (N.D. Ga. 2009)

**Publications:**

- Georgia's New Sexual Misconduct Policy, Inside Higher Ed, August 11, 2016
- Court Rules That Student-Athletes Are Not Employees Under the FLSA, Employee Benefit Plan Review, May 2016
- Hiring, Firing and Discipline for Georgia Employers, American Chamber of Commerce Resources, LLC, May 2008

**Education:**

**Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law**, Macon, Georgia  
J.D., *with Honors*, 2006

**Honors & Activities:**

Dean's Distinguished Service Award  
Dean's List  
Moot Court Board

**Georgia Institute of Technology**, Atlanta, Georgia  
B.S., 1998

**Honors & Activities:**

Dean's List  
Varsity Football – Team Captain, Special Teams  
National Comeback Player of the Year Nominee

**Professional Activities:**

- Member of the Intellectual Property Section of the Atlanta Bar Association
- Member of the Entertainment & Sports Section of the State Bar of Georgia
- Member of the National Association of College and University Attorneys
- White House Fellows Program regional finalist, 2012

**Bar and Court Admissions:**

- State Bar of Georgia

- Admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, the Supreme Court of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals