



FOR THE 12TH YEAR, *Georgia Trend* has asked the state's attorneys to nominate their peers for recognition as one of Georgia's Legal Elite. This year's list of lawyers come from all corners of the state in 10 different practice areas: Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights, Business Law, Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, General Practice, Labor & Employment, Personal Injury, Public Finance/Bonds and Taxes/Estates/Trusts.

To compile this listing, attorneys submitted their nominations via our website at www.georgiatrend.com. Any attorney who is a member of the state bar and lives and practices in Georgia was eligible to vote and to be voted onto this list. Respondents were not allowed to vote for themselves. They could, however, vote for members of their own firms only if they voted for an equal or greater number of attorneys outside their firms.

The names of those with the most votes appear in the following pages in alphabetical order. They are listed in the categories into which their peers voted them, although some may practice in more than one area.

The listings are determined solely by lawyers' votes; places on the list are not for sale. The names of attorneys who are advertisers appear in red type. Ballots were tallied and names verified by the *Georgia Trend* editorial staff.

If you are an attorney practicing in Georgia and would like to nominate someone for the 2015 Legal Elite, the online ballot will be open Friday, May 1 through Friday, July 31, 2015. For more information, go to www.georgiatrend.com/nominate.



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Christopher Graham is the Founder and Managing Shareholder of The Private Client Law Group. His practice focuses on Family Wealth Planning, drawing on extensive experience with Arthur Andersen along with significant boutique and regional law firms, to develop creative tax minimization, asset preservation, business succession, and business structuring strategies exclusively for high net worth individuals and their closely held businesses.

A graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law (JD, 1996) and the University of Michigan (BBA-Accounting, 1992), Christopher Graham is a member of Beta Alpha Psi national honor accounting society, the State Bars of Georgia and North Carolina, and has also been named in the Georgia Superlawyers issue of Atlanta Magazine multiple times. In 2009, he was honored as an Attorney of Distinction in Jezebel Magazine. In 2010, he was honored as one of the Legal Elite by Georgia Trend Magazine. In 2011, he was selected as a Georgia Super Lawyer by Super Lawyers. In addition, the past three years he has been honored as one of Atlanta Magazine's Five Star Wealth Managers. Mr. Graham writes professional articles for publication and is a regular speaker throughout Atlanta and the Southeast.



The Private Client Law Group produces comprehensive customized plans to provide efficient and effective maintenance and succession of both operating businesses and passive assets. Under Christopher Graham's leadership, the team of professionals at his firm approaches each project with an open architecture problem solving process that ensures individualized solutions designed to meet Client needs and objectives.

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- Criminal Defense
- Civil Litigation



BJ Bernstein has spent 27 years practicing law in Georgia. She practices criminal defense law with experience in both trial and appellate work. She also handles civil trial litigation. BJ and her firm, The Bernstein Firm, handles all types of criminal cases from serious felonies such as murder, white collar fraud, and assault to misdemeanor and traffic offenses. Her civil work has included wrongful death, personal injury and church abuse. She has been recognized with many awards including the John Jay College Justice Award. BJ is also frequently sought for commentary on legal issues for network and cable television.

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- Labor & Employment
- Family Law
- General Practice
- Criminal Law



Mark Casto has practiced in Georgia for seventeen years. Over the years, he has successfully litigated, complex domestic claims, major violent crimes, DUI defense, employment discrimination claims and railroad injury claims. Mark's litigation practice now focuses on all forms of personal injury claims, nursing home neglect claims, and medical malpractice claims. Although, he has handled cases in five different states and all across Georgia, his primary geographical practice area is mid and southwest Georgia where numerous attorneys refer cases to him. Mark is well known for his compassion to clients, professionalism to opposing counsel and passionate trial presentations.

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Marc is a founding partner of Davis, Zipperman, Kirschenbaum & Lotito, LLP. Since 1976 he has successfully engaged in trial practice and has extensive experience in civil litigation. He has been recognized by *Atlanta Magazine* Super Lawyers and *Georgia Trend* Legal Elite. He has attained many multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements. He is a frequent seminar chairman, speaker and author in the fields of traumatic brain injury, medical malpractice, personal injury and trucking cases. Past board certifications include the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys, National Board of Trial Advocacy, Martindale Hubbell AV and Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

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Andrea "Andee" Dyer Hastings is a founding partner of Waggoner Hastings LLC. Andee holds an AV Preeminent rating with Martindale Hubbell. Andee has been practicing for 17 years, and has successfully engaged in trial practice and litigation, as well as alternative dispute resolution. Andee has extensive expertise with a wide range of matters including divorce, child custody, visitation, child support, paternity and legitimation, contempt, prenuptial and post-marital agreements, post-divorce modifications, and domestic partnerships, with expertise in domestic violence matters. Andee is a trained and certified guardian ad litem, a certified mediator, and an experienced Collaborative Law practitioner.

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Page Pate is an Atlanta trial lawyer and founding partner of The Pate Law Firm. Page has successfully represented clients in federal and state cases across Georgia and the Southeast. He is on the Board of Directors for the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta, and previously served as Chairman of the Criminal Law Section of the Atlanta Bar Association. Page graduated with honors from the University of Georgia School of Law where he received the American Jurisprudence Award for Advocacy. He is a frequent expert commentator on legal issues for CNN, public broadcasting and other national and local media outlets.

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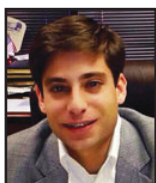
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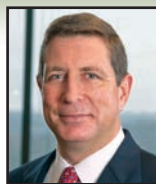
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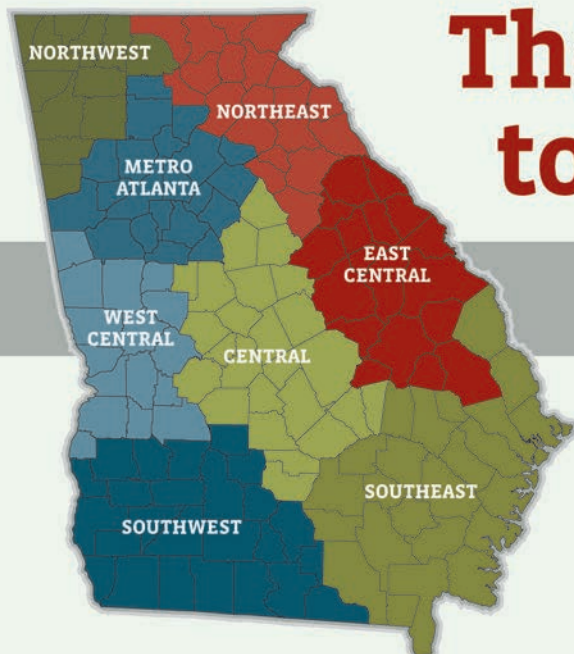
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