



Legal Elite

2017

Compiled by Christy Simo

Profiles by James Calemine, Mary Anne Dunkin and T. Wayne Waters

For the 15th year, *Georgia Trend* is recognizing the state's top attorneys – by asking the lawyers themselves who they think are the best in their field.

This year's exceptional attorneys practice in all corners of the state, from Atlanta and Augusta to Waycross and Savannah and represent 16 practice areas: Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights, Business Law, Corporate Law, Criminal Law, Entertainment/Sports Law, Environmental Law, Family Law, General Practice/Trial Law, Immigration Law, Labor & Employment, Personal Injury, Public Finance/Bonds, Real Estate/Construction Law, and Taxes/Estates/Trusts, plus two new categories this year, Healthcare Law and Intellectual Property.

For the third year, we asked some of our top vote getters their opinions about the legal profession and Georgia. You'll see their profiles throughout the list.

To compile this listing, attorneys submitted their nominations via our website at 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.

We received nominations for nearly 2,000 attorneys. The ones with the most votes by their peers appear in the following pages in alphabetical order in the categories in which their fellow attorneys voted them, although some may practice in more than one area.

The lists are determined solely by lawyers' votes; places on the list are not for sale. The names of the 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 2018 Legal Elite, the online ballot will be open April, 16, 2018, through 5 p.m. on July 13, 2018. For more information, go to georgiatrend.com/nominate.



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Environmental Law

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Years practicing law: 14 Why environmental law?

Environmental law is a specialty, but it is also broad and there are so many aspects to it that I feel like I am always challenged. I am always learning something new. I rarely do the same thing twice. It keeps me on my toes.

Most memorable case: In sort of the wacky category, I had a case for a client that involved a release of mercury in her home from a very old clock. The clock broke and mercury was released all over her house, injuring her and her pets. - *MAD*





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"Divorce hurts, but it doesn't have to be nasty"

Congratulations Todd Orston & Leh Meriwether
for Being Selected as Legal Elite 2018

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