

**SPEAKER**  
**BIOGRAPHIES**  
FOR THE  
SPEAKER AND WRITER'S BUREAU  
OF THE  
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONALISM



State Bar  
of Georgia

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**KENNETH “KENNY” MITCHELL, JR.**  
**MODERATOR**

Attorney Kenneth Mitchell, Jr. is a graduate of Georgetown University and American University Washington College of Law. He currently serves as the Chief Assistant Solicitor General for the Cobb County Solicitor General’s Office for Solicitor General Makia Metzger. At the solicitor’s office, Chief ASG Mitchell supervises more than 75 employees (including 30 attorneys) and is responsible for managing all misdemeanor prosecutions for Cobb County, the state’s third largest county.

During his career, Attorney Mitchell has handled hundreds of criminal cases and the majority of these involved serious criminal allegations. Attorney Mitchell began his career as an Assistant District Attorney with the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office, the largest prosecutor’s office in the Southeast. As an assistant district attorney, Attorney Mitchell represented the State of Georgia in a number of jury trials; and gained experience prosecuting homicides, sex crimes, and violent felonies. For his work, Attorney Mitchell was named Division Attorney of the Year three times for his trial advocacy and earned placement in Fulton County District Attorney Office’s Major Case Division, which prosecuted homicides and high-profile cases in Atlanta. Upon leaving the District Attorney’s Office, Attorney Mitchell went into private practice where he continued to serve as a zealous advocate in the courtroom and has successfully represented a number of clients in the Metro Atlanta area in criminal defense and business litigation.

Attorney Mitchell serves as the 78<sup>th</sup> President of the Young Lawyer’s Division of the State Bar of Georgia, which represents more than 10,000 attorneys in the State. As YLD President, he oversees the service projects of the State Bar of Georgia and supports initiatives for all young attorneys in the State. As YLD President, Attorney Mitchell is also a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar, which consists of more than 50,000 attorneys in the State.

Attorney Mitchell is also very active with the Georgetown University Alumni Association, where he has served as President of the Georgetown Club of Atlanta. For his service to Georgetown, Attorney Mitchell received the 2024 William Reynolds Young Alumni Award. Additionally, Attorney Mitchell is a member of the Atlanta Bar Association, Gate City Bar Association, Georgia Alliance of African American Attorneys, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and Ben Hill United Methodist Church.



**Michael E. Pérez**

**MODERATOR**

Michael E. Pérez is an attorney and owner of The Pérez Law Firm, LLC, located in Atlanta, Georgia. Michael represents individuals with catastrophic personal injury cases, including medical malpractice, wrongful death, premises liability and other serious injury cases. Michael also handles business litigation cases. Regardless of the type of case, Michael brings his extensive experience, knowledge of the law, advocacy, and creative problem-solving skills together to obtain the best results for his clients.

Michael received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Georgia and his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2000. He is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice in the State and Superior Courts of Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, Georgia Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, and the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

Michael serves as Vice-President of the DeKalb County Bar Association. He is also a member of the State Bar of Georgia's Committee on Professionalism, the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association, the Lawyers Club of Atlanta, the American Association for Justice, and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. He is a former board member of the Brighter DeKalb Foundation, an organization supporting the needs of individuals living with mental illness, addiction, and developmental disabilities.



### **Ian Reyes**

Ian is a 2L at the Georgia State University College of Law. He serves as VP of Programming for the Student Health Law Association, Treasurer for the Business and Law Society, and Student Representative on the State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism. As a member of Moot Court, Ian and his partners won Best Oralist Team at the International Trademark Association's Saul Lefkowitz Competition regionals and will pursue the National Title later this March. He also looks forward to competing in the National Health Law Transactional Competition at Loyola University Chicago. Ian is a student law clerk at Rutherford & Christie, LLP. Previously, he clerked for Bucker Rogers Law, LLC, and interned for The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Health Law Unit. Before law school, Ian earned his BS in Neuroscience at the University of Tennessee



### **Samantha Beskin-Schemer**

Samantha Beskin-Schemer is a partner at Beskin & Beskin P.C. where she practices personal injury and criminal defense alongside her father. Samantha also represents juveniles and adults in Fulton and Dekalb County as appointed counsel through the Georgia Public Defender Council.

Samantha is a volunteer Guardian ad Litem through the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Foundation and is a regular Volunteer Supervisor at the Drake Closet Sandy Springs.

Samantha was recently selected to be a part of the newest Leadership Academy class through the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia. She recently stepped into the Vice

Chair position for the Law School Orientations Committee for the Committee of Professionalism for the State Bar of Georgia.

Samantha received her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Miami University of Ohio, her Master of Arts degree in College Student Development from Appalachian State University, and her Juris Doctorate from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.

Samantha enjoys spending time with her husband (Brian) and dog (Simba), working out, yoga, and connecting with her fellow attorneys at networking events.



### **V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield**

V. Sharon "Sharri" Edenfield is the managing partner of Edenfield Trial Law in Statesboro, Georgia. A top-rated attorney with more than 16 years of legal experience, Ms. Edenfield provides exceptional representation to clients across her region who have suffered catastrophic personal injuries or lost loved ones as a result of someone else's negligence. She also handles complex commercial litigation and business disputes for both plaintiff and defendant clients alike. She has successfully handled numerous appeals in both state and federal appellate courts.

Honored for her outstanding professionalism and service, Ms. Edenfield has earned consistent top rankings from her peers as well as recognition from the National Trial Lawyers as a "Top 40 Under 40" and a "Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Attorney". She has also been honored twice with the Signature Service Award from the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division, the only attorney who has been honored more than once for commitment to community service, as well as the organization's Award of Achievement, along with various other awards throughout her career.

A 1999 graduate of the University of Georgia, Ms. Edenfield obtained her Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Advanced Legal Writing, Research and Drafting from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law in 2003. She is admitted to practice before all Georgia trial courts, the Court of Appeals of Georgia, the Supreme Court of Georgia the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Middle, and Northern Districts of Georgia, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

A leader in her legal community, Ms. Edenfield has served as president, secretary and treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division as well as member of the organization's board of governors and board of directors. She has also accepted various appointments by the Georgia Supreme Court to serve on various committees and commissions, including serving as a Special Master and as a Bar Exam Grader. She has also served as chair of the Consumer Assistance Program and state delegate for the American Bar Association, among her many other professional affiliations.

Ms. Edenfield also supports her local community through her involvement with various civic and charitable organizations, having served on the board of directors for the United Way of Southeast Georgia, the Statesboro Arts Council, and the Statesboro-Bulloch Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Statesboro Service League, Leadership Bulloch Alumni, and has volunteered her time with multiple organizations, including with Safe Haven domestic violence shelter located in Statesboro.



**Andreea N. Morrison**

Andreea is the Deputy General Counsel for discipline with the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia. She has primary responsibility for management and oversight of the disciplinary function of the State Bar of Georgia. Andreea provides day-to-day supervision and training for staff lawyers in the disciplinary unit, including those responsible for the Client Assistance Program and the screening office. She serves as counsel to the State Disciplinary Board, the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee, and other State Bar committees as assigned, and supervises the Clerk of the State Disciplinary Board in duties related to the Board. Andreea prosecutes disciplinary cases, provides ethics advice to members of the Georgia bar, and presents at various CLE programs.

Prior to joining the Office of the General Counsel, Andreea practiced general civil litigation. Her practice included all aspects of civil litigation at the trial and appellate level in state and federal courts where she represented individual and corporate clients. She has tried cases to jury verdict in federal and state court and has experience handling matters in the Georgia appellate courts.

Andreea graduated from Georgia State University College of Law in 2010. She has been recognized as a Georgia Rising Star in Atlanta Magazine. She is a graduate of the 2015 Young Lawyers Division Leadership Academy and has volunteered with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and the Georgia Innocence Project.

Andreea also teaches as an adjunct professor at Georgia State University in the College of Law and the J. Robinson College of Business.



### **Cathy Hampton**

Cathy Hampton, a graduate of Spelman College and Harvard Law School, is a nationally recognized sports, entertainment and corporate attorney, NBPA-certified agent and serial entrepreneur. After serving four decades in public and private practice, Cathy launched The Hampton Firm with a thriving roster of elite NBA, NFL, SEC, ACC, MEAC and PAC12 athletes. Cathy's legal career began in the New York and London offices of Sherman & Sterling and continued to positions of increased leadership at the National Basketball Association, Turner Broadcasting System and EarthLink. She led award-winning law departments as Chief Legal Officer for RARE Hospitality and the City of Atlanta before

returning to corporate practice at Womble Bond Dickinson. Cathy has served as an Independent Corporate Board Director at Ameritech Facility Services for two decades.





## **Judge Glenda Hatchett**

Judge Glenda A. Hatchett (Retired) is not only a world-renown judge, but she is a prominent attorney with more than 40 years of experience which encompasses a multitude of legal responsibilities. Currently, Hatchett is Of Counsel with the law firm of Stewart Miller Simmons based in Atlanta, Georgia, handling cases throughout the nation, specializing in wrongful deaths, catastrophic injuries, maternal deaths, tractor-trailer accidents, premises liability, products liability, sexual assault, and catastrophic police misconduct cases.

A graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and the Emory University School of Law, where she was an Earl Warren Scholar, Hatchett completed a prestigious federal clerkship in the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia, where she was the first Black clerk in that federal court. Hatchett then spent nearly 10 years at Delta Air Lines, where she was the airline's highest-ranking woman of color worldwide. As Senior Attorney, she represented Delta Air Lines in labor/personnel, antitrust litigation, and commercial acquisitions. As Public Relations Manager, she supervised global crisis management and handled media relations for 50 U.S. cities, Europe and Asia. Hatchett was appointed to a judgeship in 1990, becoming Georgia's first Black Chief Judge of a State Court in the state's history. There, she presided over Fulton County's Juvenile Court, one of the largest juvenile court systems in the nation. Hatchett gained national recognition for her groundbreaking initiatives for juvenile reform.

Hatchett served as Co-Counsel in the civil wrongful death case of Bobbi Kristina Brown in 2016, resulting in the judgement of \$36M in damages to Brown's estate. She gained global attention while representing the family of Philando Castille following his death in 2016. Philando Castille's death marked the first time in the history of the state of Minnesota that a police officer was indicted for killing a citizen. During that time, Hatchett strongly advocated that a special prosecutor be appointed to seek an indictment against the police officer who killed Castille. She was also instrumental in having the U.S. Attorney open an investigation for racial profiling at traffic stops for the entire state of Minneapolis.

She founded Hatchett Consulting Group, specializing with over 40 years of combined experience as an attorney, judge, crisis management expert, mediator, and television talent in legal issues and consulting in the areas of crisis communications and risk management. She also presided over the two-time Emmy-nominated show Judge Hatchett, which is in its 23rd season of national syndication (Sony Pictures Television). She continues to provide legal commentary on networks such as CNN, MSNBC and FOX. Most recently, Hatchett has returned to TV with her new television court series, The Verdict With Judge Hatchett. She presides over the series as a follow-up to Sony's long-running Judge Hatchett. Hatchett is also the author of the National Best Sellers, Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say (Harper Collins, 2003) and Dare to Take Charge (Center Street / Hachette Book Group, 2010).

Hatchett has served on various nonprofit boards, including the National Board of Governors of the Boys and Girl Club of America, the Leadership Circle for the After School Alliance, and the Advisory Board for the Women's Resource Center at Spelman College. She formerly served on the Board of Advisors for Play Pumps International. Presently, Hatchett serves as the national spokesperson for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), a nonprofit volunteer organization that trains volunteers to represent abused and neglected children.



### **Judge Robert McBurney**

Judge McBurney has served on the Superior Court of Fulton County since April 2012. He survived a stint as Chief Judge from 2018 to 2020. He is also one of the Court's two drug court judges -- a role which allows him to help people rebuild lives harmed by addiction.

Before joining the bench, Judge McBurney served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Atlanta. As a federal prosecutor, he focused on cases involving public corruption, terrorism, and child exploitation.

Judge McBurney received his B.A. and J.D. from Harvard. Prior to his time in public service, he worked as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company. Judge McBurney lives in Atlanta with his wife, who is the head of leadership development at McDonald's, two wonderful (and exhausting) boys, and two equally troublesome dogs.



### **Judge Eric Richardson**

Governor Nathan Deal appointed Judge Eric Richardson to the Fulton County State Court in August 2013. In May 2022, Judge Richardson was elected without opposition to a third four-year term. As a State Court Judge, he presides over misdemeanor criminal cases, including DUI and domestic violence offenses. Judge Richardson also presides over a wide variety of civil cases, including medical malpractice, products liability, fraud, complex business disputes, and personal injury actions.

Judge Richardson earned his Bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Rochester. He earned his law degree, cum laude, from Cornell Law School. Judge Richardson began his legal career as a litigator at Latham & Watkins in New York City in 1994. In 1998, he relocated to Troutman Sanders in Atlanta, where he spent 11 years, including 7 as a litigation partner. In 2009, he moved to the public sector, joining the city of Atlanta as a Senior Assistant City Attorney. He was promoted in 2011 to Deputy City Attorney, where he managed all litigation for the City until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Richardson lives in Johns Creek with his wife of 34 years, Karen, and has three adult children.