

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

CO-CHAIRS:
MICHAEL E. PÉREZ
KEVIN PATRICK

Closing A Law Practice CLE
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**State Bar
of Georgia**

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JUDGE KIMBERLY A. ALEXANDER MODERATOR

Judge Kimberly A. Alexander serves as the Presiding Judge in Division 7 of the DeKalb County State Court, Jury Division. Judge Alexander was elected to this position on May 24, 2022. Previously, Judge Alexander was appointed to the court's Traffic Division on November 1, 2019 by Governor Brian Kemp. Alexander was subsequently appointed to the court's Jury Division on June 28, 2021 by Gov. Kemp.

Judge Alexander was born in Augusta, Georgia, and she graduated from Lakeside High School in Evans, Georgia. Judge Alexander earned a bachelor's degree, *cum laude*, in English from Georgia State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia School of Law. After becoming a member of the State Bar of Georgia in November 2004, Judge Alexander immediately entered public service as a Superior Court Judicial Law Clerk in Richmond County, Georgia and Columbia County, Georgia.

Judge Alexander has experience in criminal and civil trial practice as well as appellate litigation. Directly preceding her taking the bench, Judge Alexander served as an Assistant County Attorney for the Office of the Fulton County Attorney. There she provided daily legal advice while handling a substantial number of transactional and litigation matters for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. During her tenure, this legal department was awarded the 2019 In-House Legal Department of the Year. Furthermore, she also provided representation for other departments, boards, and county officials in federal and state courts and served as parliamentarian and legal counsel to the Fulton County Board of Tax Assessors.

In addition, as an associate with Brown, Geiger & Associates, Judge Alexander worked as a Fulton County Child Advocate and Legal Officer for the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. In this role, she represented the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services on behalf of neglected and abused children. Also, as a practicing attorney, Judge Alexander handled education law cases as an associate with Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers, and served as an Assistant Solicitor General in the Cobb County Solicitor General's Office.

Judge Alexander's contributions have earned her numerous awards and recognitions, and she is dedicated to inspiring positive change through her community engagement, whether as a panelist, swearing in local leaders, or mentoring and speaking with young people. She and her husband Marc and their two children reside in the City of Decatur.



WILLIAM C. GENTRY

William C. Gentry, or Bill, is the founder and owner of the Gentry Law Firm in Marietta, Georgia. He has been practicing law in the state of Georgia since 1986, and his primary focus is divorce and family law cases, including high asset property division, child custody, and alimony. Bill has tried hundreds of cases in state and federal courts throughout Georgia and currently serves as the Treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia. He is also an Amazon bestselling author of the Forbes book *I Want Out: A Woman's Guide to Finding Peace Through Divorce*.



JUDGE GLENDA HATCHETT (RETIRED)

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.



CARI KING

Cari King is the Deputy Director of Pro Bono Unit Partnerships & Collaborations at Georgia Legal Services Program. Cari graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2013. She began her civil legal services career in 2015 at Atlanta Legal Aid as a general practice staff attorney, notably obtaining a student loan bankruptcy discharge that became a published opinion. She became Atlanta Legal Aid’s Pro Bono Director in 2020 and came to GLSP in May 2024. In her current role, Cari focuses on developing and maintaining relationships and pro bono projects with law firms, corporations, and other groups.



ANDREEA 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.



MICHAEL E. PÉREZ

CO-CHAIR

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA SPEAKERS AND WRITERS BUREAU

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.



KEVIN PATRICK

CO-CHAIR

STATE BAR OF GEORGIA SPEAKERS AND WRITERS BUREAU

Kevin Patrick, the founding partner of Kevin Patrick Law, devotes his legal practice to representing individuals and families throughout Georgia with an emphasis on automobile and trucking accidents and other serious personal injury cases. Kevin also has unparalleled experience in Georgia daycare injury cases. Prior to starting his own personal injury firm, Kevin practiced for several years at a firm defending large corporations and insurance companies. Kevin also clerked for Chief Judge John H. Bailey, Jr., Northern Judicial Circuit of Georgia, prior to entering into private practice.

Kevin is an active member of the State Bar of Georgia and the District of Columbia Bar. Kevin is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States of America, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals along with the Northern, Middle, and Southern federal judicial districts of Georgia. Kevin's admissions also include the Supreme Court of Georgia, Court of Appeals for Georgia, and all lower courts in Georgia.

Kevin attended law school at Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. During law school, Kevin was the summer clerk for Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson at the Georgia Supreme Court and had a field placement with the Hon. W. Louis Sands, United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Kevin graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences with high honors from the Honors Program and earned Bachelor of Arts degrees in Classical Culture, History, and Latin. He sits on the Board of Governors (Atlanta Circuit Post 22) for the State Bar of Georgia.

Kevin and his wife Tracy enjoy UGA Football, most importantly, Kevin enjoys being a father to his nine-year-old son and his six-year-old daughter.