

JESSE RAYMOND BATES, JR.

Phone: 706-278-0525

jrbates@optilink.us

Born: Chattanooga, Tennessee

Education:

University of Georgia, A.B. Political Science, 1972

Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1975

Professional Experience:

1975 – 1982 Mitchell, Mitchell, Coppedge, Boyett, Wester, & Bates

1982 – Present Little, Bates & Kelehear, P.C.

Law practice consists of approximately 70% domestic litigation and 30% general (business/tort/contract) litigation. Mediation practice is similar.

ADR Training: Member Association for Conflict Resolution – Georgia Chapter; Mediator #3199.
Registered in general and domestic relations mediation.

ADR Fees: \$150.00 per hour. Conference/mediation facilities available and are included in the fee.

DAVID J. BLEVINS

Phone: 706-278-3535

davidblevinslaw@gmail.com

Mediation Certification: 1

General Civil Mediation

Probate Mediation

Education:

Carson-Newman College; BA, 1979

University of Georgia School of Law; Juris Doctor, 1985

Professional Experience:

1985 - 1995 Robert A. Whitlow, Attorney at Law

1995 - 2008 Blevins & Blevins, P.C.

2009 - 2012 David J. Blevins, P.C.

2012 - 2014 Superior Court Judge; Conasauga Judicial Circuit

2015 - Present David J. Blevins, P.C.

Mediation Practice Limited To:

- 1) Cases where the parties are represented by counsel; and
- 2) Cases arising from Estate (Probate) Litigation, Personal Injury, Commercial Litigation, Real Estate title disputes, and Insurance Coverage disputes

ADR Fees:

\$300 per hour for two parties plus \$50 per hour for each party over two with a maximum of \$500 per hour. Two (2) hour minimum.

Published Works:

The Made Whole Doctrine From the Georgia Perspective, 31 Ga. Bar J.150 (Spring 1995).

... Lest We Be Judged, The Dilemma of Judicial Power: A Lawyer's Perspective, 19.1 Christian Legal Quarterly 4 (Winter 1998).

Uninsured Motorist Benefits in Light of Thurman v. State Farm, 23 Ga. BarJ., 19-25 (Oct. 2017).

1 Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution Certification #4891-2530-8950-1184

ROBERT A. COWAN

Phone: 706.278.2099

Contact Cecilia Moreno for scheduling cecilia@cowanlawoffice.com

You can also visit www.nadn.org/robert-cowan for available mediation dates

Educational Background:

University of Georgia, J.D. (1993)

Tulane University College of Arts and Science, B.A. (1990)

University of Nottingham (1988)

Areas of Experience:

Primarily engaged in representing both plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury claims involving tort and contract claims such as automobile collisions, premises liability, products liability, medical malpractice and contract disputes. Also engaged in other areas of complex litigation, including family law, fraud, tortious interference of contract and breach of warranty.

Alternative Dispute Experience:

Mediator, Conasauga Judicial Circuit (1995)

Mediator, Seventh Judicial Administrative District (1995)

Certified by the State of Georgia as mediator, arbitrator and early case evaluator (1995)

Mediator, National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals

Have participated as a mediator/arbitrator in over 1000 cases

Fees:

\$300.00 per hour for domestic mediations

\$300.00 per hour for two-party personal injury mediations

\$100.00 per hour for travel outside Whitfield/Murray Counties

C. CELESTE CRESWELL, ESQ.

Phone: 423-785-8313

ccreswell@millermartin.com

Areas of Experience:

Complex Commercial, Technology, Intellectual Property (Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Patents), Unfair Competition, and False Advertising Litigation

ADR Experience and Background:

In the course of litigating commercial and intellectual property disputes in state and federal courts in Georgia and across the nation, Ms. Creswell has participated in multiple mediations with over \$1,000,000 at issue. Participating in these mediations as counsel for the litigants—both plaintiffs and defendants—has afforded Ms. Creswell the opportunity to observe and adopt the best practices of mediators and litigants. Since becoming a registered mediator in Georgia, Ms. Creswell has successfully mediated several commercial disputes. Ms. Creswell is licensed to practice law in both Georgia and Tennessee, and she resides in Dalton, Georgia.

Ms. Creswell received a B.S. in Decision Science (Mathematics, Computer Science, Business, and Economics), *summa cum laude*, from Berry College and a J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Georgia School of Law, where she was Executive Notes Editor of the *Georgia Law Review*. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Creswell served as law clerk to the Honorable Curtis L. Collier, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee. Ms. Creswell is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Dalton and the Board of Directors of United Way of Northwest Georgia and has served as a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia (2008-2010).

Professional Experience: 2007-present Miller & Martin, PLLC, Chattanooga, Tennessee

2004-2007 Wargo & French LLP, Atlanta, Georgia

2002-2004 Duane Morris LLP, Atlanta, Georgia
1999-2002 Altman, Kritzer & Levick PC, Atlanta, Georgia
1998-1999 Powell, Goldstein, Frazer & Murphy LLP, Atlanta, Georgia
1996-1998 Law Clerk, Honorable Curtis L. Collier, U.S. District Court,
Eastern District of Tennessee

Education:

J.D., University of Georgia School of Law, 1996; B.S., Berry College, 1993

ADR Fees:

\$200 per hour

JEFF J. DEAN

Phone: 706-226-0300

jeff@morrisanddean.com

Areas of Experience:

General litigation, personal injury, business disputes, domestic and family law.

ADR Experience:

Mr. Dean has tried many cases of all different types in front of Judges and jury's of the Conasauga Circuit of Whitfield and Murray Counties, surrounding counties in Northwest Georgia, and federal courts in the Northern and Middle Districts in Rome, Atlanta, and Albany, Georgia. He has been successfully mediating all types of cases since 1995. He has successfully mediated bitter divorce and custody cases, serious injury cases, and major business disputes.

Mr. Dean has practiced law since 1988. He is a member of the Georgia Bar, U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, and U.S. Supreme Court.

Education:

University of Georgia, BBA, 1985,

Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, 1988 (Cumlaude, top 10%, Law Review)

ADR Fees:

\$200.00 per hour.

STEPHEN B. FARROW

Phone: 706-419-4878

stephen.farrow@warrenandgriffin.com

Biography

Stephen B. Farrow has practiced law for 39 years, and served for over five years as a judge with the [Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation](#). He defended insurance companies and other institutional entities for much of his legal career, positioning him to use that unique knowledge to better represent his injured clients in obtaining favorable settlements and verdicts in [automobile accidents](#), work injuries, and [premises liability](#). He served in the State Senate, on the State Ethics Commission, and on the State Transportation Board. He is also an experienced registered mediator. He also serves on the City Council for the City of Dalton.

Steve graduated from the University of Tennessee with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with high honors in 1979, and then obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the [University of Georgia School of Law](#) in 1982.

Education

B.A. – University of Tennessee – 1979

J.D. – University of Georgia School of Law – 1982

ALLEN J. HAMMONTREE

Phone: 706-278-0464

allen@hammontreefirm.com

About:

Allen obtained both his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Georgia, earning his Juris Doctorate in 1993. He was admitted to practice before Georgia state and federal courts in 1993. Allen is a former member of the Georgia House of Representatives, having been elected to 3 terms by the people of the 4th House District of Georgia from 1996-2002. He chose to leave elected office as he and his wife were adopting their first child. He has served as a member of the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission, providing screening for judicial applicants to Governor Sonny Purdue. Allen has also served as a member of the Dalton Whitfield County Joint Development Authority and The Dalton Whitfield Chamber of Commerce Executive Board. He is the Judge of the Municipal Court for the City of Varnell GA. Allen is married to Melody Hammontree and they have 3 daughters, Harmony, Hannah Grace and Hope. They are members of Crosspointe Church. His practice emphasis is personal injury and medical malpractice. Allen is also a registered mediator. He is licensed in Georgia and Tennessee and actively practices in both states.

WILLIAM F. (“BILL”) JOURDAIN

Phone: 706-259-2586

wjournain@minorfirm.com

Areas of Experience:

With over 35 years of experience handling complex litigation matters in state and federal courts, Bill is the Chair of the Minor Firm’s litigation section. In recent years, Bill’s primary focus has been on business and health care suits, representing floor covering businesses, hospitals and individual medical providers through associations with several medical malpractice insurers. His health care law experience has not been limited to litigation, and he regularly counsels his clients in risk management and medical staff matters. He has served as a hearing officer and represented clients in contested peer review matters at various hospitals in north Georgia.

Bill has defended many cases over the years for several insurance companies. These matters include property casualty matters for businesses and homeowners and over 25 years representing a regional amusement park. Prior to joining his current firm, Bill represented plaintiffs in many types of bodily injury and property damage matters, including medical malpractice cases.

Bill has handled numerous matters as a licensed attorney in both Georgia and Tennessee and has also been admitted *pro hac vice* to represent floor covering clients in litigation in several other states. In addition to his work as a litigator, Bill is experienced in public utility law, serving as general counsel to a large municipal utility.

Bill has been honored by being included seven times in the Georgia Super Lawyers magazine for his work defending medical malpractice cases and holds a Martindale Hubbell AV preeminent rating.

Bill is certified as a mediator in the State of Georgia for general civil cases and is a registered neutral (mediator) in Georgia. Bill is very experienced in the mediation process, having participated in hundreds of mediations in his 35 years of practice.

Work and Educational Experience:

- November 1993 – Present - The Minor Firm, LLC (Formerly Minor, Bell & Neal, P.C.)
- June 1986 – October 1993 – Mitchell, Coppedge, Wester, Bisson & Miller, P.C.
- June 1986 – J.D., Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law
- June 1983 – B.A., Furman University

ADR Fees:

\$150.00 per hour per party not to exceed \$300.00 per hour total. One hour minimum per party. No administrative fee. My office has ample conference room space available for mediations.

CURTIS KLEEM

Phone: 706-277-0606

Fax: 706-277-0606

ckleem@kleemlaw.com

www.kleemlaw.com

To Schedule a mediation, visit the following link: <https://bit.ly/2sQa6bH>

Registered Mediator with Georgia Commission on Dispute Resolution. Registered as General Civil and Domestic Relations Mediator. Also Registered as Mediator who can mediate cases where Domestic Violence is alleged. All mediations held at the Whitfield County Courthouse.

Education:

B.A., Berry College - 1994

M.S.W., The University of Georgia School of Social Work – 1997

J.D., The University of Georgia School of Law – 2000

Professional Experience:

Law Clerk, Conasauga Judicial Circuit, 2000-2001

Attorney, McCamy, Phillips, Tuggle & Fordham, LLP, 2001-2018

Attorney, Kleem Law, LLC, 2018 - Present

Since 2001, my law practice has been roughly 70% domestic relations cases, with the remainder being personal injury, local government and business litigation.

Mediation Fees:

\$180.00 per hour – two (2) hour minimum

NATHAN D. LOCK

Phone: 706-278-4499

nlock@mccamylaw.com

Education:

University of Georgia, A.B.J., Advertising, 2009

Georgia State University, J.D., 2012

Georgia Bar Admission, 2012

Professional Experience:

Mr. Lock joined the law firm of McCamy, Phillips, Tuggle & Fordham, LLP in 2012 and began his practice in general litigation. Because the McCamy Firm has such a diverse practice, he gained litigation experience in a myriad of practice areas in both state and federal court. He has also served as the Whitfield County Administrator for Probate Court since 2015. Although his practice now focuses primarily on personal injury, probate, corporate litigation, and real property disputes, it is very difficult to find an area of law in which Mr. Lock cannot provide insight and understanding in the mediation setting. He prides himself in identifying creative resolutions that the parties may not have considered.

Areas of Practice:

Personal Injury, Probate, Contracts, Real Property, Workplace Harassment/Discrimination, Medical Malpractice, Construction, Corporate, Public/Private Nuisance, Defamation, Business Torts, Premises Liability, Products Liability, Landlord/Tenant

ADR Fees:

\$200/hr, Inquire for additional fees for travel

STEVE MICHMERHUIZEN

Phone: 706-226-0040

steve@coppedgefirm.com

Areas of Experience:

Personal injury, medical malpractice, commercial disputes, condemnation cases, foreclosure and confirmation.

Professional Experience:

Mr. Michmerhuizen is a litigation partner with Coppedge Michmerhuizen Rayburn | Attorneys at Law (2010-present). As a litigation partner, Mr. Michmerhuizen has participated in multiple mediations concerning disputes in the six-figure and seven-figure range. Mr. Michmerhuizen previously served as a law clerk for Chief Judge William T. Boyett, Conasauga Judicial Circuit (2009-2010). He is a registered neutral with Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution, as well as a former educator (high school and college) and social worker.

Legal Education:

Mr. Michmerhuizen graduated *cum laude* from University of Georgia School of Law, where he was awarded the Custer-Tuggle Award for Excellence in Family Law Studies by the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

ADR Fees:

\$200 per hour

TODD L. RAY

Phone: 706-278-8668

Attorney and General Civil and Domestic Relations Mediator.

Education:

Bob Jones University, BA, Pastoral Studies (Counseling), 1982

Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1987

Professional Experience:

1987-1992 Assistant District Attorney, Conasauga Judicial Circuit

1992-Present McDonald, Thames & Ray

Areas of Practice:

Domestic Relations; Criminal Law Defense; Juvenile Court; Magistrate Court

ADR Training:

General Mediation Training – Kennesaw State University; Divorce and Family Mediation Training – Henning Mediation & Arbitration Services, Inc.; Registered Mediator through the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution

ADR Fees:

\$150.00 per hour

JOEL P. THAMES

Phone: 706-278-8668

HENRY C. THARPE, JR.

Phone: 706-278-5211

Htharpe@daltongalaw.com

Henry Tharpe has practiced in Dalton, Georgia since 1974. He has represented individuals, corporations, and insurers in a wide variety of tort and commercial lawsuits. These include claims for serious personal injury and wrongful death, lender liability and electrical contact cases. In the late 90's, he coordinated the nationwide response of one of the country's largest carpet manufacturers to claims and lawsuits arising from in-door air quality complaints. He has more than 45 reported appellate decisions in the Supreme Court of Georgia; Georgia Court of Appeals; and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. He has participated in many mediations as party litigant.

His practice focuses on commercial and tort litigation, utility law, eminent domain, and representation of government entities. In the past he has represented clients in the carpet industry in a variety of areas, including manufacturing and quality disputes, commercial matters and bankruptcy.

He received his undergraduate education at the Georgia Institute of Technology and his law degree from the University of Georgia. He served as a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia; he also served on the University of Georgia Law School Association Council from 1999 – 2009; and was President from 2008 – 2009; he served as President of the Georgia EMC Counsel Association. He has been a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia representing the Georgia Department of Transportation in eminent domain proceedings since 1984.

He is certified as a General Civil Mediator by the Commission on Dispute Resolution.

ADR Fees:

\$200 per hour. No travel charge for mediations in the Conasauga, Cherokee and Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuits. Mediation facilities are available at his office directly across the street from the Whitfield County Courthouse.

ROBERT H. SMALLEY III

Phone: 706-278-4499

rsmalley@mccamylaw.com

Professional Experience:

Mr. Smalley has been a practicing attorney in Northwest Georgia since 1992 and a registered mediator since approximately 1995. He has handled numerous jury trials and bench trials, with a focus on complex commercial litigation and all types of personal injury/insurance litigation.

Mr. Smalley is a partner with McCamy, Phillips, Tuggle & Fordham, LLP in Dalton, GA and also serves as the Whitfield County Attorney.

ADR Experience:

Mr. Smalley has significant experience in mediating all types of matters, including: domestic/divorce, personal injury, wrongful death/insurance matters, commercial litigation, construction litigation, government condemnation matters. Title VII/1983 litigation, and all types of administrative matters including: land use matters.

He has successfully mediated over 400 matters.

ADR Fees:

\$350.00 per hour, plus mileage if applicable.

R. LESLIE WAYCASTER, JR.

Phone: 706-226-0100

leslie@waycaster-law.com

Areas of Experience:

R. Leslie Waycaster, Jr. has been practicing law in Dalton, Georgia since July, 2018. Mr. Waycaster has an “AV” rating which is the highest rating in both ability and ethics as determined by the legal professions pre-eminent attorney rating service, Martindale-Hubbell, Inc. He has been lead or associate counsel in approximately one hundred (100) jury trials, in a variety of cases including personal injuries, business disputes, divorce and family law and probate disputes. He has helped clients obtain settlements and/or judgements in excess of One Hundred Million (\$100,000,000.00) Dollars.

Today, Mr. Waycaster’s practice is primarily limited to three areas of the law: 1) personal injuries (vehicular collisions, dangerous property conditions, defective products and professional negligence); 2) business disputes, (breach of contract, fraud, employment contracts, wage and hour claims; and 3) mediation of disputes (Mr. Waycaster has been rated as being in the top five percent (5%) of mediators in the State of Georgia). He has been admitted to all trial and appellate courts for the State of Georgia. He has also been admitted in Federal Court in the Northern and Middle district Courts in Georgia, The Fourth and Eleventh Circuit Federal Courts of Appeal as well as the United States Supreme Court. He has argued multiple cases in the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court, as well as the Federal Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

In addition to his work as a civil litigator, he has mediated over one thousand cases (1000). He also currently serves as local counsel for the Georgia Sheriff’s Association across fourteen (14) counties in northwest Georgia. He has served as President of the Conasauga Bar Association, as a regional Vice-President for the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association and on the Board of Governors for the State Bar of Georgia.

Educational and Work Experience:

January 1989 – Present	R. Leslie Waycaster, Jr., P.C.
July 1980 – January 1989	Kinney, Kemp, Pickell, Sponcler & Joiner
June, 1980	University of Georgia School of Law
June, 1977	Georgia State University, A.B. Political Science

ADR Fees:

\$150.00 per hour per party not to exceed \$300.00 total