



Courtney Marcelo Norton

Litigates cases in both state and federal court, representing clients on a nationwide basis, handling a wide range of employment cases – from Title VII defense to claims for employee benefits. Experience in complex insurance defense litigation, focusing on life, health and disability litigation, particularly under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and state and federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) laws.

Representative Experience:

- Defends nationwide insurance companies in cases involving denial of employee benefits under ERISA
- Appears before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in defense of a plan administrator's denials of employee benefits under ERISA
- Defends government clients in sexual harassment employment cases
- Represents one of the nation's largest church insurance companies in a premises liability action
- Represents worldwide restaurant company in a case involving racial discrimination, false arrest, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence
- Defends employers in claims of bad faith and denial of employee benefits in the United States District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- Defends clients before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court

Publications:

- Coauthored the Georgia Chapter on Rescission published by the American Bar Association, Fall 2007. Published several papers on current topics in employee benefits and disability law, including *Hot Topics in Disability Law*, 2004, ALI-ABA, and *ERISA Update*, Defense Research Institute, 2005.
- Research Assistant to Professor Mark J. Kadish, 2004, assisting in research and writing law review article published by Georgetown University's Journal

Senior Associate Atlanta Office

Practice Areas

Employment
Employee Benefits Litigation
Complex Insurance Defense
Wrongful Death
Motor Carrier Liability
Dram Shop
Premises Liability
Church Liability
Medical Malpractice

Education

B.S. summa cum laude,
Georgia Institute of
Technology, 2000

J.D., magna cum laude,
Georgia State University
College of Law, 2004

Associate Lead Articles Editor,
Georgia State University Law
Review

Finalist, Georgia State
University Law 2002 Moot
Court Competition

Academic honors in Research,
Writing, & Advocacy, Criminal
Law, and Professional
Responsibility

Pupil, Bleckley Inn Court

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of International Law, and later cited by the United States Supreme Court: *Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations: the International Court of Justice in Mexico v. United States (Avena) Speaks Emphatically to the Supreme Court of the United States about the Fundamental Nature of the Right to Consul*

Admission to Practice

- Georgia State and Superior Courts
- Georgia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court
- District Court, Northern and Middle Districts
- Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals