



**John M. Tatum**  
*Retired Partner*

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**PRACTICE AREAS**

Arbitration & Mediation  
Business Litigation  
Fiduciary Litigation  
Litigation

**LICENSED IN**

Georgia

**EDUCATION**

University of Georgia School of Law: LL.B.,  
1968

University of Georgia: B.A., 1965

**AFFILIATIONS**

American College of Trial Lawyers: Fellow

American Association for Justice:  
Associate Member

American Bar Foundation: Fellow

American Judicature Society

Eleventh Circuit Historical Society:  
Secretary

Georgia Bar Foundation: Fellow

**EXPERIENCE**

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*John Tatum recently retired from the Firm's Savannah office, where he concentrated his practice on business litigation including business torts, contractual and commercial disputes, fraud cases, RICO, ERISA, business governance and financial disputes, intellectual property disputes, and class actions.*

John was a fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* for Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, ERISA Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation, and Trusts & Estates Litigation. He was named Lawyer of the Year for 2012 in Bet-the-Company Litigation for Savannah.

John graduated with a B.A. in 1965 and an LL.B. in 1968 from the University of Georgia. In law school, he was a justice on the Honor Court and served as decisions editor for the *Georgia Law Review* from 1967 to 1968.

He was admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Eleventh Circuits; the U.S. Court of Claims; the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Middle Districts of Georgia; and all Georgia courts. John served as a member of the Lawyer Advisory Committee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit from 1998 to 2002. He was a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Georgia Bar Foundation, a member of the American Judicature Society and the Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, and an associate member of American Association for Justice.

John served as general counsel to Savannah Foods & Industries, Inc., from 1988 to 1997, and he served on the board of directors of SunTrust Bank of Savannah from 1988 to 2012. His many civic commitments include serving on the CEO Council for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, as chairman of the board of directors for Union Mission, and as Clerk of Session for First Presbyterian Church.

**ARTICLES**

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*The Value of Mediation*

Published on August 21, 2015, in the *Savannah Morning News*.

*Business Succession Planning: The Conflict of Corporate and Fiduciary Duties*

Published on August 20, 2014, in *Business in Savannah*.

*Appeals Process Can Provide Resolution in Business Disputes*

Published on May 1, 2013, in *Business in Savannah*.

Georgia Defense Lawyers Association

Lawyer Advisory Committee: U.S. Court of Appeals Eleventh Circuit, 1998-2002

National Moot Court Competition Committee: Past Member

*State, Federal Laws on Unfair, Deceptive Trade Practices*  
Published on November 30, 2011, in *Business in Savannah*.

## COMMUNITY WORK

Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity: Board of Directors

First Presbyterian Church: Clerk of Session

Savannah Benevolent Association: Elected Member

Savannah Community Foundation: Board of Directors

SunTrust Bank of Savannah: Board of Directors, 1988-2012

Union Mission: Board of Directors, Chairman; Executive Committee

## RECOGNITION

Chambers USA, America's Leading Lawyers for Business: Litigation

American College of Trial Lawyers

Best Lawyers in America: Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation, ERISA Litigation, Intellectual Property Litigation, Trusts & Estates Litigation

Georgia Super Lawyers: Business Litigation, 2004-2018

Georgia Trend Magazine Legal Elite: 2012-2013

Lawyer of the Year: Bet-the-Company Litigation, 2012

Martindale-Hubbell: AV Rated