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Michael P. Boggs

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PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate
Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights
Business Litigation
Business Restructuring
Business Transactions
Commercial Finance
Convenience Store and Gas Station
Economic Development
Fiduciary Litigation
Government Affairs & Advocacy
Health Care
Health Care Compliance & Regulation
Insurance Coverage & Defense Litigation
Medical Malpractice
Nonprofit Organizations
Product Liability
Professional Malpractice
Real Estate
Real Estate Litigation
Transportation

INDUSTRIES

Banking and Finance
Education
Health Care
Hospitality & Retail
Logistics & Supply Chain
Manufacturing

EXPERIENCE

Michael Boggs, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, is a partner at HunterMaclean, where he advises clients across a broad range of legal matters, including complex litigation, government-related issues, and strategic policy challenges. He is also a Registered General Civil Mediation Neutral.

With more than 35 years of experience in Georgia's legal and public sectors, Mike has served at nearly every level of the state's judiciary. He began as a Superior Court Judge in the Waycross Judicial Circuit, where he founded and presided over the court's Drug Court Program. He was later appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals by Governor Nathan Deal, who also appointed him to the Supreme Court of Georgia. There, he was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chief Justice. Mike was elected statewide to Georgia's Appellate courts without opposition on three occasions.

Throughout his judicial service, he helped lead the state's judicial system through significant reforms and modernization efforts. As Chief Justice, Mike created committees to address AI and the Courts, Legal Regulatory Reform, and Judicial Security. He also served as chairman of the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Committee, where he oversaw the distribution of $106 million in federal funds to help Georgia courts reduce backlogs of serious violent felony cases. Earlier in his career, he also served in the Georgia House of Representatives, where he served on the Judiciary, Public Safety and Government Affairs committees, and as chairman of the Probate Law and Elections Law subcommittees.

Mike has a broad array of legal practice, including former service as a County Attorney, Special Assistant Attorney General, and counsel to a regional Development Authority. While in private practice, he practiced law in both civil and criminal matters including creditor bankruptcy litigation, property insurance defense, real estate transactions, banking law, and general business matters.

Widely respected for his steady leadership and practical judgment, Mike has built a national reputation as a thought leader for advancing meaningful justice-system reform and shaping judicial policy. His work has earned recognition from legal, legislative, and civic organizations across Georgia and beyond.

He has received numerous awards recognizing his commitment to justice and public service, including the St. Thomas More Award, the State Bar of Georgia's Spirit of Justice Award, and Leadership Georgia's J.W. Fanning Award, the organization's highest honor. He has also held national leadership roles with

Non-Profit & Government
Professional Services
Real Estate
Technology

LICENSED IN
Georgia

EDUCATION

Mercer University School of Law: J.D., 1990

Georgia Southern College: B.A., Political Science and Psychology, 1985

AFFILIATIONS

State Bar of Georgia, Member

Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission, Member

Georgia Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, Former Member and Chairman, Mental Health Courts Subcommittee

Judicial Council of Georgia, Former Chairman

Conference of Chief Justices, Former Executive Board Member

Georgia Courts American Rescue Plan Act Funds Committee, Former Chairman

Council of State Governments Justice Center, Former Chairman

Justice Counts National Steering Committee, Former Chairman

Georgia Criminal Justice Reform Council, Former Co-Chairman

Supreme Court of Georgia's Committee on Justice for Children, Former Member

National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Initiatives, Member

the Conference of Chief Justices and the Council of State Governments Justice Center.

A native of South Georgia, Mike earned his B.A. from Georgia Southern College and his J.D. from the Mercer University School of Law. He and his wife, Heather, a longtime public school educator, are involved in their community and deeply committed to public service.

NOTABLE OPINIONS

• *Arnold v. Alexander*, S24O1335 (March 18, 2025) (Examining the source of the Georgia Supreme Court's original jurisdiction, and providing a first impression review of the court's jurisdiction under Article VI, Section I, Paragraph IV of the 1983 Constitution).

• *Whitaker Farms, LLC v. Fitzgerald Fruit Farms, LLC*, 320 Ga. 208, 908 S.E.2d 531 (2024) (holding that parties' statements during settlement conference were not admissible to prove punitive damages).

• *Vantage Cancer Centers of Georgia, LLC v. Dep't of Cmty. Health*, 318 Ga. 361 (2024) (establishing standard of review that Georgia DCH Commissioner must apply when reviewing the decision of a hearing officer on an application for a certificate of need).

• *King v. King*, 316 Ga. 354 (2023) (answering certified question from 11th Circuit and clarifying parameters of Georgia's duty to disclose in a confidential relationship).

• *Hill, Kertscher & Wharton, LLP v. Moody*, 308 Ga. 74 (2020) (as a matter of first impression, holding that "when a client sues his former attorney for legal malpractice, the implied waiver of the attorney-client privilege extends to the client's communications with other attorneys who represented the client with respect to the same underlying transaction or litigation").

• *Stanley v. Patterson*, 314 Ga. 582, 582 (2022) (holding that court administrators and case managers whose negligent actions led to the improper arrest and jailing of man were not protected by quasi-judicial immunity).

• *San Miguel Produce, Inc. v. L. G. Herndon Jr. Farms, Inc.*, 308 Ga. 812, 812–13 (2020) (clarifying scope of the Georgia Dealers in Agricultural Products Act, OCGA §§ 2-9-1 to 2-9-16).

• *Wilkes & McHugh, P.A. v. LTC Consulting, L.P.*, 306 Ga. 252 (2019) (clarifying standard for reviewing motion to dismiss under the anti-SLAPP statute, OCGA § 9-11-11.1).

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Council on Criminal Justice Veterans Justice Commission, Member

COMMUNITY WORK

Mercer University Board of Trustees, Member

Mercer University Law School Board of Visitors, Member

Bobby Dodd Coach of the Year Foundation, Board Member

Leadership Georgia, Graduate (2009)

RECOGNITION

Georgia Trend Magazine: 100 Most Influential Georgians

St. Thomas More Award

State Bar of Georgia: Spirit of Justice Award

State Bar of Georgia: Distinguished Service Award

Leadership Georgia: J.W. Fanning Award

Georgia Trend Magazine: 40 Under 40

Georgia Sheriffs' Association: Leadership Award

District Attorneys' Association of Georgia: Commitment to Justice Award

University System of Georgia Foundation: Regents Award for Excellence

Association of County Commissioners of Georgia: Legislative Award

Boy Scouts of America: Golden Eagle Award

Most Outstanding Freshman Legislator Award

• *Raffensperger v. Jackson*, 316 Ga. 383 (2023) (Reviewing Secretary of State's professional licensing provisions and holding that Georgia Constitution's due process clause entitles citizens to pursue a lawful occupation of their choosing free from unreasonable government interference and that Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act, OCGA 43-22A-1 et seq., was unconstitutional).

ARTICLES

Legal Spotlight: A Conversation with Chief Justice Michael J. Boggs (ret.)
Published by Georgia Trend Magazine, June 2025

"Better Services for Familiar Faces" – Judicature Vol. 108 No. 1 (2024).
Co-authored by Michael Boggs and Judge Briana H. Zamora, as published by Duke Law's Bolch Judicial Institute in 2024.

PRESENTATIONS

State of the Judiciary Address – Joint Session of the Georgia General Assembly (March 5, 2025, Atlanta).
Boggs used his final address as Chief Justice to outline the judiciary's forward-looking initiatives, including the establishment of the AI and Courts Committee, progress in legal regulatory reform, and investments in rural circuit support and judicial well-being.

Judicial Council of Georgia General Session – Georgia Administrative Office of the Courts (Feb. 7, 2025, Remote).
Boggs chaired the Judicial Council of Georgia's General Session on February 7, 2025, which was conducted via virtual teleconference.

"Public Confidence and the Courts." Opening Conversation (Feb. 21, 2025, State Bar of Georgia Headquarters, Atlanta).
Boggs kicked off the 2025 Bar–Media–Judiciary annual conference with a keynote conversation on "Public Confidence and the Courts." He addressed an audience of judges, lawyers, and journalists about transparency and trust in the judicial system.

Guest Lecture on Law & Policy – Georgia State University College of Law (Jan. 21, 2025, Atlanta).
In this hour-long lecture and Q&A with law students, Boggs shared insights on crafting effective public policy and the interplay between making laws (as a former state legislator) and interpreting laws (as a judge).

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State of the Judiciary Address – Joint Session of the Georgia General Assembly (Feb. 21, 2024, Atlanta).
In his 2024 State of the Judiciary Address, Boggs focused on court modernization efforts, including e-filing expansion, judicial security upgrades, and the initial impact of federal ARPA funds on backlog reduction in serious felony cases.

State of the Judiciary Address – Joint Session of the Georgia General Assembly (March 8, 2023, Atlanta).
Boggs delivered his State of the Judiciary address as Chief Justice, highlighting judicial recovery efforts post-pandemic, the expansion of mental health accountability courts, and the importance of adequate funding for Georgia's trial courts.

Commencement Keynote – Mercer University School of Law (May 2020, Macon, GA).
Boggs served as the commencement speaker for Mercer Law School's Class of 2020.