Charles E. Peeler

Partner

Atlanta

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As the former United States attorney for the Middle District of Georgia, Charlie brings valuable insight and experience to clients facing investigations and government enforcement actions.

OVERVIEW

Charlie draws upon his government experience to assist clients in navigating the current regulatory and enforcement climate to prevent, resolve and, if necessary, litigate critical and sensitive issues. Recognized by *Chambers USA* as “pragmatic, insightful, and effective,” Charlie represents clients in complex internal investigations, civil and criminal government enforcement actions, complex commercial disputes, and litigation arising from cyberattacks and data breaches. Charlie also works proactively with clients to develop robust ethics and compliance programs that withstand regulatory scrutiny.

As the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Georgia and in private practice, Charlie has dedicated his career to zealously representing client interests in complex matters. In this role, Charlie gained invaluable experience leading civil and criminal government enforcement actions against corporations and their employees, officers, and directors. He leverages this unique insight to conduct effective internal investigations and to represent clients facing government enforcement actions.

A skilled trial attorney, Charlie has represented clients in high-stakes matters throughout his career. He has obtained multimillion-dollar jury verdicts on behalf of plaintiffs as well as defense verdicts on behalf of defendants. While a U.S. attorney, Charlie also focused on cybercrime, cyber-incident response, and data breaches by leading investigations and serving on the Department of Justice Subcommittee on Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Issues. Charlie has successfully tried cases related to federal and state criminal matters, business disputes, intellectual property matters, civil rights matters, labor and employment, and complex torts in numerous state, federal, and appellate courts.

Active in the legal community, Charlie has served on the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission under two Georgia governors, the Georgia Attorney General’s Anti-Gang Task Force, the Local Rules Advisory Committee for the Middle District of Georgia, and the Eleventh Circuit Conference Planning Committee. He has been recognized by *Chambers USA* for his white collar work, is frequently designated a “Super Lawyer” by *Super Lawyer* magazine, and was named as one of the “Most Influential Georgians” by *James Magazine*.

Charlie is the managing partner of the firm’s Atlanta office.

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REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

Litigation

- Trial counsel obtaining a $7 million verdict on behalf of a plaintiff in a personal injury jury trial involving a physician's injury.
- Trial and appellate counsel obtaining a $2.5 million verdict and Eleventh Circuit affirmance on behalf of a plaintiff in a breach of contract and trademark infringement jury trial involving a dietary supplement marketing agreement.
- Trial counsel obtaining a defense verdict on behalf of a defendant in a breach of contract jury trial involving the purchase, sale, and delivery of agricultural products.
- Trial and appellate counsel obtaining the reversal of a permanent injunction in the Supreme Court of Georgia in a matter involving Georgia's trademark dilution statute, O.C.G.A. 10-1-451.
- Arbitration counsel obtaining a $1.4 million award on behalf of a plaintiff in a breach of contract action involving a physician's employment contract with a hospital.
- Trial counsel obtaining a defense verdict on behalf of a defendant in an employment discrimination jury trial involving a private security business.
- Arbitration counsel obtaining a damages and attorney's fees award on behalf of a defendant/counterclaimant in a matter involving noncompetition agreements in the pacemaker industry.
- Trial counsel obtaining a $1.5 million verdict on behalf of a plaintiff in a wrongful death jury trial involving an auto and pedestrian accident.
- Trial counsel obtaining a $45,000 verdict plus attorney's fees on behalf of an inmate plaintiff in a §1983 jury trial against prison officials for assaulting the plaintiff.

Investigations

- Investigating counsel in an internal investigation into a state's process for issuing air permits to manufacturing facilities.
- Investigating counsel in an internal investigation into a *Fortune* 100 company's process for reporting wastewater treatment data to a government agency.
- Investigating counsel in an internal investigation into theft of corporate property by corporate managers.
- Investigating counsel in an internal investigation into theft of over $1 million of company property.
- Counsel for a broker-dealer in an investigation by a state securities commission.
- Counsel for grand jury witnesses in state investigation into possible election interference.
- Counsel for development company in a federal investigation into a claim for conservation easement tax credits.
- Counsel for a laboratory in state attorney general investigation into possible health care fraud.
- Counsel for environmental company in a federal investigation regarding treatment of hazardous materials.

AWARDS

- *Best Lawyers in America®:* Commercial Litigation (2024-2027), Criminal Defense: White-Collar (2025-2027), Litigation – Regulatory Enforcement – SEC, Telecom, Energy (2025-2027)
- *Chambers USA*: Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations, Georgia (2022-2026)
- "Top Lawyer in Criminal Defense White Collar," *GaBiz Magazine* (2026)
- *Lawdragon: 500 Global Leaders in Crisis Management* (2025-2026)
- Southeastern Legal Awards – Distinguished Leader (2024)
- "Most Influential Politically Connected Attorneys in Georgia," *James Magazine* (2022)

- “Most Influential Georgians,” *James Magazine* (2019-2020)
- “Super Lawyer,” *Georgia Super Lawyers Magazine* (2014-2017)
- “Georgia Legal Elite,” *Georgia Trend Magazine* (2015)

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Enforcement Actions + Investigations
- Privacy + Cyber
- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Business Litigation
- Consumer Financial Services
- Corporate Espionage Response Team
- Enforcement Actions + Investigations
- False Claims Act + Other Whistleblower Actions
- Litigation + Trial
- Privacy + Cyber
- White Collar Litigation + Investigations

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Co-founder, chair, White Collar Law Section, State Bar of Georgia
- Member, National Association of Former United States Attorneys
- Member, Attorney General Subcommittee for Cybercrime and Intellectual Property Issues, 2018-2020
- Member, Attorney General Subcommittee for Servicemembers and Veterans Affairs, 2018-2020
- Chair, Department of Justice Investment Review Board, 2019-2020
- Member, Georgia Attorney General’s Anti-Gang Task Force, 2019-2020
- Commissioner, Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission, 2015-2017, 2009-2011
- Member, Local Rules Advisory Committee for U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia, 2012-2017
- Member, Planning Committee for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judicial Conference, 2016
- Member, State Bar of Georgia Investigative Panel on Attorney Discipline, 2016-2017
- Trustee, State Bar of Georgia Client Security Trust Fund, 2014-2016
- Member, University of Georgia School of Law Alumni Council, 2005-2017

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- University of Georgia School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 1999, Moot Court Board; *Journal of Intellectual Property Law*; Graduating Class President
- University of Georgia, B.S., 1995, biochemistry and molecular biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS

- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia
- Supreme Court of Georgia
- Court of Appeals of Georgia
- Georgia Superior Courts
- Georgia State Courts

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "Environmental Crisis Management – Best Practices and Lessons Learned," Annual Georgia Environmental Conference 2025, August 20, 2025.
- Speaker, "Whistleblowers and Internal Investigations: Practical and Ethical Implications," Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Greater Charlotte Chapter, March 27, 2025.
- Presenter, "Ethics in Conducting Internal Investigations," Association of Oil Pipelines Annual Conference, July 24,2021.
- Presenter, "Whistleblower Law," Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, December 11, 2020.
- Presenter, "Cybercrime, Data Breach and Data Privacy," Council of Superior Court Judges of Georgia, January 21, 2020.
- Presenter, "White Collar Crime Institute," American Bar Association, September 10, 2019.
- Presenter, "Cybercrime, Data Breach and Data Privacy," State Bar of Georgia, June 6, 2019.
- Presenter, "False Claims Act Summit," State Bar of Georgia, May 10, 2019.
- Presenter, "Whistleblower Law Symposium," State Bar of Georgia, March 6, 2019.
- Presenter, "Southeastern White Collar Crime Institute," American Bar Association, September 7, 2018.
- Presenter, "Whistleblower Law Symposium," State Bar of Georgia, March 7, 2018.

PUBLICATIONS

- Podcast, "Lessons Learned: A Government Litigation Case Study," *Troutman Pepper Podcast*, March 14, 2023.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

- Quoted, "Georgia Powerhouse: Troutman," *Law360*, September 21, 2026.
- Featured and Quoted, "Former U.S. Attorney Takes Managing Role at Leading Atlanta Law Firm," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, April 15, 2024.
- Interviewed, "Troutman Pepper's New Atlanta Head Talks 'Sense Of Service'," *Law360 Pulse*, January 24, 2024.

- Quoted, “Judge Dismisses Local Zoning Lawsuit Over Future $5B Rivian EV Plant,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, January 3, 2024.
- Mentioned, “Internal Auditor: Columbus Finance Department Audit Reveals Unaccounted for Millions in Fees,” *WRBL*, December 5, 2023.
- Quoted, “Ga. Judge Considers Whether to Keep $5B Rivian Suit Alive,” *Law360*, November 17, 2023.
- Featured, “Georgia Judge Clears Path for $5 Billion Rivian Plant,” *Law360,* March 17, 2023.
- Quoted, “4 Georgia Cases to Watch This Fall,” *Law360*, October 4, 2021.
- Quoted, “What Ga. Attys Are Saying About Resuming Jury Trials,” *Law360 Pulse*, February 4, 2021.
- Featured, “Charlie Peeler Joins Troutman Pepper Firm’s Atlanta Office,” *Albany Herald*, January 6, 2021.
- Featured, “Troutman Pepper Nabs Ex-U.S. Atty for White Collar Practice,” *Daily Report*, January 6, 2021.
- Featured, “Troutman Gains Former U.S. Attorney for Georgia’s Middle District,” *Daily Report*, January 5, 2021.