

PATRICIA G. GRIFFITH

Partner / Atlanta

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Patricia Griffith concentrates her practice on employment and labor disputes, including individual and class action discrimination and harassment cases, employment contracts, labor arbitrations & hearings, wage/hour claims, and other employment-related actions.

She tries cases in federal and state courts and before administrative agencies and arbitrators. Patricia has substantial jury and class certification experience. She is adept at mediating disputes, reducing the likelihood of protracted litigation, and serves as an arbitrator for the State Bar of Georgia and private parties. She has conducted numerous internal investigations for major companies across the country, ranging from harassment and discrimination to fraud, corruption, and conflict of interest. She routinely serves on the visiting faculty for Emory Law School's Trial Techniques program and is a member of the American Arbitration Association.

Patricia serves on the Board of Directors of the Federal Defender Program, Inc. by appointment of Chief Judge Timothy C. Batten, Sr. of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Patricia serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Shakespeare Company, and is a past & current Chair. Also, she is a former Board of Directors member for Girls on the Run-Atlanta and was formerly Chair of the Board of Directors for Friends of The Atlanta Opera. Earlier in her career she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Thomas A. Clark, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

At the University of Georgia, Patricia played basketball for the Lady Bulldogs and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She was the Comments Editor for the Georgia Law Review during law school, and published two articles in that time.

Representative Experience

- » Successfully overturned pension fund arbitrator's award in federal court on behalf of a large national healthcare company.

EDUCATION

- » University of Georgia School of Law (J.D., *with honors*, 1982)
- » University of Georgia (A.B., *summa cum laude*, 1979)

BAR ADMISSIONS

- » Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS

- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- » U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- » U.S. Supreme Court
- » U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida
- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- » U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- » U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida
- » Georgia Court of Appeals
- » Georgia Superior Court
- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- » U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- » U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

- » Successfully obtained multimillion dollar arbitration award against union for illegal strike on behalf of a large national healthcare company.
- » Successfully defeated class action in FLSA misclassification case for large construction company in Texas.
- » Successfully defeated class action in FLSA off-the-clock case for pest control company in Georgia.
- » Successfully defeated class action in nationwide FLSA misclassification case for manufacturer/distributor in Texas.
- » Won executive compensation arbitrations for Tennessee public employer and international technology licensing company.
- » Successfully tried several sexual harassment cases for national retail company.
- » Successfully tried sex-plus discrimination case for national retail company.
- » Won numerous labor arbitrations (contract interpretation and discipline) for national health care company.
- » Successfully defeated TRO attempts in non-compete matters in Georgia.
- » Obtained nationwide injunction for Georgia staffing agency in non-compete matter.
- » Won summary judgment in several cases throughout the country, including cases alleging discrimination based on sex, religion, age, race and national origin; harassment; retaliation; and FMLA violations.
- » Successfully defended allegations of sexual assault (rape) in the workplace, including in the airline and fast food industries.
- » U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
- » U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- » Supreme Court of Georgia

Honors & Awards

- » AV® Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- » *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, Band 1 Labor & Employment
- » The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Fellow
- » "500 Leading U.S. Corporate Employment Lawyers," *LawDragon* (2020-2024)
- » *The Best Lawyers in America* – Labor Law, Employment Law, and Labor and Employment Litigation
- » Top 50 Female Lawyers in Georgia and "Super Lawyers"

by *Super Lawyers* magazine

- » "Super Lawyers – Corporate Counsel Edition" by *Super Lawyers* magazine
- » "Georgia's Legal Elite" by *Georgia Trend* Magazine
- » One of 40 female "Legal Eagles" by *Atlanta Woman* magazine
- » One of the "Most Powerful and Influential Women" by the Georgia Diversity Council

Memberships

- » Board of Directors, Federal Defender Program, Inc.
- » Board of Directors, Atlanta Shakespeare Company
- » American Arbitration Association, Panel Member
- » American Bar Association
- » Federal Bar Association
- » State Bar of Georgia
- » Atlanta Bar Association
- » Litigation Counsel of America, Fellow
- » The Trial Law Institute, Member
- » Diversity Law Institute, Member
- » Georgia Association of Women Lawyers

News & Insights

- » June 07, 2024 - FordHarrison Named Among Top Labor and Employment Law Firms in 2024 by Chambers USA
- » September 26, 2023 - Six FordHarrison Partners Named to Lawdragon's 500 Leading Corporate Employment Lawyers Guide
- » August 17, 2023 - Fourteen Atlanta-Based FordHarrison Attorneys Listed in the 2024 Best Lawyers in America and Five Listed in Ones To Watch
- » June 01, 2023 - FordHarrison Recognized by Chambers USA 2023 in Georgia
- » June 01, 2023 - FordHarrison Named Among Top Labor and Employment Law Firms in 2023 by Chambers USA

Events

- » March 04, 2022 - "Internal Investigations in the Healthcare Workplace," 2022 Executive Healthcare Labor &

Employment Law Conference

Offices

- » *Atlanta:*
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