



**Geoffrey A. Marcus, Esq.**  
*Department Managing Attorney*

Vernis & Bowling of  
Charlotte, PLLC  
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Charlotte, NC 28209

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**Website:**  
www.national-law.com

**Also Serving:** Atlanta, GA,  
Charleston, SC

## AREAS OF PRACTICE

American with Disability Act Claims (A.D.A)  
Appellate Practice  
Arbitration  
Automobile Liability (PIP/PD/BI/UM)  
Bad Faith/Extra Contractual Litigation  
Business & Commercial Law  
Civil Litigation  
Commercial Ground Transportation Litigation  
Construction and Construction Defect Litigation  
Coverage & Declaratory Judgment Actions  
Employment Law/Employment Litigation  
Errors & Omissions Liability (E&O)  
Garage and Garagekeepers Liability  
General Liability Defense Litigation  
Labor and Employment Law  
Liability Defense  
Municipal/Government Liability Defense  
Negligent Security  
Premises Liability  
Product Liability  
Professional Liability/E & O  
Trucking  
Unfair Trade Practices Cases  
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist Liability  
Wrongful Death

Geoffrey Marcus graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Behavior Biology and a minor in Anthropology. Surprisingly, a single elective course shifted Geoffrey's path from the medical field to the legal field. Thus, Geoffrey continued his education at the University of Miami School of Law, graduating *Cum Laude* in 2019.

Upon graduating from law school, Geoffrey and his wife (who he met in law school) relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina. Geoffrey initially began his legal career at a Plaintiff firm that specializes in employment law and litigation. Thereafter, Geoffrey worked at a civil defense firm in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he handled civil litigation matters, involving the following: third party litigation, including employment law, OSHA investigations and citations, premises liability, vehicle accident defense, trucking defense, wrongful death, construction defects, and the defense of government and municipalities; and insurance coverage/first party litigation.

Geoffrey has represented, among others, a trillion dollar e-commerce company, a multi-billion dollar food and beverage supply company, a multi-million dollar hospitality business, and a multi-million dollar real estate development firm, as well as local health care providers and restaurants. He is experienced at managing all stages of litigation - pre-litigation through appellate work.

Notably, Geoffrey recently prevailed on summary judgment, which was later affirmed by the Fourth Circuit, after oral argument, pertaining to the issue of employer drug testing policy for new and current employees and an employer's related obligations under the ADA and N.C.G.S. § 95-28.2 (lawful use of lawful products statute) when an employee tested positive for THC use. *Anderson v. Diamondback Inv. Grp., LLC*, 117 F. 4th 165 (4th Cir. 2024).

In his personal life, Geoffrey enjoys spending time with his wife, Natasha, and embracing being a "girl dad" to his daughter, Olivia.

## BAR & COURT ADMISSION

North Carolina Bar  
South Carolina Bar  
Georgia Bar  
United States Supreme Court  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit  
United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina  
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United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina  
United States District Court for the District of South Carolina  
United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia  
United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

## EDUCATION

Graduate:  
University of Miami School of Law, JD.  
Undergraduate:  
Emory University, BS.

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Jacob O. Malatesta is the Managing Attorney of the Jackson, MS and Memphis, TN offices. He is a native of the Mississippi Delta where he began his legal career practicing in Clarksdale, then Greenville, and settling with his family in Jackson.

After obtaining an undergraduate degree in Spanish and English at the University of Mississippi, Jacob graduated *cum laude* from the University of Mississippi Law School. While in law school, Jacob was a member of *Phi Delta Phi*, an honorary legal fraternity. He was selected by his peers as a member of the Moot Court Board and later elected as a member of the Executive Board where he served as Appellate Advocacy Chairman. Jacob was also selected by his professors to participate in the Duberstein National Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. He was later named

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## EDUCATION

Graduate:  
University of Miami School of Law, JD.

Moot Court Member of the Year by the Moot Court Executive Board and inducted into the Order of Barristers.

Jacob has successfully litigated general liability claims (including property damage, automobile liability, dram shop, and premises liability), professional liability (including medical malpractice and employment discrimination), and extra-contractual liability claims. Jacob's appellate practice includes numerous victories based on both procedural and substantive law.

Jacob has experience litigating cases in both state and federal courts in Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Alabama, at both the trial and appellate levels and holds the AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, its highest rating for ethical standards and legal ability. Jacob has also twice been named a Rising Star by the SuperLawyers publication, making him only one of three Rising Star SuperLawyers in medical malpractice litigation in Mississippi. In 2018, he was selected as an official member of the Lawyers of Distinction, a national organization that recognizes excellence in the legal field, and as one of the top 40 legal professionals in the state when named a Leadership in Law honoree by the Mississippi Business Journal.

Jacob went to law school because he loved language and rhetoric. While there, he grew to love trial and appellate advocacy and the ability to solve problems by presenting compelling stories.

Jacob lives in Jackson, Mississippi, with his wife, Christy, their sons, Peter and Andrew, and their dog, Yazoo. He is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. In his free time, Jacob enjoys hunting, fishing, and serving as a beleaguered Ole Miss fan by spending warm fall Saturdays in The Grove.

Undergraduate:  
Emory University, BS.

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Negligent Security  
Premises Liability

Waynice Green-Musgrove is an attorney at Vernis & Bowling. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, at Rutgers College in New Jersey where she majored in political science and received a certificate in criminology. She then obtained her *Juris Doctor* degree from Fordham University School of Law in New York. Before leaving the frigid northeast for sunny and tropical south Florida, Waynice practiced criminal defense, domestic violence and family law in both New York and New Jersey.

Upon her admission to the Florida Bar, Waynice began practicing labor and employment law. As a labor and employment attorney, Waynice represents clients in administrative hearings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and in state and federal courts for matters involving unpaid wages, discrimination, retaliation, sexual harassment, wrongful termination and whistleblower claims. She also counsels clients on topics such as wage and hour regulations, the Family and Medical Leave Act, workplace equality, reasonable accommodations, drug abuse policies and employee discipline.

Waynice loves being a lawyer, and has always enjoyed utilizing her knowledge to advocate for people. She has never suffered from a boring day on the job. Her areas of practice are always evolving and that makes for intellectually stimulating workdays.

Waynice is licensed to practice in the Federal District of New Jersey, the Southern District of Florida and Middle District Of Florida. She's a member of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers and the Caribbean American Bar Association. She is also a Board Secretary of Generation Ascend, a new 501© organization that provides low-income and disadvantaged youth with programs, including tutoring, counseling, scholarship assistance, high school, college, and job application preparation; and vocational training resources to foster their transition out of poverty.

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Professional Liability/E & O  
Trucking  
Unfair Trade Practices Cases  
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## EDUCATION

Graduate:  
University of Miami School of Law, JD.  
Undergraduate:  
Emory University, BS.

Waynice resides in Broward County with her husband, three sons and Maltepom Zahra. She and her family enjoy traveling, brunching and spending time with family and friends.

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South Carolina Bar  
Georgia Bar  
United States Supreme Court

Hunter is a Florida native born and raised in the Florida Keys. Following his graduation from the University of Central Florida, he returned to Key Largo to attend law school at St. Thomas University in Miami Gardens, graduating in 2020. After admission to the Florida Bar, Mr. O'Connor began practicing with Vernis & Bowling of the Florida Keys.

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## EDUCATION

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Undergraduate:  
Emory University, BS.

As an associate with Vernis & Bowling of the Florida Keys, Mr. O'Connor has practiced in a wide variety of areas with a focus towards local government law.

Mr. O'Connor handles various legal matters for The School Board of Monroe County, the City of Key Colony Beach, City of Layton, Florida Keys Mosquito Control District and Key Largo Fire & EMS District, North Fort Myers Fire District, and Monroe County. Some of the legal areas Mr. O'Connor handles include, but are not limited to, contracts, ordinances, procurement, affordable housing, public records, and sunshine law. Mr. O'Connor looks forward to continuing to expand his skills and expertise alongside the excellent attorneys at Vernis & Bowling of the Florida Keys.

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Kimberly B. Sheridan was born in Frankfurt, Germany where her father was serving in the Army. She grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, but left South Carolina to attend college in Georgia. She fell in love with the State of Georgia and stayed to pursue her life long goal of being an attorney. While attending law school at the University of Georgia, Kimberly worked in the Prosecution Clinic, a program that allowed her to try cases before graduating. Kimberly also participated in the Public Interest Practicum representing women and children who were abused and neglected. Both experiences created a passion for litigation and for being in the courtroom advocating vigorously for her clients.

Kimberly believes in the legal system and works hard to defend her clients' rights with integrity, diligence and hard work. Kimberly has been a trial lawyer in Atlanta since receiving her *Juris Doctorate* degree in 1996. She began her legal career as criminal defense attorney and Plaintiff's lawyer before becoming a prosecutor with the District Attorney's Offices in Fulton and Gwinnett counties providing her with tremendous experience litigating and trying cases. In 2001, Ms. Sheridan shifted from

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criminal law and applied her substantial experience in the courtroom to civil defense litigation. Kimberly has handled many jury and bench trials. She has defended and deposed numerous parties, witnesses, and experts and drafted and argued countless motions. Kimberly has also written and won many appellate arguments.

Kimberly Sheridan is the Managing Attorney for Vernis and Bowling of Atlanta, LLC. With two (2) decades of trial experience, she has developed a diverse litigation practice that includes automobile liability, premises liability (including slip & fall and negligent security), trucking litigation, products liability, employment defense and wrongful death. With an extensive knowledge of both the law and its practical application, Kimberly works with clients to resolve complex disputes per mediation, negotiated settlement, or trial resolution. She is admitted to practice in Georgia and the U.S. District Courts in Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals and Supreme Court of Georgia.

Outside of work, Kimberly enjoys spending time with her husband and five children. Kimberly is an avid painter and has sold her paintings throughout Georgia.