



Geoffrey A. Marcus, Esq.
Senior Attorney

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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

BAR & COURT ADMISSION

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.

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
United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
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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Thomas is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. He comes from a multi-generational family of legal professionals with deep roots in Charleston and the Lowcountry. He attended the University of South Carolina as an Alumni Scholar. During his undergraduate years he served as a page in the South Carolina House of Representatives, an intern in the office of the President of the University of South Carolina, Chief of Staff to the Student Body President and an officer in his fraternity. In May of 1989, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, with a minor in History. He enrolled in the University of South Carolina School of Law in August of 1989, where he received his *Juris Doctor* degree in May of 1992.

Upon graduation from law school, Thomas was offered and accepted a judicial clerkship with Judge William L. Howard, Sr., Resident Judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit for South Carolina.

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During his year spent in judicial clerkship, he had the opportunity to participate in over forty civil and criminal trials around the State of South Carolina. A most valuable learning experience, affording the opportunity to observe a number of preeminent trial lawyers from around the State.

In November of 1999, Thomas was elected to begin a six-year term as a commissioner of the Commissioners of Public Works for the City of Charleston. Thomas was re-elected 2005, 2011 and 2017. His current term expires in 2023. He has served as chairman of the Commission since 2003. During that time, CWS has been upgraded to a AAA credit rating, one of fewer than thirty combined water and sewer utilities in the Country to receive such designation from both Moody's and Standard & Poor.

Thomas is a Department Managing Attorney in the firm's Charleston, SC office. He is excited and energized by the opportunities to provide quality legal representation to Vernis & Bowling's array of clients and happy to be a part of the team.

Thomas has extensive experience in civil and administrative trial practice as well as experience in appellate practice, having argued before the South Carolina Court of Appeals, South Carolina Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit and the Multi-District Litigation Panel, having been involved at the earliest stages of EIFS litigation in the Southeast. His primary practice areas include Construction Defect, Personal Injury, Automobile Liability, Premises Liability Dram Shop Liability, Professional Liability, Products Liability and Intentional Torts. He also practices in Insurance Coverage, Mass Torts/Environmental/Toxic Torts, Bad Faith, and Appellate Practice. He is well-versed in all aspects of Insurance Defense and General Civil Litigation.

His extensive civil trial experience includes having tried more than sixty cases to verdict. He has participated in more than two hundred fifty mediations, both as an attorney for a litigant and/or as mediator. He has tried more than a dozen cases before single arbitrators or arbitration panels.

Thomas is a Certified Circuit Court Mediator by the South Carolina Supreme Court Board of Arbitrator and Mediator Certification, having been first certified in 2011.

Thomas knows the venues, and many of the attorneys and the judges around the State, a knowledge gained through over thirty years of experience and multi-generational legal exposure and is able to share those insights with carriers when assessing individual cases.

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