

# Geoffrey M. Drake

Partner

*Trial and Global Disputes*

---

Atlanta: +1 404 572 4726

Mobile: +1 404 824 3277

[gdrake@kslaw.com](mailto:gdrake@kslaw.com)



Geoffrey Drake is a partner in our Trial and Global Disputes Practice, for which he serves as the Operations Partner. He is also Co-Chair of our Pharmaceutical/Medical Device Litigation Team, which *Legal 500* recognized in 2020 and 2021 as one of the top five such practices in the country, and a member of the firm's Life Sciences/Healthcare Business Leadership Team. Geoffrey represents companies in the life sciences, automotive and transportation, energy, healthcare and technology sectors in high-profile product liability and mass tort litigation. He has extensive experience litigating all phases of individual, multidistrict and class action cases, as well as serving as coordinating and strategic counsel in connection with large dockets of cases at both the federal and state levels. He also has an active trial practice, having represented clients in several recent high-stakes trials. Geoffrey has significant experience with legal project management, having helped structure, lead and manage several large, cross-practice, cross-office matters, including to design and implement sophisticated budgets and alternative billing arrangements and manage the organization, workflow and staffing plans to deliver the client exceptional and efficient services.

An experienced litigator, Geoffrey represents clients in nationwide, high-exposure product liability, mass tort, class action, toxic tort and whistleblower litigation, along with internal and government investigations. He litigates all phases of cases in federal and state courts nationwide, including in the most challenging jurisdictions for corporate clients. From the start, Geoffrey handles each matter with a view toward trial, considering how to communicate effectively to a jury a host of complex scientific, technical and regulatory issues. In addition to litigation, he advises manufacturers on issues such as risk assessment, liability avoidance, product labeling, government regulation and indemnification. Geoffrey is Co-Chair of our national-recognized Pharmaceutical/Medical Device Litigation Team, has been recognized by *Legal 500* as a Key Lawyer in pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, and recently co-authored the leading treatise, *Drug and Device Product Liability Litigation Strategy, 2nd Edition* (Oxford Univ. Press). Geoffrey also has active automotive and toxic tort litigation practices, having represented a number of clients in significant matters. In 2018, *Law360* selected Geoffrey to serve on its Product Liability editorial advisory board. In 2016, *Law360* listed Geoffrey as a "Rising Star" in product liability litigation, recognizing him as among top legal talent under the age of 40. He was named to the *Benchmark Litigation* "40 & Under Hot List" for five consecutive years, was named by *Benchmark Litigation* as a "Future Star" in

2018, was named in 2018 to the *Daily Report's* "On the Rise" list of attorneys under the age of 40 who are expected to go far in the field, and has for eight consecutive years been recognized as a "Georgia Super Lawyer – Rising Star" in product liability defense by *Super Lawyers* and *Atlanta Magazine*. Geoffrey also served as a member of the inaugural Next Generation Advisory Board for Emory University's Institute for Complex Litigation and Mass Claims.

## Matters

Represented **Merck** in multidistrict litigation (MDL) involving allegations of injuries from use of the company's osteoporosis medication, including in three bellwether trials in two different MDLs. In *Glynn v. Merck*, the jury returned a complete defense verdict, after which the court granted judgment based on federal preemption.

Serving as one of a core group of partners leading the national coordinating and trial counsel team representing **GlaxoSmithKline** in nationwide litigation concerning allegations of suicidality and birth defects from use of the company's antidepressant.

Representing **Renco Group** and **Doe Run Resources** in mass tort litigation in federal court in St. Louis concerning personal-injury allegations by several thousand Peruvian children allegedly exposed to contaminants from a smelter in the Andean Highlands.

Representing **healthcare companies** and **employers** in multiple COVID-19-related wrongful death lawsuits.

Representing **Coloplast** as part of the team serving as National Coordinating and Trial Counsel in nationwide product liability litigation relating to injuries allegedly caused by the company's female pelvic mesh devices.

Serving as National Counsel for **Viking Group, Inc.** with respect to claims and lawsuits relating to property damage arising from alleged manufacturing or design defects in fire suppression equipment.

Serving as Co-Coordinating and Strategic Counsel to a **U.S. automobile manufacturer** in connection with over 1500 breach of warranty and consumer fraud lawsuits pending in California state and federal courts; previously co-led team representing **another U.S. automobile manufacturer** in hundreds of breach of warranty and consumer-fraud lawsuits in California.

Representing the **manufacturer of FDA-cleared surgical gowns** in nationwide litigation concerning the design, labeling, advertising and manufacture of the devices, including: a federal class action trial; a *qui tam* suit brought under the Federal False Claims Act in which the court granted defendants' motion to dismiss; and a federal Lanham Act lawsuit concerning allegations of false marketing.

Represented **Purdue Pharma** in an action filed by the Kentucky Attorney General seeking Medicaid-related costs and other damages allegedly caused by the company's marketing and promotion of its prescription pain medication.

Represented **DaVita Healthcare Partners** in a *qui tam* case brought under the federal False Claims Act claiming improper billing of Medicare for unnecessary wastage of two medications used to treat dialysis patients.

Represented a **leading automobile manufacturer** in connection with government investigations and multi-jurisdictional civil litigation relating to a series of high-profile vehicle recalls.

Represented the **owner of petroleum pipeline terminals** in federal MDL proceedings in an action filed by the Pennsylvania Attorney General involving claims of groundwater contamination from MTBE-containing gasoline.

Represented **Lincoln Electric Company** and other manufacturers in cases involving claims from exposure to manganese fumes from welding rods, and serving as national discovery counsel in the litigation for **Eutectic Corporation**.

Represented **Cooper Industries**, the successor of a former operator of a Superfund site, in litigation involving allegations of a variety of personal injuries from PCB exposure.

Represented **Phillips Services Corp.** in a class action lawsuit involving nuisance allegations arising from the release of odors from a wastewater treatment facility.

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

J.D., Vanderbilt University

B.A., University of Virginia

### ADMISSIONS

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

Georgia

Supreme Court of Georgia

## Recognition

Recommended/Key Lawyer in Product liability, mass tort and class action - defense:  
pharmaceuticals and medical devices

LEGAL 500, 2020

---

Named to "On the Rise" list

DAILY REPORT, 2018

---

Named to Product Liability Editorial Advisory Board

LAW360, 2018

---

Named Future Star

BENCHMARK LITIGATION, 2018

---

Named to Under 40 Hot List

BENCHMARK LITIGATION, 2016-2020

---

Named a Rising Star in Product Liability Litigation

LAW360, 2016

---

Appointed to Next Generation Advisory Board

EMORY UNIVERSITY'S INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEX LITIGATION AND MASS CLAIMS, 2016

---

Named a Georgia Super Lawyer - Rising Star

SUPER LAWYERS AND ATLANTA MAGAZINE, 2013–2019

---

Graduate of the International Association of Defense Counsel's Trial Academy

2012

---

Order of the Coif

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, 2005

---

Best Oralist Award

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL INTRAMURAL MOOT COOT COMPETITION, 2004

---

Executive Development Editor

VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF TRANSNATIONAL LAW, 2005

---

## Insights

### CLIENT ALERT

*July 8, 2021*

NHTSA to Require Reporting of Crashes Involving SAE Automation Levels 2+

### NEWSLETTER

*March 26, 2021*

Autonomous Vehicles Speed Read – March 2021

*February 25, 2021*

Autonomous Vehicles Speed Read – February 2021

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

## Events

### WEBINAR

*July 28, 2021*

COVID-Related Litigation and the PREP Act: A Year Later

*December 9, 2020*

COVID-19's Impact on the Senior Care Industry: A Discussion on Crisis Management in the Face of Litigation and Enforcement Activity

*November 10, 2020*  
13th Annual King & Spalding Medical Device Summit

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)

## News

### RECOGNITION

*June 10, 2021*

Legal 500 United States 2021 Ranks King & Spalding Practices Among the Top in the Nation

*August 10, 2020*

Benchmark Litigation Names Seven King & Spalding Partners to its 40 & Under Hot List

*June 15, 2020*

King & Spalding Earns Top-Tier Rankings in Legal 500 United States 2020 Guide

[VIEW ALL ON KSLAW.COM](#)