

## Government Relations

### Georgia

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Atlanta partner **Stan Jones** has more than 40 years of experience in government relations. In particular, he has experience in healthcare law and administrative law and leads Georgia's government relations team. Stan's government relations career began with former Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter, and he later served in the White House under the Carter Administration and at the Office of Management and Budget. Stan has deep knowledge and experience in crafting and managing legislative proposals involving child welfare, education, insurance, healthcare, mental health, and taxation issues. He has also served on a number of statewide commissions on mental health issues and presently sits on the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Coordinating Council. Stan is widely acknowledged as an outstanding lawyer, having been recognized by Chambers USA; The Best Lawyers in America (healthcare law 2008-2021 and government relations law 2007-2021); and Super Lawyers (healthcare and government relations).



**Helen Sloat**, a legislative consultant with Nelson Mullins, has more than 25 years of experience as a lobbyist in Georgia. She has achieved substantial successes for clients, in particular around state appropriations processes, child welfare, education, and healthcare issues, and actively monitors state legislation and associated rule proposals before regulatory agencies. Helen thoroughly researches, drafts bills and amendments, and lobbies for bills' introduction and passage, coordinating necessary logistics to assure adoption. Helen is the pioneer of Nelson Mullins's Gold Dome Report, which she started more than 20 years ago to highlight the General Assembly's actions on a daily basis during their 40-day legislative session. The Gold Dome Report is widely regarded as the best comprehensive update on the Georgia Legislature to be disseminated electronically to clients and interested parties. Helen and Stan have worked together as a team since 1994 developing the firm's government relations practice Georgia.



**George Ray** is a senior associate practicing Georgia government relations, state and local administrative law, regulatory proceedings, and general business litigation. George has a wealth of experience, previously serving the speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives and working in the Office of the Executive Counsel to the Governor. He also worked as a lobbyist for Georgia Tech, his alma mater, prior to attending law school at the University of Georgia. Although he works with each of the team's clients, George is focused on education and health matters, working with clients to craft and implement strategy, building coalitions, analyzing legislation, researching and drafting bills and amendments, and advocating for introduction and passage of bills and budget allocations. George is also a lead collaborator with Helen on the Gold Dome Report and leads the team's social media efforts.



**Charles Huddleston**, an attorney with more than 40 years of experience trying cases in federal and state courts helping clients win multimillion-dollar jury verdicts and defense verdicts or summary judgments, regularly represents companies before governmental agencies in regards to legislation regarding the following types of issues: employment, elections, zoning disputes, employment agreements and restrictive covenants, preventing discrimination and harassment, and managing diversity.

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**Earle Taylor**, a public finance attorney, frequently drafts and consults on public finance-related legislation proposed by the Georgia General Assembly. Examples of legislation that he had significant involvement with include the statute authorizing the use of derivative contracts by the State of Georgia and its local governmental units, the statute authorizing the use of commercial paper by the State of Georgia and its local governmental units, the constitutional amendment reauthorizing community redevelopment and authorizing the use of educational taxes to secure tax allocation bonds of local governmental units, the Georgia Higher Education Facilities Authority Act, and amendments to the Development Authorities Law and the Urban Redevelopment Law.



**Anita Thomas** is an attorney who practices in litigation involving general commercial litigation, automotive product liability, drug and medical device litigation, product liability, and employment litigation and toxic tort.