



BIOGRAPHY

Joe Watkins, Esq.

Patience is a virtue

Mediator & Arbitrator · 4+ decades of practice

henningmediation.com/watkins



Joe Watkins has more than 40 years of experience as a civil trial lawyer. He spent the first 20 years of his career with a defense firm, where he handled and tried a wide variety of complex cases, including products liability, medical, dental, and chiropractic malpractice, legal malpractice, automobile and trucking cases with catastrophic injuries, premises liability, and insurance coverage disputes. Along with partners from his defense firm, Joe formed a new firm that represented severely injured individuals and their families in personal injury and wrongful death cases throughout Georgia and, occasionally, in adjacent states.

Joe sustained a spinal cord injury in a freak accident in 2017 but continued to practice until he retired from active law practice in 2021. He has held leadership positions in law firms and in both the defense and plaintiff's bars, so he understands the challenges faced by lawyers on both sides, by claims representatives and risk managers, and by individuals who have been severely injured. He spends at least two days a week at the Shepherd Center, which has been an important part of his life since his injury.

Joe began a part-time mediation practice in 2005. That view from both sides of the courtroom, together with a patient, unhurried approach, helps parties talk candidly and move toward resolution.

Joe Watkins joined Henning Mediation's Panel of Neutrals in 2017.

Education

- University of Georgia, J.D., cum laude, Order of the Coif (1977)
- University of Georgia, A.B., summa cum laude (1974)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

RATES

per party, per hour

Two party	\$375
Three party	\$315
Four party	\$275
Five party	\$225

TRAVEL

Travel outside metro Atlanta is billed at \$200/hour for travel time, plus reasonable transportation, lodging, and meal expenses. A minimum of 8 hearing hours applies to out-of-town matters.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancel or reschedule a mediation more than 14 days out and no fee applies. Within 14 days, a 4-hour charge at the neutral's hourly rate applies to each party, per scheduled date.



Business & Commercial · Business Torts · Construction (Negligence) · Education · Healthcare & Medical · Medical Malpractice · Hospital Liability · Nursing Home · Wrongful Death · Dental Malpractice · Insurance · Insurance Bad Faith · Insurance Coverage · General Liability Insurance · Labor & Employment · Premises Liability · Sexual Misconduct · Liability · Church Liability · Product Liability · Professional Liability · Malpractice · Legal Malpractice · Personal Injury · Trucking

Bar Admissions

- Georgia (1977)
- Admitted to all Georgia trial and appellate courts
- United States District Court, Northern, Middle and Southern Districts
- United States Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit

Legal Employment

- Watkins, Lourie, Roll & Chance, PC (Partner, 1997 to 2021)
- Long, Weinberg, Ansley & Wheeler (Associate, 1977-1980; Partner, 1981-1997)

Professional & Civil Organizations

- State Bar of Georgia (Insurance Law Section, Chairman, 1987 - 1988)
- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association
- President (2007 - 2008)
- President Elect (2006 - 2007)
- Parliamentarian (2005 - 2006)
- Legislative Co-Chairman (2004 & 2005)

Professional Experience and Honors

- Georgia Super Lawyers (2004 to present)
- Top 100 Georgia Lawyers (2008)
- Tried numerous cases, including areas of premises liability, products liability, medical, dental, chiropractic and legal malpractice, insurance agent negligence, trucking and automobile accidents, sexual assault, battery, libel, civil RICO, fraud, breach of contract and insurance coverage disputes.
- Represented plaintiffs and defendants in countless mediations, including cases in Georgia, Tennessee, and South Carolina.
- Frequent speaker at CLE Programs
- Registered Mediator and Arbitrator in Georgia

Mediation Training



- Henning Mediation & Arbitration Service, Inc.