

# ROBBINS

Litigation and Regulatory Law

Jason represents clients in their most complex and high-stakes disputes. He has represented – and litigated against – numerous Fortune 500 companies, government agencies (including federal agencies, the State of Georgia, and municipalities), high tech/software companies, real estate developers, law firms, accounting firms, and corporate executives. Jason has significant experience in highly sensitive matters, including those with potential criminal implications or involving highly confidential or personal matters.

Jason has unique experience for a litigator, earning two degrees in accounting, passing the CPA exam, and teaching accounting to law students. This experience makes him a go-to lawyer for cases that have complex accounting, damages, or valuation issues, as well as for cases involving financial fraud. Jason has repeatedly been recognized as a “Georgia Super Lawyer” in Business Litigation by Law & Politics and Atlanta Magazine, and he has been named to Georgia Trend’s Legal Elite for General Practice and Trial Law.

Jason has significant court, trial, arbitration, and appellate experience. He has handled the most difficult cross-examinations and oral arguments and knows how to present his client’s position in a way that best resonates with a judge, jury, or arbitrator. In a recent highly contentious case (with a large international firm on the other side), a client may have best summarized Jason’s effectiveness when the client stated that:

Jason’s performance in front of the judge was nothing short of spectacular. His thoughtful, humble but well-prepared style resonated with the Judge versus the other side’s slick approach. He’s done a fantastic job with this case. I’ve been in business for a long time, and litigation is not new to me. I can honestly say that I have never been more satisfied and impressed with a lawyer and a firm.

Jason is licensed to practice in Georgia and Florida and has litigated in many other states throughout the country, ranging from New Jersey to South Dakota. Most recently, Jason has handled significant litigation matters involving:

- Highly sensitive governmental investigations, kickback schemes, embezzlement, and other complex frauds
- Breach of contract and real estate disputes
- Misappropriation of trade secrets and confidential information and other technology-related disputes



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- Business divorces and disputes among business partners and business investors
- Legal and accounting malpractice (plaintiff and defense)
- Breach of fiduciary duty
- Executive representation (regarding termination and severance)
- Non-compete and non-solicitation agreements
- Family disputes involving significant family assets
- Trusts and estates

Jason also has experience in unique matters. For example, Jason was appointed by the United States District Court to serve (and is currently serving) as a Receiver for a company sued by the Securities and Exchange Commission. In that case, the Receivership has already returned over \$12 million (70% of investors' money) to victims of a Ponzi scheme. In addition, Jason previously served as counsel for the State of Georgia in litigation against the major tobacco companies, which resulted in a settlement that provided Georgia with approximately \$56 million in 2013 from the tobacco companies and ensures continued payments to the state in the future. Jason also has served as a Deputy Special Attorney General – appointed by Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue – to team with other attorneys to represent Georgia in challenging the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (known as “Obamacare”).

Jason is currently on the Board of Advisors for the Atlanta Lawyers Division of the Federalist Society after serving as President of the Atlanta Lawyers Division from 2010-2011. He also participated in the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute, a nationally recognized leadership development program for the Anti-Defamation League. In addition, Jason has served on the Board of Directors of the Young Lawyers Division of the State Bar of Georgia and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Jason earned his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the Georgia Law Review and as Vice President of the Student Bar Association. He received a Master in Professional Accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin.

Upon graduating law school, Jason clerked for the Honorable Phyllis Kravitch of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Atlanta, Georgia. After his clerkship, Jason practiced at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan. Jason is originally from south Florida before moving to Atlanta and graduating high school from Pace Academy.

## Education

- J.D., magna cum laude, University of Georgia School of Law
- Editor in Chief, Georgia Law Review
- Order of the Coif
- M.P.A., cum laude, University of Texas
- B.B.A., cum laude, University of Texas

## Clerkship

- The Honorable Phyllis Kravitch, United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

## Bar Memberships

- Georgia
- Florida

## Selected Cases and Representations

Published appellate opinions include:

- *In re Hatcher Management Holdings*, 336 Ga.App. 527 (2016) (reversing trial court's order that struck client's notice of nonparty fault filed pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 51–12–33, which sought to apportion damages among a party and multiple nonparties)
- *Kaufman Development Partners, L.P. v. Eichenblatt*, No. A13A1123 (Ga. Ct. App. 2013) (affirming jury verdict in favor of our client on a breach of contract claim that he had against his former business partner)
- *Uwork.com, Inc. v. Paragon Technologies, Inc.*, 740 S.E.2d 887 (Ga. Ct. App. 2013)(obtained 5-2 decision in favor of client and reversing the decision of the trial court on claim for breach of fiduciary duty)
- *Bommer v. Reynolds and Gareleck*, No.11-12115, 465 Fed.Appx. 876 (11th Cir. 2012) (successfully represented partner in a business against other partners in breach of contract case)
- *Arko v. Cirou*, 305 Ga. App. 790 (2010) (successful defense of borrower client against efforts by lender to establish personal liability)
- *Garfield v. NDC Health Corp.and Ernst & Young, LLP*, 466 F.3d 1255 (11th Cir. 2006) (successfully represented accounting firm in securities fraud case)
- *Carpenters Health and Welfare Fund of Philadelphia v. Coca-Cola Co.*, No. 1:00-CV-2828-WBH, 2002 WL 34089163 (N.D. Ga. 2002) (successful defense of executive in securities fraud class action)

Examples of cases tried to conclusion in arbitration include representation of:

- A minority owner of a business in breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty case against the majority owner of the business. The Arbitrator awarded our client nearly one million dollars.
- One of Atlanta's fastest growing technology companies which was sued for breach of contract. The arbitrator found in favor of our client, awarding it approximately one million dollars and denying the opposing party's claims.
- A sports league whose former partner wrongfully took and used thousands of our client's customer contacts to start a competing league. We obtained an emergency injunction from state court in order

to prevent the former partner from using the league's customer information. The case was subsequently arbitrated, where our client won a permanent injunction and monetary damages.

- A CEO who was terminated from her position. Her former company also refused to pay her severance. Our client prevailed at arbitration and was awarded approximately one million dollars.

Other clients represented by Jason include:

- A group of investors who were defrauded in a sophisticated real estate investment scam. We sued nine defendants in federal court and obtained confidential settlements with two defendants and judgment of over \$4 million against the remaining defendants.
- One of the largest luxury car dealerships in the United States. Our client was sued for misappropriating trade secrets and confidential information from the manufacturer based on the alleged posting of certain car-related information on the internet. The manufacturer sought damages and to terminate the dealership as a result of the alleged misappropriation. After extensive discovery and numerous depositions, the case settled before the summary judgment deadline. The terms of the settlement are confidential, and the dealership remains in business.
- A Fortune 50 company in a zoning appeal. Our client filed suit, and the City Council subsequently voted to approve the rezoning.
- Individuals in substantial disputes with their business partners. We recently resolved two of those cases prior to trial pursuant to confidential settlement agreements.
- An owner in a food-related business who was defrauded by the majority owner of the company in a scheme to transfer assets out of the company. We filed suit and immediately obtained a restraining order against the defendants and an order for expedited discovery. One of the individual defendants was incarcerated as a result of failing to comply with discovery and Court Orders. The case settled very favorably for our client.
- A company that provided tax-advantaged investments and individuals who were employed by the company who were sued for fraud in multiple lawsuits around the country. Some of the lawsuits were dismissed or resolved via confidential settlement agreement.
- An individual who sued his CPA after an employee of the CPA firm admitted to stealing money from an escrow account. The case settled pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.
- A company that had its trade secrets and other confidential information stolen by former employees who started a competing company. We obtained a temporary restraining order against the employees. The case was eventually resolved pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.
- A healthcare executive who was terminated from his position as CEO of a major health insurance company. The defendant company claimed that the executive had been terminated "for cause" and refused to make contractual severance payments. We filed suit and after discovery concluded we

achieved a confidential settlement for our client.

- Employees of a technology company who started a new company and were sued for violating a non-compete and non-solicit agreement. The case settled before discovery, with the employees being able to continue business with their new company under the settlement agreement.
- A real estate developer who sued for damages caused by a 1031 Exchange Advisor, after the advisor failed to properly execute a 1031 Exchange in conjunction with the sale of the developer's property. The case was resolved pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.
- Physicians who left medical practices for either another medical practice or to pursue other ventures. The representations involved non-compete and non-solicitation agreements and negotiations with regard to leaving the practice.
- A software developer who created critical software for a technology company but the company did not pay compensation and equity owed to the developer. The dispute resulted in a AAA arbitration and state court case, both of which were resolved pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.
- A businessman who was sued by his former employer for theft of trade secrets, including a claim by the former employer for injunctive relief in an attempt to keep our client from working for his new employer. The case settled within 30 days of the suit being filed, with our client being able to continue his employment with his new employer.
- A real estate investor against a business partner who fraudulently transferred certain properties of their partnership to himself. The case involved multiple lawsuits in different courts. The case settled pursuant to a confidential settlement agreement.

## Honors

- "Georgia Super Lawyer" in Business Litigation by Atlanta Magazine
- "Legal Elite" in General Practice and Trial Law by Georgia Trend Magazine