



J. Benson Ward

PARTNER

Atlanta

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Benson Ward practices insurance defense litigation, with a focus on workers' compensation and major insurance matters including bad faith, insurance coverage, and arson & fraud investigations throughout the southeast.

Benson represents insurers, third party administrators, self-insureds, and employers, and defends insurance companies in State and Federal Courts. He has particular experience with self-insured businesses, the poultry industry, manufacturing companies, and the food & beverage industry.

He works with insurance companies and carriers in the evaluation and the investigation of all nature of insurance claims, and counsels clients regarding work-related injuries and potential claims. His practice includes conducting examinations under oath, taking and defending depositions including those of expert witnesses, trying cases, and arguing appeals. Appellate matters of note include prevailing with Mike Bagley and John Blackmon before the Supreme Court of Georgia in the case of MARTA v. Reid, and preparing an Amicus Brief to the Supreme Court of Georgia, along with two colleagues from the firm, on behalf of the Georgia Self-Insurer's Association, Georgia Manufacturer's Association, and the Georgia Poultry Federation in the case of McRae v. Arby's.

Benson is a frequent speaker for client seminars and presentations, and since 2009 has co-authored the Mercer Law Review's annual survey of Georgia Workers' Compensation law. He is a co-author, along with Mike Bagley and John Ferguson, of the 9th, 10th, and 11th Editions of the GWCA's Workers' Compensation Desk Manual. From 2011-2015, Benson was named a Georgia Rising Star by Super

EDUCATION

University of Georgia, School of Law

(JD, *cum laude*, 2005)

University of Georgia (BA, *summa cum*

laude with honors, 2002)

ADMISSIONS

Bar Admissions

Georgia

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court Northern District

Georgia

U.S. District Court Middle District Georgia

Court of Appeals Georgia

Georgia Supreme Court

Court of Appeals Eleventh Circuit

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

First Party Insurance Matters

Workers' Compensation

MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Georgia

American Bar Association

Southern Loss Association

Metro Fire Investigators Association

Atlanta Bar Association

Lawyers, and in 2020, 2021, and 2022 Benson was selected to Georgia Super Lawyers. He is also an AV Preeminent rated lawyer by Martindale Hubbell.

Benson is involved with the Georgia Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and was a member of the MS Leadership Class of 2013.

Related Insights

- Ten Drew Eckl & Farnham Attorneys Selected for 2022 Georgia Super Lawyers® and Rising Stars®, February 18, 2022, News
- A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall: Hail Damage, Appraisal, And Lam V. Allstate, April 20, 2021, Journal
- Attorney J. Benson Ward will be presenting at the 2017 GA IASIU Insurance Fraud Seminar, February 23, 2017, Events
- "Ex Parte" Communications With Doctors In Workers' Compensation Cases: The Supreme Court Of Georgia Stops The Madness In Arby's V. Mcrae, January 1, 2013, Journal
- Lookin' For Work In All The Wrong Places: Status Of Claimant's Maloney Burden After Ogletree And Maughon, September 5, 2012, Journal
- No Shelter From The Storm: Court Declines To Rule Uninhabitable House Not Residence Premises As A Matter Of Law, May 3, 2012, Journal
- Residency And Repairs: Court Affirms Insured Must Reside At Premises And Carrier Did Not Waive Defenses In Commencing Repairs, September 4, 2011, Journal
- Fool Me Once: Recent Decision Upends Application Of Misrepresentation Clause Of Insurance Policies, July 2, 2010, Journal
- Pocketful Of Kryptonite: Court Of Appeals Finds No Superadded Injury Where Treatment Was Unauthorized And Not Reasonable, July 3, 2009, Journal
- The Property Corner Question of the Month:, March 6, 2009, Journal
- No Midnight Train To Georgia: Legal Defenses And Practical Solutions To Claimant's Request To Depose An Out-Of-State Adjuster, September 2, 2008, Journal
- Debt Relief, But No Free Ride — Filing Bankruptcy Does Not Excuse An Insured From Failing To Comply With Duties Under The Policy, September 1, 2007, Journal

- “Open Sesame” – Do Bad Faith Allegations In A First Party Lawsuit Mandate That Insurers Must Produce Their Entire Claims File?, September 1, 2006, Journal