



George S. Mahaffey
Counsel

gsm@gdldlaw.com
(410) 783-4993

George Mahaffey is Counsel to Goodell DeVries, where he advises and defends a wide variety of clients in professional liability matters. He handles ethics-related matters on behalf of accountants, attorneys, engineers, design professionals, and financial services and insurance professionals.

He also represents medical cannabis and hemp companies, developing legal strategies to resolve regulatory, transactional, insurance, and litigation matters for both startups and established operations.

An experienced litigator and trial attorney, George has also handled general insurance defense as well as complex construction defect, securities, products liability, and commercial litigation in state and federal courts. He has tried jury cases in state and federal courts in Maryland and the District of Columbia.

George has also been selected for Maryland Super Lawyers. He is a member of the Writers Guild of America and writes and presents extensively on professional liability, hemp and cannabis business, and corporate liability matters.

Practice Areas

- Professional Liability
- Commercial and Business Tort Litigation
- FINRA and Securities
- Accounting Malpractice
- Construction Defect
- Risk Management Investigations & Compliance

Court Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the District of Columbia

- United States District Court for the District of Maryland
- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Education

- University of Baltimore School of Law (J.D., 2000)
- *University of Baltimore Law Forum* – Editor (1998-2000)
- University of Maryland (B.A., 1996)

Professional Associations

- District of Columbia Bar Association
- Maryland State Bar Association

Professional Experience

- Goodell DeVries – Of Counsel (2004-Present)
- Wright, Robinson, Osthimer & Tatum – Associate (2004)
- Eccleston & Wolf, P.C. – Associate (2000-2004)

Representative Matters

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

George's commercial practice focuses, in part, on professional liability. He represents accountants and accounting firms throughout the Mid-Atlantic region in state and federal court and has been called upon to handle cases in other jurisdictions, including defending claims for accounting malpractice, audit irregularities, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, and fraud. He has also represented his accounting clients in connection with investigations by professional review boards and agencies. George also represents attorneys, law firms, healthcare, and insurance professionals in all manner of state and federal court litigation, as well as investigations by professional review boards and agencies.

George has also handled numerous attorney-ethics cases from the initial stages of a bar complaint, through peer review, and up to and through trial with Bar Counsel.

CONSTRUCTION, COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS LITIGATION

George has tried cases and been responsible for supervising the defense of developers, general contractors, and subcontractors in complex construction defect cases in the Mid-Atlantic area in state and federal court as well as mediations and arbitrations. George has acted as lead counsel for one of Maryland's largest home builders during a five-month construction defect arbitration before Maryland's Consumer Protection Division, and lead counsel for design professionals, engineers, and construction suppliers in defect cases involving HVAC matters, stucco, mold, roofing, plumbing, framing, flooring, electrical and masonry work, as well as various matters involving contract disputes, mechanics liens and payment bonds. He also represents clients in personal injury cases and complex business-related litigation, class action, consumer finance, toxic tort, and negligence claims involving individuals, large corporations, government agencies, and various manufacturers of commercial products.

SECURITIES LITIGATION

George has litigated and arbitrated dozens of securities cases before FINRA, and handled FINRA, and state securities investigations. He is also frequently retained before litigation to evaluate his clients' exposure to potential lawsuits and to assist clients with the handling of U-4 and U-5 disputes, as well as FINRA expungement litigation.

INSURANCE LAW

George has represented insurers in various complex insurance coverage litigations arising from asbestos bodily injury and asbestos property damage claims, environmental coverage disputes involving alleged contamination of soil and groundwater from leaking drums buried in the ground, and other disputes involving first- and third-party coverages, errors and omissions, intentional acts, personal injury, and bodily injury claims.

COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS TORT LITIGATION

George has represented a variety of businesses in complex business tort litigation. He has represented entities in matters concerned with allegations of tortious interference with economic relations and other business torts. George has

likewise handled other cases involving claims of defamation and tortious interference with contractual relations.

WRONGFUL DEATH LITIGATION

George has defended businesses in the District of Columbia and Maryland in various wrongful death actions.

GENERAL TORT LIABILITY LITIGATION

George has defended numerous insureds in a wide variety of claims arising from auto and truck collisions, premises-related injuries, construction claims, and intentional torts.

PRODUCT LIABILITY LITIGATION

George also has substantial experience in the defense of product liability claims, defending manufacturers of construction equipment and commercial products against claims of negligence, strict liability, and breach of warranty.

Publications and Seminars

- [“Breaking Silence: The Ethics of Lawyers Critiquing Clients,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (March 20, 2025)
- [“*Bennett v. Gentile*: Maryland’s Supreme Affirms Strict Privity Rule in Legal Malpractice Cases,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (September 16, 2024)
- [“Timely Good-Faith Efforts to Make Restitution in Attorney Discipline Cases,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (May 15, 2024)
- [“*AGC v. Pierre*: The Ethics of Election Interference,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (October 25, 2023)
- [“To the Victor Go the Spoils? The Recovery of Attorney’s Fees in Attorney Discipline Cases,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 12, 2023)
- [“All the President’s Men: The Ethics of Disputing the 2020 Election,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (December 23, 2022)
- [“*AGC v. Jackson* Takes on Non-Maryland Lawyers Who Maintain Offices in the State,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (October 20, 2022)
- [“Bad Words: *AGC v. Maiden* and the Ethics of Profanity and Offensive Language,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (October 17, 2022)
- [“*AGC v. Bonner*: When Mitigation is Not Enough,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 6, 2022)
- [“Reimaging Vanderlinde: Dishonesty Doesn’t Always Lead to Disbarment,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 5, 2022)

- [“Cooperation Versus Self-Incrimination: Asserting the Fifth Amendment in Attorney Discipline Cases,”](#) *The Baltimore Barrister*, Bar Association of Baltimore City (Winter 2022)
- [“THE CASE FOR CAPS – Missouri and the Legality of Medical Cannabis License Caps,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 28, 2021)
- [“Why Banks Are Finally Nearing a Green Light on Medical Cannabis,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 22, 2021)
- [“Changing Their Tune on ‘Shrooms: The Legalization and Regulation of Psilocybin,”](#) Goodell DeVries log (March 1, 2021)
- [“The Importance of Mitigation in Attorney Discipline Cases – Part 2,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (February 18, 2021)
- [“Ethics Traps for the Unwary: Documents Sent to Bar Counsel for One Inquiry Can Prompt Another,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (February 17, 2021)
- [“Clearing the Air: Maryland Court of Appeals Recognizes Stand-Alone Tort of Breach of Fiduciary Duty,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (October 28, 2020)
- [“Pruning Dead Wood: Why There Should Be a Mechanism to Address Meritless Charges in Maryland Attorney Discipline Cases Before the Close of Trial,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (August 20, 2020)
- [“The Disorder Made Me Do It: How Disabilities Impact Attorney Grievance Cases,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (May 28, 2020)
- [“Pox Americana: Four Types of Litigation to Surge Post-COVID,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (May 11, 2020)
- [“Avoid Getting Stuck with the Tab: How to Respond to Post-Trial Statements of Costs in Maryland Attorney Discipline Cases,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 30, 2020)
- [“Ethics Traps for the Unwary: Taking Exception in a Maryland Attorney Discipline Case,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (April 17, 2020)
- [“The Ethics of Social Distancing: Attorney-Client Communications in the Era of Coronavirus,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (March 30, 2020)
- [“Up in Smoke? Ethical Concerns – Maryland Attorneys and Medical Marijuana,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (March 27, 2020)
- [“As the World Shuts Down, Hospitality Litigation Heats Up,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (March 26, 2020)
- Presenter, Maryland Association for Justice, “2020 Ethics Seminar: Navigating Disciplinary Actions” (March 2020)
- [“Ethics Traps for the Unwary #7: Using Expert Witnesses in Attorney Discipline Cases in Maryland,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (February 17, 2020)
- [“Ethics Traps for the Unwary #6: How to Address Meritless Charges at the Close of Bar Counsel’s Case,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (February 7, 2020)

- [“Ethics Traps for the Unwary #5: To Testify or Not to Testify,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (January 31, 2020)
- [“Maryland Attorney Discipline 2019: Bar Complains Are Down, But Sanctions Are Up,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog, Co-authored with Craig S. Brodsky (October 10, 2019)
- [“WTF: The Ethics of Profanity in Maryland,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (July 23, 2019)
- [“Ethic Traps for the Unwary #1: Suspended Lawyers and Law-Related Activities,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (February 5, 2019)
- [“The Impact of Mitigators and Aggravators in the Attorney Disciplinary Process – Part 1,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (December 13, 2018)
- [“Intent Matters: Defending Attorney Misrepresentation Claims,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (December 5, 2018)
- [“Waiver of the Accountant-Client Privilege in Maryland and Pennsylvania,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (November 29, 2018)
- [“Overview of the Attorney Grievance Process in Maryland,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (November 26, 2018)
- [“Requesting Attorney’s Fees at Arbitration: A Trap for the Unwary,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (November 19, 2014)
- [“Going Rogue,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (September 30, 2014)
- [“Top 5 Things to Be Aware of When Faced With a Request to Establish a Mechanic’s Lien,”](#) Goodell DeVries Blog (July 14, 2014)
- [“It’s Not All About the Benjamins: Why Equity, and Not Money, is What Matters When Pursuing a Separate Claim for Breach of Fiduciary Duty in Maryland,”](#) *DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar Newsletter*
- [“Maryland’s Consumer Protection Act Does Not Apply to Lawyers and Law Firms Regardless of Whether They Are Licensed in Maryland”](#)
- [“No License, No Problem. Maryland’s Highest Court Provides New Means of Redress for Unlicensed Subcontractors,”](#) *DRI – The Voice of the Defense Bar Newsletter*, co-authored with Malcolm S. Brisker
- [Cause-in-Fact and the Burden of Proof in Transactional Legal Malpractice: The Necessity of Demonstrating the Better Deal,](#) *Suffolk Law Review* (2004) (reprinted in the *Defense Law Journal* (2005))
- [“Taking Aim at The Hydra: Why the Allied-Party Doctrine Should Not Apply in Qui Tam Cases When the Government Declines to Intervene,”](#) University of Texas School of Law’s *The Review of Litigation* (2004)
- [“All for One and One for All? Legal Malpractice Arising From Joint Defense Consortiums and Agreement: The Final Frontier in Professional Liability,”](#) *Arizona State Law Journal* 1 (2003)

- “A Product of Compromise: Or Why Non-Pecuniary Damages Should Not Be Recoverable Under Section 2605 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act,” *University of Dayton Law Review*, Volume 28, Number 3 (2003)
- “Role Duality and the Issue of Immunity for the *Guardian Ad Litem* I the District of Columbia,” *University of Utah Journal Of Law And Family Studies*, Volume 4, Number 2 (2002)
- *Carroll v. Bentley*: Failure to Report Child Abuse Can Be Considered *Per Se* Evidence of Negligence,” 29.2 *University of Baltimore Law Forum* 81, (2000)
- *Diep v. Rivas*: Maryland’s Slayer’s Rule Cannot Prevent the Relatives of a Murderer from Taking under an insurance policy,” 30.2 *University of Baltimore Law Forum* 64 (2000)

In the News

- Quoted, “[22-Count Indictment Is Just the Start of SCOTUSBlog Atty’s Legal Problems, Experts Say](#),” *National Law Journal* (January 17, 2025)
- Quoted, “[‘Professional Misconduct’: Maryland Supreme Court Disbars 86-Year-Old Attorney](#),” *National Law Journal* (November 25, 2024)
- Quoted, “[First Cannabis, Are Magic Mushrooms Next? What Employers Need to Know About Navigating the Brave New World of Microdosing](#),” *EHS Today* (August 8, 2022)

Honors and Awards

- Best Lawyers in America
 - Product Liability Litigation – Defendants (2024)
- Maryland Super Lawyers
 - Professional Liability: Defense (2021-2025)
- Dean’s List, Golden Key National Honor Society, University of Maryland