

Rebecca G. Cummings

Attorney at Law, Rebecca Godbey Cummings LLC
Professional Fiduciary, Rebecca Cummings Fiduciary Services
Wills Trusts & Estates
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Education

William and Mary Law School, JD, 1996: Virginia Law Foundation Public Service Fellowship recipient; received honors in Legal Skills (trial advocacy, appellate argument, brief-writing); selected for membership on Moot Court Team.

Emory University, B.A., Political Science, 1993: Activities included Board of Trustees Committee on Campus Life, Faculty Committee on Admissions and Scholarships, University Committee on Honorary Degrees, President of Delta Gamma Sorority; employed 10-15 hours per week all four years as an archivist for the papers of Sen. Sam Nunn; Intern, The Carter Presidential Center.

Professional Experience

Attorney/Partner, Rebecca Godbey Cummings LLC, Cohen Pollock Merlin & Small, P.C., Bird & Godbey LLP; Law Office of Rebecca Godbey (of Counsel, Francis M. Bird, Jr.); Tesser & Godbey LLC, Atlanta, Georgia, 2/99– present: Small business owner and manager, partner in law firms. Focus of practice is estate planning, including wills, trusts, powers of attorney, tax planning, probate, estate administration and pre-nuptial and co-habitation agreements. Serve as expert witness. Mediated hundreds of cases as a Georgia certified mediator at The Justice Center of Atlanta. Licensed to practice law in Georgia and Virginia.

Professional Fiduciary, Rebecca Cummings Fiduciary Services, Atlanta, Georgia, 5/16-present. Serve as executor, trustee, and protector of trusts and estates.

Associate Professor, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, Atlanta, Georgia, 8/11 – 7/14 (Adjunct Professor, 1/05 - 5/08): Taught Wills, Trusts & Estates, Property I and II, Negotiation, Transactional Drafting, and developed and taught writing-intensive advanced Estate Planning seminar.

Facilitation

Facilitator, 2-day Strategic Planning Retreat for Pursley Friese Torgrimson law firm, 2016, 2017.

Facilitator, 2-day Strategic Planning Retreat for Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) Board of Directors, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2014.

Facilitator, Strategic Planning Session, Savannah Law School, June 24, 2013.

Selected Seminars and Publications

“Changes Attorneys are Making in Drafting and Disclaimer Planning” (Panel), Georgia Society of CPAs, July 26, 2018.

“Do you like my hat? The Ethics of Lawyers Serving as Fiduciaries”, State Bar of Georgia Fiduciary Law Section.

“Clean and Tidy Legacy”, Georgia Society of CPAs, July 26, 2018.

“Introduction to estate planning”, Smarties Academy, Decatur, GA, parents of Smarties students, February 8, 2019, February 23, 2018, September 29, 2017.

“The Ultimate Probate Checklist: From Dividing the China to Dealing with Digital Assets,” upcoming July 2017, Georgia Society of CPAs Estate Planning Conference.

“An Alternative to your Brother or the Bank: Professional Fiduciaries”, Presbyterian by Rebecca Cummings for Brightworth, May 15, 2017.

“Building Your Law Practice Strategically”, The Judge Debra Halpern Bernes Memorial Scholarship CLE – Practicing with Purpose: Strategic Building and Growth of Law Practices and Lawyers, February 3, 2017.

“Twenty Problems Smoldering in Your Clients’ Estate Plans and How to Extinguish Them Before It All Burns Down,” July 28, 2016, Georgia Society of CPAs Estate Planning Conference.

“Creating Your Personal Strategic Plan,” Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Leadership Program, October 4, 2018, March 9, 2018, October 2016, April 22, 2016, February 21, 2014, September 17, 2013, October 18, 2012, April 20, 2012.

“Teaching Skills in Doctrinal Classes,” Legal Education in the Twenty-first Century: An International Conference of Legal Educators, Istanbul and Ankara, Turkey, May 5 and 6, 2014.

“The Case Against Access to Decedents’ Email,” 11th Circuit Legal Scholarship Forum, Stetson Law, November 2, 2013.

“Basic Estate Planning,” presented for staff of Office of Solicitor General of DeKalb County, Georgia, October 16, 2013.

“The Rise in Nonprobate Transfers,” Discussion Group, Southeastern Association of Law Schools, Annual Conference, August 4, 2013.

“Enhancing Your *Personal* Professional Brand Through Excellent Customer Service,” Annual Meeting of staff of VeenendaalCave, Inc., May 16, 2013.

“Effective Mentoring,” Life in the Law Series, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, September 28, 2011.

"Estate Planning in Georgia," presented to employees of the Coca-Cola Company more than twenty-five times between 2004- 2011; presented to employees of organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, Cox Enterprises, WSB, Charles Schwab, Counsel on Call, Bank of America, and to constituents of the Center for Women at Emory, Emory's Center for Lifelong Education, and the Emory Alumni Association more than one hundred times between 2004- 2017.

"Fearlessness," Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, Mentoring Circle, August 25, 2010.

"Yours, Mine and Ours: Estate Planning for Blended Families," National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, July 30, 2010; Estate Planning Council of North Georgia, January 24, 2008; DeKalb Estate Planning Council, February 13, 2008; Fiduciary Law Institute, St. Simons, Georgia, July, 2007.

"Georgia's New Trust Code: Cliff Notes and Practice Pointers," Fiduciary Law Institute, St. Simons, Georgia, July 15, 2010; Georgia Society of CPAs, Estate Planning Conference, Reynolds Plantation, Georgia, July 23, 2010; Bank of America, May 19, 2010.

"Wills, Trusts, and Advance Directives, Oh My! Advance Planning for the Sandwich Generation," State Bar of Georgia Annual Meeting, Younger Lawyers Division Seminar, Amelia Island, Florida, June 17, 2010.

"Addressing the Wealth Transfer Tax Chaos in Practice," Moderated panel, Atlanta Bar Association, Estate Planning and Probate Section, June 9, 2010.

"Negotiation," Emory University Center for Women and Emory University Alumni Association, annually 2007-2009; State Bar of Georgia, Younger Lawyer Division, Women in the Profession Committee, September 9, 2005; PRO-WIN, October 19, 2005.

"Goal-Setting," Georgia Association for Women Lawyers' Leadership Academy, March 14, 2008, Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section and Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, "The Leader Within," January 13, 2009.

"Taxes, Taxes, Taxes and Flexibility for Long-term Trusts," Montag & Associates, "Facts and Finances for Women Only," November 5, 2008 and November 4, 2009.

"De-Mystify the Legalese of Wills and Trusts," Georgia Society of CPAs Estate Planning Conference, Callaway Gardens, Georgia, 2007; Financial Planning Association of Georgia, March 27, 2008; GenSpring Family Offices November 6, 2008.

"Estate Planning for Unmarried Couples," National Association of Personal Financial Advisors, Atlanta Study Group, November 20, 2008.

"What to Do While We're Waiting for the Estate Tax Update," Georgia Society of CPAs Tax Forum, Atlanta, Georgia, November 11, 2008, Savannah, Georgia, December 5, 2008.

"Building a Beach House to Survive a Hurricane (and by "beach house" I mean "your law practice")," Owen, Gleaton, Egan, Jones & Sweeney firm retreat, October 11, 2008.

"Probate Pitfalls and Pointers," Moderated panel, Estate Planning and Probate Section of the Atlanta Bar Association, October 10, 2008.

"Loading the Bases: Succession Planning for Closely Held Businesses," Georgia Society of CPAs Estate Planning Conference, Callaway Gardens, Georgia, July 25, 2008.

"Understanding How the Civil Practice Act Relates to the Probate Court," for Georgia Probate Judges Council, January 29, 2008.

"Estate Planning," recorded Podcast, Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, October 22, 2008.

"Estate Planning," guest on Sandy Spring Radio, September 26, 2006 and June 5, 2007.

"Estate Planning Basics: What You Need to Know About Working with the Client" and "Basic Taxes You Need to Be Aware Of," National Business Institute, January 30, 2007.

"Flexible Planning: Limited Powers of Appointment and Planning for Disclaimers," Georgia Society of CPAs, Estate Planning Conference, Callaway Gardens, Georgia, Summer 2006.

"Nine Steps to Longer, More Frequent Vacations," Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, NE Georgia Chapter, December 5, 2005.

"Serving on Non-Profit Boards," Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, October 24, 2005.

"Finding Fulfillment in the Law," State Bar of Georgia, Younger Lawyer Division, Women in the Profession Committee, September 9, 2005.

"Rainmaking Tips for Women," Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, February 2, 2005.

"Using Technology to Streamline Your Practice," State Bar of Georgia, January 13, 2005.

"Trust Administration in Georgia," Lorman Educational Seminars, June 9, 2004.

Honors and Awards

Kathleen Kessler Award, the highest honor from the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, presented to a female lawyer who exhibits the highest degree of professionalism and service to the legal community, 2010.

Super Lawyer; Top 100 Attorney in Georgia, selected by peers, published in Atlanta Magazine, 2011.

Super Lawyer; Top 50 Women Lawyers in Georgia, selected by peers, published in Atlanta Magazine, annually 2007- 2013.

Georgia's Most Effective Lawyers, selected by peers, published in Georgia Trend magazine, annually 2005- present.

“12 to Watch,” Fulton County Daily Report, 2008. Feature article on twelve young attorneys.

“Woman of Distinction,” State Bar of Georgia, Younger Lawyer Division, Women in the Profession Committee, 2005.

“Visionary Award,” Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, 2004 (first recipient).

Selected Community Leadership

Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL): Advisory Board (2004-2011), President (2003-2004), President-Elect (2002-2003), Board of Directors (2000-2005), Chair, Strategic Planning Committee (2002), Co-chair Legislative Affairs (2000-2002), VP: Membership (2001-2002). Primary responsibility for the strategic planning process, from hiring a consultant through finalizing the plan to serve more than 8,000 women lawyers in Georgia. During presidency, organization increased membership and sponsorship more than 25 percent.

Fiduciary Law Section, State Bar of Georgia: Executive Committee (2011- 2015).

Estate Planning & Probate Section, Atlanta Bar Association: Board of Directors (2008- 2011).

Georgia Women for a Change (formerly Women’s Policy Group): Chair (2010-2011), Vice-Chair (2009-2010), Board of Directors (2007- 2012).

Previous service also includes: Junior League of Atlanta, Emory University Board of Visitors, Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers.