



Dennis B. Keene

Partner

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Dennis Keene is an AV® Preeminent™ rated partner who represents corporations and individuals in tort-based litigation with an emphasis in product liability and trucking law. His diverse client base ranges from international manufacturers and national motor carriers to regional carriers and local businesses. Keene gained extensive trial experience as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army and continues to use these trial skills as a civil practitioner, having litigated and tried a number of lawsuits in Georgia. He is also a registered neutral with the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution and has mediated a number of personal injury, business, and interpersonal disputes.

Keene is a member of the State Bars of Florida and Georgia and is admitted to practice in all Florida and Georgia state courts, the U.S. District Courts for the Southern and Northern Districts of Georgia and the Middle District of Florida, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He has also been admitted on a pro hac basis in a number of jurisdictions.

Keene serves on the board of directors for the Georgia Motor Trucking Association; is a member of the Transportation Lawyers Association; and the Savannah Bar Association, where he chairs the Bar Grievance Committee and serves on the Bench & Bar Committee. He was also an attorney coach for the Georgia High School Mock Trial Program for 16 years, and was recognized as the 2011 Outstanding Attorney Coach for his region. He currently volunteers as a mock trial competition evaluator. Keene also previously chaired the Savannah Country Day School Annual Fund Campaign and served on the school's board of trustees.

Keene received his B.A. in economics, magna cum laude, from Syracuse University in 1990 and his J.D., cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1993. While at Syracuse, Keene was a member of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). He was named the recipient of the General Meyer Leadership Award (given to the number one ranked corps cadet) and, upon graduation, was deemed a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was also Phi Beta Kappa. At the University of Miami, Keene served as an articles and comments editor for the school's Business Law Journal and co-chaired the Student Bar Association's Law-Related Education Program.

After law school, Keene completed the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps Officer Basic Course, where he made the Commandant's List by graduating in the top 12 in his class. He served on active duty in the U.S. Army from 1993 to 1999, holding various legal positions, including government contract attorney, procurement fraud advisor, prosecutor, and criminal defense attorney. As a prosecutor and defense attorney, he served as lead counsel in more than 75 courts-martial.

Keene is married to his wife, Leslie, who is the current president of the Savannah Bar Association and an associate judge in Chatham County. They have two adult children, one of whom is completing dental school and the other practices at a large law firm in New York City.



Practice Areas

- Mediation & ADR
- Personal Injury

- Products Liability
- Transportation & Logistics

Education & recognition



- Lawyer of the Year – Product Liability Defense, U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers™, 2022
- Martindale Hubbell Judicial Edition, AV Preeminent Rating 2018 (Highest Possible Rating in both Legal Ability & Ethical Standards)
- 2023 Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys
- Named to The National Law Journal's Elite Lawyers of the South, 2021
- America's Most Honored Lawyers, 2020
- Marquis Who's Who Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award, 2019
- Recipient of Financial Monthly Magazine's 2019 Legal Award
- AV® Preeminent™ rated by Martindale-Hubbell
- Who's Who in American Lawyers: 2005-2011
- Best Lawyers in America: Product Liability Litigation, Transportation Law; 2010-2024
- Georgia Super Lawyers: Personal Injury Defense Products Transportation/Maritime; 2012-2024
- Martindale Legal Directory Rating AV 5.0
- John Miller Community Service Award, Savannah Bar Association, 2013

- Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution: Mediation Certification Course, February 2012
- Outstanding Attorney Coach Award, Georgia High School Mock Trial Program, 2011
- Certificate of Commendation, State Bar of Georgia Committee on Professionalism, 2005
- Admitted to practice: Georgia (1999); Florida (1993)
- U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps Officer Training School, Commandant's List 1994
- University of Miami School of Law, J.D., Cum Laude, 1993
- Syracuse University, B.A. Economics, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Army ROTC Scholarship recipient, 1990

Activities & affiliations

- Georgia Motor Trucking Association: Board Member (2021-present)
- Member: State Bar of Georgia (1999), State Bar of Florida (1993)
- Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire: Board Member & Volunteer Mediator
- Transportation Lawyers Association, member
- Defense Research Institute: Product Liability Committee
- Georgia Motor Trucking Association: Associate Member (2006)
- Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution: Registered Neutral
- Savannah Bar Association: Bar Grievance Committee Member, 2006-Present
- Former Chair & Steering Committee Member, ALFA International: Product Liability & Complex Torts Practice Group
- U.S. Army: Judge Advocate General's Corps, 1993-1999 (rank of captain)
- U.S. Dept. of Transportation: Highway Watch Participant, Driver ID # GA003135
- 200 Club of the Coastal Empire, member
- Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire: Board Member, 2011 - 2013
- Savannah Country Day School: Board of Trustees, 2009 - 2010; Annual Fund, Chair, 2009-2010; Upper School Mock Trial Team, Attorney Coach, 2000 - Present
- Harley Owner's Group: National and Savannah Chapters
- Knights of Columbus: Fourth Degree Member
- Military Order of the World Wars: Budget and Finance Committee, Past Chair
- St. James Catholic Church: Parishioner

Publications & presentations

- You Just Rolled a Truck, What Now? Georgia Ready Mix Concrete Association, Webinar, September 2024
- *Civility as the Core of Professionalism in Litigation*, Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Seminar, January 19, 2024
- *Impact of Georgia's Direct Action Statutes on Trucking Industry*;
Testified before the Georgia State Senate Study Committee, State Capitol, Nov. 14, 2023.
- Testified before the Georgia House of Representatives, Rules Committee, Subcommittee on Lawsuit Reform, State Capitol, Mar. 5, 2025
- Presented on tort reform to the Georgia House of Representatives, Transportation Committee, State Capitol, Feb. 11, 2025
- Testified before the Georgia Senate Judiciary Committee, Special Committee on Tort Reform, Nov. 14, 2024
- "What to do after a CMV crash", Georgia Motor Vehicle Association Community Coalition Seminar, November 9, 2021.
- "The Impact of Personalities on Professionalism", Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Seminar, January 29, 2021
- "Ethical Considerations During the Pandemic" presented at the Annual Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Virtual Seminar, October 9, 2020
- "Orange is the New Black: The Litigation Strategy of Civility," presented at the Annual Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Seminar, January 25, 2019.
- "Social Media and the Paralegal," presented at the Annual S.E. Association of Legal Assistants, November 2018
- "Expert Depositions," presented at the Association of Forensic Document Examiners Symposium, October 26-29, 2018 - Savannah, GA.
- "Reptile Theory & Its Ethical Implementation," presented at the Annual Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Seminar, January 26, 2018
- "Social Media and Ethics," presented at the Annual Savannah Bar Association Hot Topics Seminar, January 16, 2015.
- "Mediating Claims in the U.S. and China," presented at the ALFA International Law Practice Group Asia Regional Meeting in Beijing, China, May 11-12, 2014

- "The Art of the Deal: Mediating Your Commercial Motor Vehicle Claims," presented at the 2014 ALFA International Transportation Seminar in Miami, FL, April 24, 2014.
- "Legal Update: Issues Our Clients Are Asking Us About," presented at the Southeastern Warehouse Association Annual Convention in Destin, FL, September 14, 2013.
- "Providing Stability in an Unstable Environment: The Use of Roll Stability Systems in CMVs," presented at the ALFA Transportation Practice Group Seminar in Tucson, AZ, May 10, 2013.
- "CSA 2010, Now What?" presented at the ALFA Transportation Practice Group Seminar in Amelia Island, FL, on May 4, 2012.
- "Fire Investigations & Litigation," presented at the ALFA Product Liability Practice Group Seminar in Laguna Nigel, CA, November 2008 and in Nashville, TN, November 2011.
- "Dealing with the Increase in Fire Claims: Fighting Fire with Fire," presented at the ALFA Product Liability Practice Group Seminar in Nashville, TN, September 23, 2011.
- "Joyride From Hell," co-presented at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL, October 11, 2010.
- "Product Liability Issues in a Green Construction World," presented in Paris, France, October 2010.
- "Sector Specific Green Focus: Product Liability, Construction & Real Estate," presented at the ALFA International Law Practice Group Seminar in Paris, France, September 24, 2010.
- "Global Product Recalls," presented at the ALFA International Client Seminar in Palm Beach, CA, March 2007.
- "Best Practices to Prevent Lawsuits and Limit Your Trucking Company Exposure," presented at the Georgia Motor Trucking Association, September 15, 2005.
- "The Risks & Benefits of Offering Optional Safety Devices," presented at the annual National Products Liability Conference held by the Defense Research Institute, spring 2002.
- "Manufacturer Liability Related to Optional Safety Devices," presented at the Defense Research Institute Products Liability Conference, Young Lawyers Seminar, in Los Angeles, CA, February 2002.
- "The Risks & Benefits of Offering Optional Safety Devices," presented at the ALFA International 2000 Product Liability Practice Group Seminar in Atlanta, GA, May 10, 2000.
- "Subsequent Product Design Modifications, Warnings, Instructions and Label Changes," material for presentation at ALFA International Liability Seminar in Atlanta, GA, May 2000.
- "Trucking: Driving the Logistics Industry in Georgia," published on April 15, 2015, in Business in Savannah.
- "Early Aggressive Investigation and Assessment of Claims Key in Highway Transportation Litigation," chapter by Dennis Keene in the Aspatore book Inside the Minds: Strategies for Transportation Litigation and Dispute Resolution, published in 2013 by Thomson Reuters Pub.

- "Protecting Your Client's Wrongful Death Settlement Proceeds from Medicare," published in The Brief (Fall 2013).
- "Benefits of Mediation in Business Disputes," published on November 20, 2013, in Business in Savannah.
- "Roll Stability Systems: Pending Federal Regulations and Tractor Trailer Accident Litigation," published on October 22, 2013, in Westlaw Journal Automotive.
- "New Hours of Service Rule Continues to Spark Controversy Within Transportation Industry," published on July 11, 2012, in Business in Savannah.
- "How Not to Get Burned While Investigating a Fire Claim: A Primer on Exculpating Your Product as the Cause of a Fire," published in Products Liability Perspectives (Summer 2011).
- "Know Your Obligations for Post-Sale Product Safety," published on May 25, 2011, in Business in Savannah.
- "Green Building Standards May Be Stabilized," published on September 15, 2010, in Business in Savannah.
- "Retailers Protected From Certain Liability Claims," published on October 21, 2009, in Business in Savannah.
- "Allocation of Financial Responsibility Among Insurers Based on the MCS-90 Endorsement," published in Transportation Update (Spring 2009).
- "Product Claims for Defective Class III Medical Devices: A Thing of the Past, or Stronger Than Ever?" published on July 1, 2008, in Products Liability Perspectives.
- "Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Re-Adopts Controversial HOS Rule," published on December 31, 2007, in Business Report and Journal.
- "Loss Allocation in Light of the MCS-90 Endorsement: A Survey of Select Federal and State Case Law," published in Transportation Update(Fall 2005).
- "The Benefit of the Independent Creation Rule," published on February 13, 2003, in Products Liability Publication.
- "Logo Liability: A Truckload of Trouble," published on January 26, 2003, in Savannah Morning News.

Representative Experience

- Manufacturing Sector:
 - Schneider Electric USA, Inc.
 - Advanced Neuromodulation Systems, Inc. (spinal cord stimulator)
 - Fisher-Price, Inc. (toy manufacturer)
 - Caterpillar, Inc. (earth moving equipment)

- Bombardier Recreational Products Inc.- BRP (recreational vehicles)
- Club Car, Inc.(golf car manufacturer)
- Ashland, Inc. (industrial equipment)
- Great Dane Trailers, LP (trailer manufacturer)
- Nutone, Inc. (doorbell manufacturer)

- Transportation Sector:
 - Penske Truck Leasing, LP
 - Damco Distribution Services, Inc.
 - XPO Logistics
 - Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.
 - Penske Truck Leasing, Inc.
 - Quality Carriers
 - Wal-Mart
 - Howard Sheppard, Inc.
 - Barr-Nunn Transportation
 - Paschall Truck Lines
 - Direct ChassisLink, Inc.
 - TRAC Intermodal Inc.
 - Hudd Distribution Services, Inc./Maersk Distribution Services, Inc.
 - Bridge Terminal Transport, Inc.
 - Sysco Corp.
 - Atlantic Intermodal Services
 - Knight-Swift Transportation
 - Werner Enterprises, Inc.