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Suite 3900
Atlanta, GA 30309

Education

University of Georgia, J.D.,
magna cum laude, 2008

- Articles Editor, Georgia Law Review
- Quarterfinalist, National Moot Court
- Best Oralist, 2006 Talmadge Moot Court Competition

University of Georgia, B.A.,
with honors, 2004


- Second Speaker at the 2004 National Debate Tournament
- President of the Georgia Debate Union
- Honors in Washington Internship Program

Previous Experience

Law Clerk, Judge Thomas W. Thrash, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia, 2008-2010

Assistant Debate Coach, University of Georgia, 2005-2008

Naveen Ramachandrappa, Partner

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Naveen's practice focuses on Appeals, Class Actions, and other Complex Litigation.

As one of the leading appellate attorneys in Georgia, Naveen has been sought out by attorneys and clients, both defendants and plaintiffs, to assist trial lawyers with preservation and legal strategy during trial, and to serve as lead counsel for appeals and certiorari proceedings.

As a result, Naveen regularly appears and gives oral argument before the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, and the Georgia Court of Appeals – as well as assisting in jury trials across Georgia.

In addition, Naveen maintains an active class action practice and has been appointed as class counsel by courts in the Northern District of Georgia, Southern District of Florida, Western District of Tennessee, and Georgia state courts.

Defense Appellate/Trial Work

- Successfully defended a publicly-traded financial company in an appeal involving a noteholder suit to enjoin payment of a \$25 million dividend and two separate \$100 million tender offers to shareholders. After the district court denied a motion to dismiss, Naveen briefed and argued the appeal before the Eleventh Circuit, which reversed the district court's ruling and directed that the entire suit be dismissed. The opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully defended a local municipality in an appeal involving First Amendment claims. After the district court granted summary judgment in favor of the municipality, Naveen was retained to handle oral argument in the Eleventh Circuit. Naveen argued on behalf of the municipality, and the Eleventh Circuit affirmed in part and remanded. On remand, Naveen briefed summary judgment, and the district court granted summary judgment in full for the municipality. The plaintiffs declined to pursue an appeal.
- Successfully defended an insurance company in an appeal involving an issue of first impression –whether the “made whole” doctrine applies to subrogation for property damage claims. Naveen briefed and argued the appeal before the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court, which reversed the trial court's ruling and remanded for judgment in favor of the defendant. The Court of Appeals opinion can be found [here](#), and the Supreme Court opinion [here](#).
- Successfully defended an insurance company in an appeal involving an insurer's right to seek declaratory judgment regarding an industry-standard commercial crime insurance policy. Naveen briefed the appeal before the Georgia Court of Appeals, which reversed the trial court's judgment and remanded for judgment as a matter of law. The Court of Appeals opinion can be found [here](#). And when the plaintiff sought a second appeal, the Court of Appeals again affirmed judgment as a matter of law for the defendant. The second Court of Appeals opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully defended a regional timber company against a products liability claim involving millions of dollars in potential liability. The firm was retained handle a possible appeal. Naveen secured a full summary judgment ruling after arguing the motion before the State Court of Fulton County. The plaintiff declined to appeal.

Admissions

State Bar of Georgia
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Eleventh Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Ninth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Sixth Circuit
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the District of Columbia
Circuit
U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Georgia
U.S. District Court for the
Middle District of Georgia
U.S. District Court for the
Southern District of Georgia
U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Florida
U.S. District Court for
the Western District of
Tennessee
Supreme Court of Georgia
Georgia Court of Appeals

Plaintiff Appellate/Trial Work

- Successfully represented a plaintiff in an appeal involving a nearly \$9 million jury verdict against an alarm monitoring company. Naveen had a primary role in drafting the briefs for the post-trial motions, the appeal in Georgia Court of Appeals, and the cert petition in the Georgia Supreme Court – all which went in favor of the plaintiff. The Court of Appeals opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in post-trial motions involving a \$73 million jury verdict against an apartment complex. After raising a constitutional challenge to Georgia's \$250,000 cap on punitive damages, coverage of which can be found [here](#), the defendants agreed to settle the case.
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in an appeal involving a \$2.79 million jury verdict against a national grocery store. Naveen handled the appeal in the Georgia Court of Appeals and the cert petition in the Georgia Supreme Court – both of whom ruled in favor of the plaintiff. The Court of Appeals opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in an appeal involving a \$3.6 million jury verdict against a national mortgage servicer. After the district court granted the defendant's motion to reduce the judgment, Naveen was retained to handle the appeal. Naveen briefed and argued the appeal before Eleventh Circuit, which reversed the district court and vacated the order reducing the judgment. The Eleventh Circuit opinion can be found [here](#). And when the defendant sought a second appeal, the Eleventh Circuit again found in favor of the plaintiff and reinstated the full \$3.6 million jury verdict. The second Eleventh Circuit opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in an appeal involving \$20 million jury verdict against a freight service company, where the client suffered traumatic brain injuries as a result of a motor vehicle collision. Naveen briefed the underlying appeal in the Georgia Court of Appeals and the insurance coverage dispute in the Eleventh Circuit. After the Eleventh Circuit found in favor of insurance coverage, the defendant settled. A copy of the Eleventh Circuit opinion can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in an appeal involving a \$35 million jury verdict against a national amusement park corporation. Naveen handled the briefing of the post-trial motions and was part of the team who argued the motions in the State Court of Cobb County. The trial court denied the defendants' post-trial motions. Coverage of the hearing can be found [here](#). In appeals to the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court, the courts affirmed the defendants' liability and the jury's award of \$35 million in damages. The Supreme Court opinion can be found [here](#), and news coverage of the successful resolution of the case can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented a plaintiff in a two-and-half week jury trial, in which the jury awarded, post-apportionment, \$13.8 million to the plaintiff for claims that the defendant hotel company negligently allowed a cult leader to starve the plaintiff and her newborn baby at the hotel. Naveen served as "legal counsel" for the trial lawyers, arguing evidentiary motions, jury charges, and directed verdict motions. News coverage of the successful verdict can be found [here](#).
- Currently representing a plaintiff in a \$46 million medical practice verdict, in which the plaintiff was left with catastrophic brain damage days after the delivery of her baby by the defendant doctor and hospital. The Court of Appeals recently affirmed the jury verdict, with coverage of the opinion available [here](#). The defendants are currently pursuing a petition for certiorari with the Georgia Supreme Court.

- Currently representing plaintiffs in combined jury verdicts of \$54 million against a major, national rental car company for the company's negligence arising from repeated and ongoing vehicle theft by employees, which resulted in a catastrophic car crash that left one plaintiff with an amputated leg and the other with a crushed pelvis. News coverage of the jury verdicts can be found [here](#).
- Successfully represented plaintiffs in an appeal involving a \$5.6 million wrongful death jury verdict against a national media company for the negligence of one of its drivers who caused a motor vehicle fatality. Naveen handled appeal and the Court of Appeals unanimously affirmed the judgment and verdict. News coverage of the jury verdict can be found [here](#).

Class Actions

- Successfully served as plaintiffs' counsel in a class action breach of contract/ RICO case against one of the nation's largest shipping companies. The lawsuit alleged that the company intentionally overcharged its customers by imposing residential delivery charges for deliveries to non-residential addresses such as courthouses, government buildings, and banks. The case, which was pending in the Western District of Tennessee, settled for \$21.5 million.
- Successfully represented an institutional investor in fraud and RICO cases against Bank of America, Countrywide, and JP Morgan. These high-stakes cases involved the alleged fraudulent sale of more than \$6 billion in mortgage-backed securities, millions of pages of documents, unusually well-funded and determined adversaries, and complex issues of successor liability. Suit was filed in Fulton County State Court, motions to remove and to dismiss the complaint were defeated, discovery conducted, and a confidential settlement negotiated in the client's favor.
- Successfully served as plaintiffs' counsel in several class actions representing home borrowers in lawsuits against large banks for improperly charging post-payment interest on FHA-insured loans. The cases, which were pending in the Northern District of Georgia and the Southern District of Florida, settled for \$32.5 million. A summary of the cases can be found [here](#).
- Currently representing school teachers in a proposed class action against Dekalb County, Georgia for breach of contract relating to the County's unlawful suspension of retirement benefits, with around \$250 million at stake. The case is currently pending before the Supreme Court of Georgia after the Court of Appeals found that the teachers are entitled to summary judgment in their favor. A summary of the case can be found [here](#).
- Currently representing Georgia tenants in several proposed class actions against large residential apartment landlords for violations of the Georgia security deposit statute. The cases are currently pending before the State Court of Dekalb County.

Pro Bono

- Successfully represented an inmate in state prison who asserted claims against prison officials for Eighth Amendment violations in the form of "deprivation of basic sanitary conditions." The Eleventh Circuit has described the case as involving "serious allegations [which] state an Eighth Amendment violation under our caselaw." The Eleventh Circuit's opinion on can be found [here](#). After the district court again tried to dismiss the case, Naveen successfully argued the case before the Eleventh Circuit resulting a second reversal. The second Eleventh Circuit opinion can be found [here](#).
- Currently representing a criminal defendant, who pled guilty and fully cooperated with the government, in an appeal over excessive sentencing and restitution orders. News coverage of the trial court orders can be found [here](#). The case is currently pending before the Eleventh Circuit.

Professional Activities

Board Member, David J. Bederman Emory Law School Supreme Court Advocacy Program

Advisor, University of Georgia Appellate Litigation Clinic

Member, South Asian Bar Association – Georgia Chapter

Member, Georgia Asian Pacific Bar Association

Member, Georgia Trial Lawyers Association