

# ATTORNEY L. DWIGHT | LITIGATION ATTORNEY



**Attorney Dwight L. Thomas** was sworn into the State Bar of Georgia in 1976, after completing law school at the University of Miami and receiving a Bachelor of Science from the University of Georgia. Thereafter, he worked briefly for the Fulton County Solicitor's Office before taking employment as an attorney for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare and later for the U. S. Department of Education as an attorney for the Office of Civil Rights.

In 1980, Attorney Thomas entered private practice in Decatur, Georgia renting space from Clarence "Chuck" Seeliger who is now Superior Court Judge of Dekalb County. He was the first African-American attorney to have a law office in the City of Decatur, the location of the Dekalb Superior Court. In 1982, Clarence "Chuck" Seeliger was elected to the State Court of Dekalb County and appointed Dwight's father, Nesby Thomas, Jr., in the Dekalb Courthouse, thereby making him the first African-American bailiff. Attorney Thomas later practiced law with Henry Johnson Jr., now U.S. Congressman "Hank" Johnson, Jr. before moving to Atlanta around 1988 where he remains today.

Attorney Thomas has served as an officer for several local Bar Associations, including President of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers in 2003 and as an elected member of the State Bar Board of Governor's since 1996, representing Post 6 that was vacated by Attorney Linda Klein who went on to become the first female President of the State Bar of Georgia.

As an attorney, Dwight has represented people from all walks of life from the powerless to the powerful including former Dekalb CEO Vernon Jones, former State Senator Van Streat, and former Atlanta School Board Member Robert "Bob" Waymer. Additionally, attorney Thomas represents a host of celebrities, entertainers, and citizens in their quest for justice. In 1966 a young Dwight Thomas integrated Avondale H.S. in Dekalb County, which taught him at an early age to understand the challenges to equality and developed his desire to challenge laws and ensure equality and fairness for all people regardless of age, race, gender or national origin.

An avid University of Georgia Bulldog Alumni and fan, attorney Thomas enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycles and lectures frequently on issues involving criminal defense representation. Fueled by his upbringing and love for humanity and the law, attorney Thomas' motto is "A commitment to serve by going above and beyond."

## **BAR ADMISSIONS:**

- Georgia Bar, 1976
- United States Supreme Court
- Georgia Supreme Court

- Georgia Court of Appeals
- Federal Court of Appeals, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 11th Circuits
- United States District Court-Northern and Middle Districts
- Pro Hac in South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and the United States Virgin Islands

**EDUCATION:**

- University of Georgia, B.A.
- University of Miami, J.D.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Life Member and Past President
- State Bar of Georgia, Board of Governors
- National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
- Dekalb Lawyers Association, Past President
- Lawyers Club of Atlanta