Chris S. Cohilas

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Education

Georgia State Law School - Juris Doctor
University of Georgia - Bachelor of Arts

Stated simply, Christopher Cohilas specializes in the complex. Christopher represents clients in high profile, high stakes, and complex criminal and civil litigation. He is the attorney that clients seek when it is time to "break glass in case of emergency". As a former Chief Assistant District Attorney, County Commission Chairman, and one of Georgia Trend's (2018) 100 Most Influential Georgians, he knows how to win a jury and manage the media. He is a consummate trial attorney with a persuasive, passionate, and trusted voice.

Christopher routinely represents persons charged with crimes in the State, Superior, and Federal Courts of Georgia. He is routinely sought out by executives, professionals, and public officials who find themselves being prosecuted and subjected to media scrutiny. Christopher focuses his civil practice on matters involving complex business litigation, RICO (racketeering), governmental transparency, breaches of fiduciary duty, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. Christopher is known for creating custom solutions for unique and custom problems both inside and outside of the courtroom.

Prior to joining Watson Spence, Christopher served as the Chief Assistant District Attorney for Dougherty County. As the Chief Assistant District Attorney, he was responsible for the prosecution of felony crimes against children, violations of the Georgia RICO act, serious violent felonies, and cases involving extended or complex litigation. During his time in public service, he tried all manner of cases ranging from murder to public corruption.

Christopher is a consummate litigator with the experience to back it up. He has tried over 40 jury trials to verdict including both civil and criminal trials. Additionally, he has litigated and argued cases in the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, and the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Christopher is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice in all State and Superior Courts of Georgia as well as the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Georgia Supreme Court, the United States District Courts of the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Georgia, as well as the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Both before and during his time at Watson Spence, Christopher has demonstrated himself as a community minded leader with an influential voice that is routinely and reliably trusted by judges and elected officials across the State of Georgia and in Washington DC. In 2014 and 2018 Chris was elected twice in countywide elections to serve as the County Commission Chairman for Dougherty County. During his 8 year tenure as Chairman, Chris successfully led Dougherty County through four presidentially declared natural disasters and COVID-19 during times when his community was one of the leading hotspots for infection in the entire world.

In 2019, as a result of his work during the tornadoes of 2017 and Hurricane Michael of 2018, Christopher was awarded the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service. In 2022, Christopher was awarded the Emory Greene Leadership Award by ACCG (Association of County Commissioners of Georgia). The Emory Greene Leadership Award is the highest level of recognition a government official can receive from ACCG. Not surprisingly, in 2018, Georgia Trend Magazine named Christopher one of Georgia's 100 Most Influential Georgians.

While serving as Commission Chairman, Christopher also served as the Chairman of the Albany-Dougherty Payroll Development Authority. In 2017, Christopher was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to serve on the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council. In 2019, Christopher was elected as Chairman of the Council.

Christopher is a 2008 graduate of Leadership Georgia and was selected to serve as a program chair for the organization in 2009. He is the former president and chairperson of the Artesian City Sertoma Club. He is further known for his work as the former co-chairperson of the Martin Luther King Day Celebration Committee and as one of founding members of the Lily Pad SANE Center. In January, 2013, Chris was awarded the Martin Luther King Day "Dream Award" for his community involvement. In 2007, he was named one of Southwest Georgia's 40 under 40, and, in 2006, he was recognized by the State Bar of Georgia when was given the Young Lawyers Ethics and Professionalism Award.

Christopher graduated from the University of Georgia in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He went on to receive his J.D. from Georgia State Law School in 2002 where he was an avid member of the Student Trial Lawyers' Association and the International Moot Court Team and winner of the "Best Advocate" scholarship in the William Daniel National Mock Trial Competition.

Christopher is a very involved hands-on father of four who enjoys working out, being outdoors, and cooking traditional Greek cuisine for family and friends.

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