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Georgia's Protector

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As one of the nation's leading brain injury authorities, Adam Malone's accomplishments continue to benefit Georgia's public and its legal community.

By Justin Smulison

Adam Malone of Malone Law in Atlanta has been at the forefront of catastrophic injury law for decades and is nationally regarded as a trailblazer for his achievements in the area of traumatic, ischemic and anoxic brain injury, both in and out of the courtroom. His clients' injuries stem from various circumstances—from trucking and construction accidents to birth injuries and other forms of medical negligence—and with every case, he makes a contribution to this specialized area of law.

"Brain injuries are frequently the most devastating of all, but the extent of damage is not always immediately apparent," says Malone, who in 2016 was named a Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year" in Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs in Atlanta. "Weeks or months can pass before the full effect of the injury is revealed. By then, the victim and their family will have suffered enormously."

Brain Injury Frequency in Georgia

Brain injuries are unfortunately afflicting Georgians in frequency and severity. In 2021, the Georgia Brain and Spinal Injury Registry recorded 24,827 traumatic brain injuries (TBI), including nearly 16,500 emergency and 7,662 hospital admissions—an average of 68 incidents per day. Additionally, injuries occurred most frequently among Georgians from birth to age 39 and victims aged 10 to 39 comprised nearly 50% of all registered TBI and/or spinal cord injuries that year. The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission reports that TBIs cost Georgians more than \$1.5 billion annually in lost wages and medical costs.

And while the data indicates that children and younger adults seem to be most susceptible to such critical injuries, it is just

one part of the story. The challenges of brain injuries are compounded by the public being largely unaware of their rights, Malone notes.

"All victims of brain injury should seek a lawyer with special experience in the field," he adds. "Brain injury survivors have enough on their hands just trying to survive. An experienced brain injury lawyer can help survivors find the right resources while simultaneously investigating the cause to determine whether someone else is responsible for it. Millions of dollars can be left on the table when a victim is represented by someone who does not have considerable experience representing survivors of brain injury."

Last year, Malone secured a multimillion-dollar settlement on behalf of a family whose child was born with severe brain damage due to medical negligence during labor and delivery. As with most claims involving newborns and young children, the firm develops special relationships with clients and their families, establishing a unique bond during such challenging times.

"We form deep connections with our clients during the course of investigation and litigation. We grow with them, which is a sacred privilege that we hold in the highest regard," Malone says. "Our goal is to nurture our clients along a path back toward independence while we work hard to recover adequate compensation to fix, help and make up for the quality of life taken from them by those responsible for it."

Educating Peers and the Public

Malone's dedication to brain injury law transcends the courtroom as well. He is board-certified by the American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys and the National Board of Trial Advocates. He is also a longtime member

of the American Association for Justice (AAJ), and in 2022, completed his term as Chair of the AAJ Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group. He continues to educate his peers as a member of the AAJ Birth Trauma Litigation Group with developments in the areas of anoxic and hypoxic brain injury.

Additionally, he completed his term as President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association in 2023 and remains committed to GTLA's mission of preserving the right to trial by jury and to the independence of the courts. He continues his professional service work by serving on the Foundation Board for the Shepherd Brain and Spinal Center and strengthening the quality of the next generation of the profession by serving as Chair of the Board of Directors for Atlanta's John Marshall Law School.

Malone Law is selective in the cases it takes so that every client is given the personal attention they deserve. "Until we put ourselves out of business by convincing the careless to be careful and that safety is cheaper than cutting corners, we will be here to help you put your life back together when injured by preventable carelessness," Malone says. "Injury prevention is the ultimate indicator of a success."

After decades of handling medical negligence cases, Malone notes that a hospital can be a dangerous place.

"If you must become a patient in a hospital, the best way to protect yourself is to have a trusted person stay with you to be your advocate, to ask questions when you're unable to speak for yourself and to ensure each member of your healthcare team is communicating with each other," Malone adds. "You are a part of your own team and have the right to participate fully in every aspect of your care." **B**



MALONE LAW

A Tradition of Excellence

**MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL NEGLIGENCE,
BRAIN AND SPINAL INJURY,
CATASTROPHIC INJURY.**

MALONE LAW achieved some of the most critical successes in the trial firm's 60-year history in 2023. Led by Adam Malone, who in 2016 was named a Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year" in Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs in Atlanta, the firm further solidified its reputation for excellence in all areas of catastrophic injury and medical negligence.

"Despite the challenges posed in recent years, we still reached new heights," said Malone, who has been recognized by Best Lawyers for Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs and Personal Injury Litigation – Plaintiffs annually since 2010. "Malone Law secured high-profile resolutions, expanded its staff and reaffirmed our commitment to our local and legal communities."

The firm has recovered more than \$600 million for clients in nearly all areas of catastrophic injury law, medical negligence, product liability and trucking litigation. And with many Georgia courtrooms safely operating in 2023, Malone Law extended the string of favorable resolutions in select areas of catastrophic injury and medical negligence law. This included three high-

value settlements stemming from medical negligence and one involving a brain injury at birth. These high-value, confidential cases totaled more than \$31 million.

In 2024, Malone Law was again ranked Tier 1 in Medical Malpractice Law and Personal Injury Litigation for plaintiffs in Atlanta by Best Law Firms®, maintaining their leadership status among Georgia's legal community. This stellar reputation can be traced back to the trailblazing advocacy of Adam's father, Thomas "Tommy" Malone, who founded the firm more than 60 years ago.

"My father set a high bar for client service and legal knowledge and was well-respected by peers and opponents," noted Adam Malone, who, in 2023, completed his term as President of the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, a position his father also held. "We are honored to carry on this legacy."

The sentiment is echoed by Meri Benoit Link, who joined the firm as an associate in 2006 and has since become integral to the firm's success. Formerly a corporate defense counsel, Link has brought to the firm an opposing perspective on defense-side processes, valuation, obstacles

and realities. Her unique insight proves invaluable when preparing for trials against insurance companies and well-funded entities, helping the firm secure favorable results for clients.

"I am proud to contribute to cases by debunking some of the myths about defense practices and raising other issues that might otherwise be overlooked," Link said. "Knowing that my involvement has helped tip the scales to the benefit of our clients is extremely rewarding."

The firm has always had a team mentality, Malone noted, and has stepped up its game in recent years to adapt to changes in the legal landscape and lean into technological innovations.

"We understand what it takes to succeed in the courtroom, and we continually reshape ways we present cases to jurors," Malone said. "I am told by our opponents that we are among the vanguard of medical malpractice law for patients in Georgia, and I am certainly proud that we are leaders in sub-specialty areas like brain injury, amputation and birth injury litigation. Above all, Malone Law will always be at the vanguard of consumer protection in Georgia."

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