

## LINDSAY GATLING FERGUSON | 37

Partner, Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial

AFTER 11 YEARS AT Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial, partner Lindsay Gatling Ferguson has racked up a lot of miles defending clients facing potentially huge liability in catastrophic injury and wrongful death actions around the country. The challenging role hasn't slaked her enthusiasm for staying on the



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move in her off-hours, as well, whether as a swimmer, a runner, on the tennis court or astride a horse.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Ferguson attended Washington & Lee University and spent a year at Catholic University's Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C., before returning south to earn her law degree at the University of Georgia.

She signed up with Weinberg straight out of law school. The majority of her work involves premises liability, products liability and transportation litigation.

Such cases can often become remarkably complex, and Ferguson points to a particularly daunting suit that began when a New York University student working on a film project in Monticello, Georgia, was electrocuted when a mechanical lift came onto contact with power lines on the scene of the shoot.

"[Weinberg partner] Dave Dial sent me out the day of the accident," says Ferguson. "I got to handle that one all the way through trial, which is not that common in what we do."

The wrongful death action turned into a dispute between Ferguson's client and its customer over attorney fees and expenses.

"That turned into a big fight," she says. Additional claims were brought involving the parties' insurers, and there were eventually four parallel actions going on at once in Georgia and New York. In one of them, a federal judge agreed with Ferguson that the Georgia Court of Appeals precedent was "completely wrong" on the key issue of the case, she notes.

"There were a lot of hurdles; we had four fronts going at once," she says. Her firm ultimately prevailed in all of them, she says. "I took every deposition," she says. "That was a very rewarding case."

Ferguson was also involved in two cases stemming from a bizarre accident in 2011 in which an Atlanta model and her friend fell from a window at Atlanta's Hotel W. Model LaShawna Threatt died, and her friend Ciara Williams was seriously injured.

Both cases settled confidentially on what Ferguson says were very favorable terms.

Ferguson is currently enmeshed in another web of litigation stemming from an explosion aboard a boat near Tampa that injured 11 people, including several who lost limbs and others who have severe orthopedic injuries. The accident spawned three related suits, Ferguson says.

"They've been going for three years now ... and we haven't had the first expert deposition," she says, noting the case involves at least 50 experts.

Her extensive caseload, heavy travel schedule and array of athletic pursuits—she recently placed second in the Gulf Coast Half Ironman Relay—are not all that keep her busy; she also mentors younger lawyers and volunteers with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. And her schedule is about to get more crowded: She got married in February and is expecting her first child in January.

"This has been a big year for me," she says.

—Greg Land