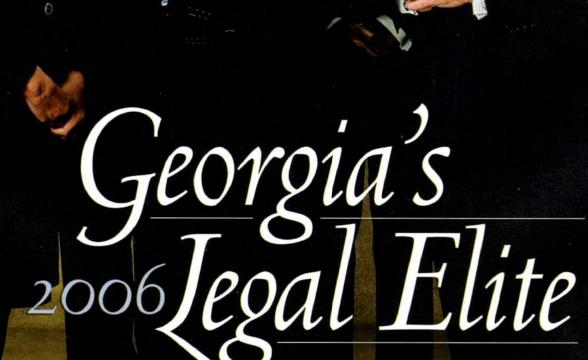
Georgia Trend



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Edited by Susan Percy

A listing of the state's most effective lawyers, selected by their peers.

From left: Attorneys Allegra Lawrence, Jim Butler, Lisa Ballentine, Jack Dalton and Ed Garland

Georgia's 2006 Jegal Elite

# DONALD F. SAMUEL

Garland, Samuel & Loeb Atlanta



IN 1982, Don Samuel had just begun what he thought would be a career as a labor lawyer when he was summoned to Macon to defend a woman accused of murdering her husband. It didn't go well. The jury didn't buy his self-defense argument. But Samuel had a new career path. He was hooked on criminal law.

Today, Samuel, 50, is a nationally recognized criminal defense attorney with a Who's Who of clients, including Baltimore Ravens linebacker Rav Lewis and antiques dealer Jim Williams of Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil fame. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, Samuel is past president of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and author of three legal texts.

Samuel says he enjoys the dynamic nature of criminal defense work and its potential to shape the law. "The

Bill of Rights is the forefront of every single criminal case," he says.

Case in point: Last March, one of Samuel's cases led to a new interpretation of the Fourth Amendment prohibiting "unreasonable searches and seizures." Samuel's client had objected to a search of his home, but his wife invited police in. The U.S. Supreme Court found that the search violated his constitutional rights.

Samuel is currently defending one of the two Georgia men charged with providing support to terrorists. That case will require him to navigate the restrictions posed by national security. Samuel has made a mark on the

world in his personal life, as well. With wife Melissa Fay Greene, author of Praying for Sheetrock and The Temple Bombing, Samuel has nine children, including one adopted from Bulgaria and four adopted from Ethiopia. -MCM

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