

The Personal Injury Legal Landscape in Georgia in 2026



Prepared for Georgia Personal Injury Attorneys

Executive Summary

Georgia personal injury firms enter 2026 facing the most consequential regulatory reset in two decades. Senate Bill 68, signed into law in April 2025, has redrawn the rules on damages, trial procedure, and premises liability. Caseloads remain high, document volumes continue to grow, and insurance carriers are investing more aggressively in defense. The firms that thrive will be those that move faster, build stronger cases from the facts up, and use technology to do both without sacrificing accuracy.

The Georgia PI Market In 2026: By The Numbers

Georgia is one of the most active personal injury markets in the country. Between 2013 and 2022, Georgia courts produced 64 nuclear verdicts totaling \$6 billion in awards, placing the state fifth in the nation. [1] In 2022 alone, 12 nuclear verdicts were returned, including a \$1.7 billion punitive damages award out of Gwinnett County. Georgia's state and superior courts received more than 30,000 tort cases annually in 2022 and 2023. [2]

From 2022 through 2024, the American Tort Reform Foundation ranked Georgia the number one Judicial Hellhole in the United States, citing nuclear verdicts, phantom damages, and expansive premises liability. [3] That designation fueled the business community's push for SB 68, which Governor Brian Kemp signed on April 21, 2025, marking the most significant overhaul of Georgia's civil litigation system since 2005.

Recent high-profile cases illustrate the stakes: a \$32.5 million Gwinnett County pre-trial settlement in January 2024, a \$47 million Union County verdict in August 2024, and a \$50 million DeKalb County dental malpractice verdict in October 2024. [3]

The Compounding Challenges Georgia PI Firms Face _____

Document Volume

A single personal injury case with moderate injuries can generate 3,000 to 10,000 pages of records. Paralegals carry most of this burden, spending 40 to 80 hours per case on document review alone. [4] In busy firms handling hundreds of active matters, this creates bottlenecks that delay demands and leave case value unrealized.

Regulatory Complexity Under SB 68

SB 68 requires a fundamental rethink of case strategy across every practice area:

- Bifurcated trials are now a right. Under O.C.G.A. Section 51-12-15, either party may demand that trials be split into a liability phase and a separate damages phase. Juries evaluate fault before they ever hear about injuries. [5]
- Medical damages are anchored to what was paid, not billed. New O.C.G.A. Section 51-12-1.1 eliminates the collateral source rule, allowing defendants to show juries insurance-discounted rates rather than full billed amounts. [6]
- Pain and suffering arguments are restricted. Under revised O.C.G.A. Section 9-10-184, anchoring tactics are prohibited and damages arguments must be rationally related to the evidence. [5]
- Voluntary dismissal windows are cut to 60 days after the defendant's answer, ending forum-shopping through dismissal and refiling. [7]

Each change demands more thorough preparation earlier in the case lifecycle. The firm that enters mediation or trial without a clean factual record, a detailed medical chronology, and a complete accounting of billed versus paid expenses is at a significant disadvantage.

Competitive Intensity

Insurance carriers have not stood still. Defense lawsuit costs rose 7 percent annually between 2016 and 2022, with billing rates climbing an additional 6.5 percent through mid-2024. [8] Georgia plaintiff firms operating with manual workflows face a more prepared and better-funded opposition than at any point in recent memory.

How Leading Firms Are Responding With Supio ---

Brandon Smith, partner at Childers, Schlueter and Smith in Atlanta, describes the shift plainly. His pharmaceutical and mass tort firm faced an existential document volume problem by 2022. After adopting Supio, what once consumed days now takes minutes. *"The system finds things in medical records we didn't even know to look for,"* Smith says. *"At this point, my team would kill me if I tried to take Supio away from them."* [4]

That shift from reactive to proactive case-building is exactly what SB 68 demands. When a defense attorney can demand bifurcation and put liability ahead of any discussion of injuries, a plaintiff firm needs an airtight factual narrative ready at phase one.

Supio is the legal AI platform purpose-built for personal injury. Founded by former Microsoft engineers and backed by \$91 million in total funding, Supio has processed more than 100,000 cases and contributed to more than \$1 billion in settlements. [9] Its platform addresses the core challenges Georgia firms face today:

- Medical chronologies are auto-generated from every page of records, with source-linked citations and 97 percent accuracy across case types.
- Demand letters are drafted in minutes, in the firm's voice, supported by exhibits drawn directly from the medical record.
- Case Economics tracks billed versus paid amounts and reconciles Medicare, Medicaid, ERISA, and hospital lien balances in an interactive ledger.
- The AI Assistant allows attorneys to query any case in plain language and receive instant, source-cited answers for deposition prep, mediation, and trial strategy. It also helps identify evidentiary gaps before they become problems at trial.

The results are measurable. Whitley Law, a Southeast personal injury firm, saved 437 hours of work across six cases in a testing phase, cutting costs by more than \$12,000. Paralegals who previously managed 40 cases each were able to double their caseloads after implementing Supio. [10]

Conclusion

Georgia's personal injury market remains one of the most consequential in the nation, with 30,000 tort cases filed annually and a newly reformed legal landscape that rewards preparation and punishes inefficiency. The firms that thrive will invest in tools that build stronger cases faster, identify missed value earlier, and prepare for a trial framework that is fundamentally different from what existed before April 2025.

To learn more or schedule a demonstration, visit www.supio.com.

[1] Institute for Legal Reform, Nuclear Verdicts: An Update on Trends, Causes, and Solutions (May 2024). <https://instituteforlegalreform.com/research/nuclear-verdicts-an-update-on-trends-causes-and-solutions/> [2] Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Are Huge Jury Verdicts Straining Georgia's Economy? (March 2025). <https://www.ajc.com/news/atlanta-news/are-huge-jury-verdicts-straining-georgias-economy-not-really-court-data-shows/> [3] American Tort Reform Foundation, Judicial Hellholes 2024-2025, Georgia. <https://www.judicialhellholes.org/hellhole/2024-2025/georgia/> [4] Supio Customer Story: Childers, Schlueter and Smith. <https://www.supio.com/customers/childers-schlueter-smith> [5] Miles Mediation, Significant Changes Under Georgia's New Tort Reform Legislation (June 2025). <https://milesmediation.com/blog/significant-changes-under-georgias-new-tort-reform-legislation/> [6] DLA Piper, Georgia Enacts Sweeping Tort Reform and Litigation Funding Laws (May 2025). <https://www.dlapiper.com/en/insights/publications/2025/05/georgia-enacts-sweeping-tort-reform> [7] MGC Law, Legal Update: Georgia Enacts Historic Tort Reform Legislation (April 2025). <https://www.mgclaw.com/news/legal-update-georgia-enacts-historic-tort-reform-legislation/> [8] Sedgwick, Inside the Verdict: What Is Driving the Rise in Nuclear and Thermonuclear Awards? (August 2025). <https://www.sedgwick.com/blog/inside-the-verdict-what-is-driving-the-rise-in-nuclear-and-thermonuclear-awards/> [9] Supio, Series B Announcement (April 2025). <https://www.supio.com/press/supio-announces-60m-series-b-to-accelerate-adoption-of-legal-ai-in-plaintiff-law> [10] Supio Customer Story: Whitley Law Firm. <https://www.supio.com/customers/whitley-law-firm>