

# 2019 Estate Planning Hall of Fame



Mary F. Radford is the Marjorie Fine Knowles Professor of Fiduciary Law at the Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta, Georgia. She joined the GSU College of Law faculty in 1984. The primary courses she teaches are Wills, Trusts & Estates, Elder Law, and Estate Planning. From 1981-84 she practiced law as an Associate Attorney at Hansell & Post in Atlanta. She is a *summa cum laude* graduate of the Newcomb College of Tulane University and received her J.D. degree *with distinction* from Emory University. Prior to attending law school, Professor Radford taught English and French at two Atlanta high schools.

Professor Radford has been active in reforming fiduciary law in Georgia since 1992. From 1992-98 she served as the Reporter of the State Bar of Georgia Fiduciary Law Section Probate Code Revision Committee. This Committee drafted a complete revision of the probate laws of Georgia that was enacted by the Georgia General Assembly and became effective in 1998. From 1998-2005 she served as the Reporter of the Guardianship Code Revision Committee and the work of this Committee resulted in the enactment of the Georgia Revised Guardianship Code of 2005. From 2005-2010 she served as the Reporter of the Trust Code Revision Committee and, in 2010, the Georgia General Assembly codified the statutory provisions prepared by this Committee as the Georgia Revised Trust Code of 2010. Professor Radford is the author of three treatises on Georgia fiduciary law: REDFEARN: WILLS & ADMINISTRATION IN GEORGIA; GEORGIA GUARDIANSHIP & CONSERVATORSHIP; and GEORGIA TRUSTS & TRUSTEES. New editions of these treatises are published annually and are often cited by practitioners and judges.

She is also the author of numerous law review articles on a variety of subjects, including ethical considerations for estate planning attorneys; challenges of dealing with clients whose capacity is diminishing; and the use of mediation and arbitration in estate planning matters. Professor Radford is a frequent speaker at estate planning and elder law conferences throughout the United States. Professor Radford has been an Academic Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) since 1995. She was a member of ACTEC's Executive Committee from 2005-13 and served as the President of ACTEC in 2011-12. She is active in the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) and was a member of the NAELA committee that prepared the revised second edition of the NAELA Aspirational Standards, which were adopted in 2017. Professor Radford is a professional member of the National College of Probate Judges (NCPJ). From 2010-12 she served on the advisory committee for the revision the National Probate Court Standards. She currently chairs the Joint ACTEC-NCPJ Task Force.

In 1990-91 Professor Radford served as Supreme Court Fellow, working at the Supreme Court of the United States in the office of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. The National College of Probate Judges honored Professor Radford in 2002 with the Treat Award for Excellence. In 2009, she was the recipient of the Fiduciary Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia Verner S. Chaffin Career Service Award. Professor Radford has been chosen the GSU College of Law "Professor of the Year" five times. She was listed in the ATLANTA MAGAZINE's list of "Georgia's Top 100 Superlawyers" and "Top 50 Female Georgia Superlawyers" in 2006 and as an "Estate Planning Superlawyer" in 2004-09.