

Perry J. McGuire

Partner | Atlanta

Perry J. McGuire is a Partner in the Corporate Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Mr. McGuire has a general corporate law practice with an emphasis on franchise, M&A and governmental affairs. His in-house experience has given him a broad base of experience on which to draw to assist clients in many areas of their business. Mr. McGuire has successfully counseled businesses at every level of the business cycle, including start-up, distribution agreements, supply agreements, tolling agreements, intellectual property licensing, and merger/divestiture. He has helped companies navigate through local, state, and federal government laws and regulations, and has successfully helped in changing, crafting and passing new laws in many different areas. He has assisted new franchisors starting their business and has assisted mature franchise systems evolve their legal infrastructure to continue to grow their system. Mr. McGuire has counseled clients in the area of film production in Georgia.

Mr. McGuire's experience as a long-term in-house practitioner gave him the opportunity to touch every area of a business. He has also managed a variety of commercial litigation matters for clients. He has negotiated very complex business contracts, as well as handled very sensitive employment issues. Mr. McGuire's governmental experience helps clients cut through the red tape of governmental bureaucracy. He is a registered lobbyist.

Mr. McGuire is a member of the Southeast Franchise Forum (Membership committee), the Georgia Restaurant Association (Board member), International Franchise Association (Legal/Legislative committee), Association for Corporate Growth (Governmental Affairs Committee), and the National Restaurant Association. He is also the Founding Chairman of the Franchise and Distribution Law Section for the State Bar of Georgia.

Mr. McGuire is the author of *Nice, But Not Naive and Other Lessons That I Learned from Chick-fil-A Founder Truett Cathy* (2018).



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Areas of Practice

Corporate Law
Governmental Affairs
Franchise and Distribution Law
Intellectual Property
Hospitality Services Group
Mergers and Acquisitions
Movies and Film Industry

Bar Admissions

Georgia

Mr. McGuire was previously a corporate attorney for Chick-fil-A, Inc. in Atlanta. He is a former state Senator and was the 2006 Republican nominee for Attorney General of Georgia. Mr. McGuire has served on the State Board of Juvenile Justice and as a member of the Republican State Committee. He is a member of the Georgia Republican Foundation and the Federalist Society.

Mr. McGuire received his B.B.A. in Finance at Valdosta State University in 1981, where he was President of the Student Government Association, Chairman of the Student Advisory Council to the Georgia Board of Regents, a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Fraternity and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He received his J.D. degree from Georgia State University College of Law in 1988, where he served on the Moot Court Board.

Perry is married to Lauren, who is a Chick-fil-A franchisee, and they have four children. Perry serves on the Atlanta Board of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Emory's Winship Cancer Center. Mr. McGuire is a member of the CEO Netweavers, where he serves as a mentor for Georgia Tech and Kennesaw State University EMBA Students and helps early stage companies as part of CEON's Inflection Point Panel. He has also served on the boards of the Jesse Draper Boys and Girls Club and the Inner Harbour Childrens Hospital. He has also served on the Eastlake Foundation
691 Club.