

**Durable Special Power of Attorney for Attorney at Law Regarding Law Practice**

Prepared by \_\_\_\_\_, Attorney at Law

Street

City, State, Zip Code

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Georgia licensed attorney-at-law and member of the State Bar of Georgia, whose Bar number is \_\_\_\_\_ and whose Social Security Number is \_\_\_\_\_, whose date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_ Georgia, presently residing at \_\_\_\_\_, and whose law practice office address is \_\_\_\_\_ (and who, for purposes of recordation is the “Grantor”), have made, constituted and appointed and by these presents, do make, constitute and appoint a Georgia licensed attorney-at-law and member of the State Bar of Georgia, whose Bar number is \_\_\_\_\_, as my true and lawful attorney-in-fact, referred to herein as “my lawyer attorney-in-fact”, for the following limited purposes. I intend by this instrument to create a Durable Special Power of Attorney, to be used by my lawyer attorney-in-fact for purposes of dealing with my law practice, in the event of my disappearance, disability, incapacity, incompetence or inability to act on my own behalf. For purposes of this instrument, my “law practice” is defined as:

(HERE DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE ENTITY OR ENTITIES INVOLVED, THE INTEREST INVOLVED AND THE SPECIFIC ASSETS OR PROPERTY INVOLVED)

The affidavit of my lawyer attorney-in-fact that I have disappeared, am disabled, incapacitated or incompetent, shall be conclusive proof of the facts stated in such affidavit. In determining

whether I have disappeared, am disabled, incapacitated, incompetent or unable to act on my own behalf, my lawyer attorney-in-fact may act upon such evidence as my lawyer attorney-in-fact shall deem reasonably reliable, including, without limitation, communications with members of my family or other reliable sources, or written opinions of one or more medical doctors duly licensed to practice medicine.

I hereby relieve my lawyer attorney-in-fact from any liability for actions taken in good faith under this instrument. All actions taken pursuant to this Durable Special Power of Attorney by my lawyer attorney-in-fact shall be taken in compliance with all applicable Georgia laws governing attorneys-at-law and all rules and regulations of the Supreme Court of Georgia and the State Bar of Georgia, including, without limitation the Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of Georgia and Legal Ethics Opinions; and to the extent that any provision of this Durable Special Power of Attorney should be in conflict with any such laws, rules, regulations, or legal ethics opinions, such laws, rules, regulations or legal ethics opinions shall govern. This power of attorney and the authority of my said lawyer attorney-in-fact hereunder shall not terminate in the event of my disappearance, disability, incapacity or incompetence, or because of lapse of time.

My true and lawful lawyer attorney-in-fact is appointed to manage all property associated with my law practice, including real and personal property (when the term "property" is hereinafter used, it shall include, whenever applicable, both real and personal property, tangible, intangible and mixed, and any interest or right therein) and to act in and conduct all matters related to my law practice, and for that purpose and in my name, place and stead, and for my use and benefit, and as my act and deed, to do and execute, or to concur with persons jointly interested with myself therein in the doing or executing of, all or any acts, deeds and things, that is to say:

1. Power to Inventory and to Conduct His/Her Own Conflict of Interest Check. To inventory all client case files and client property under my control, and to conduct his/her own conflict of interest check before delving into client files; in the event that my lawyer attorney-in-fact identifies such a conflict of interest, my lawyer attorney-in-fact shall appoint a Successor or Substitute lawyer attorney-in-fact as provided in paragraph 14 below, to deal with that file.
2. Power to Notify Clients. To notify all of my clients of my disappearance, disability, incapacity, incompetence or inability to act on my own behalf, and to take whatever action my lawyer attorney-in-fact deems advisable to protect the interest of my law practice and the interests of my clients, until such time as my clients have obtained substitute counsel or have engaged my lawyer attorney-in-fact as substitute counsel.
3. Power to Safeguard Clients Files and Property. To safeguard clients' files and property, and to deliver clients' files and property as directed in writing by the clients, obtaining proper receipts therefore.
4. Power to Deal with Financial Institutions. To open accounts for my law practice with, to add to, withdraw from, or close accounts for my law practice (including operating or general accounts, and attorney escrow or trust accounts) in financial institutions, including, without limitation, banks, trust companies, brokerage firms, mutual fund companies or other institutions, or to draw upon any such financial institution, corporation, firm, association or individual for any sum or sums of money or other property to which I may be entitled as I might or could do; to execute and deliver any instruments, checks or other negotiable instruments with respect to the accounts with such financial institutions; to contract for any services rendered by such financial

institutions; upon receipt of any checks, drafts, dividends, interest, income or moneys, to deposit the same in the appropriate account in my name in any financial institution;

5. Power to Enter My Law Office. To enter my law office and to use the office equipment and supplies as necessary;
6. Power Regarding Mail and Courier Deliveries. To receive, to sign for, and to open my law practice mail and courier deliveries and to process and respond to them, as necessary; to deal with the United States Postal Service;
7. Power to Examine Files and Records. To examine files and records of my law practice and to obtain information as to any pending matters requiring attention;
8. Power to Obtain Client Consent to Obtain Extensions of Time. To obtain client consent to obtain extensions of time and to contact opposing counsel and courts/agencies to obtain extensions of time.
9. Power to Apply for Extensions of Time. To apply for extensions of time regarding any pending matters;
10. Power to Prepare and File Accountings and Bills. To prepare and file or submit accountings and bills to my clients and others;
11. Power to Preserve Client Confidences and Secrets. To preserve confidences and secrets of my clients and to protect the attorney-client privilege;
12. Power to Screen Files for Conflicts of Interest. To screen my client's files for conflicts of interest on the part of my lawyer attorney-in-fact or any other attorney to whom a client is referred;
13. Power to Mediate and Arbitrate. To submit to mediation and/or arbitration on my behalf;

14. Power to Appoint Successor Substitute Lawyer Attorney-In-Fact. If my lawyer attorney-in-fact is unable or unwilling to act on my behalf under this instrument, either as to a specific matter, or overall, then my lawyer attorney-in-fact is empowered to appoint in writing another discreet and competent attorney-at-law licensed in the State of Georgia as a Successor or Substitute lawyer attorney-in-fact to act on my behalf, with full powers to act under the terms of this instrument;
15. Power to Collect Account Receivable. To collect accounts receivable belonging to my law practice;
16. Power to Deal with Creditors. To determine the nature and amounts of all claims of creditors, including clients, of my law practice and to deal appropriately with said creditors.
17. Power to Sell My Law Practice. To sell my law practice, partially or in its entirety, including good will, in accordance with Rule 1.17 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. My lawyer attorney-in-fact is empowered to purchase my law practice, partially or in its entirety, but only if such purchase is pursuant to a written agreement entered in to between my lawyer attorney-in-fact and me prior to my disappearance, disability, incapacity, incompetence, or inability to act on my own behalf;
18. Power to Request Appointment of Receiver. If deemed necessary and appropriate in my lawyer attorney-in-fact's discretion, to seek the appointment of my attorney-client relationship with a client by proper notice to the client, and to appear before court or other tribunal to request withdrawal in a pending matter;
19. Power to Terminate Attorney-Client Relationship and to Appear Before Court or Other Tribunal to Request Withdrawal of Appearance. To terminate the attorney-client

relationship with a client by proper notice to the client, and to appear before court or other tribunal to request withdrawal in a pending matter;

20. Power to Sell, Encumber, and Dispose of Real and Personal Property. To sell, pledge or otherwise encumber or dispose of any real or personal property belonging to my law practice;

21. Power to Invest and Manage. To invest or reinvest, lease or let, or otherwise manage any of the property of my law practice, real and personal tangible and intangible; to make investments and re-investments on behalf of my law practice, being bound by the Prudent Investor Rule, including, without limitation, taking the following actions: exercising all rights with respects to investments which my law practice now owns or may hereafter acquire, including, without limitation, the right to buy, sell, grant security interests in or otherwise deal with such investments; opening, establishing, utilizing, or closing investment and brokerage accounts; to sell, assign, endorse and transfer any stocks, bonds, options or other securities of any nature whatsoever standing in the name of my law practice, and to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the foregoing, including, without limitation, stock and/or bond powers, and certificates and affidavits of domicile;

22. Power to Sue and Defend. To commence or carry on, or to defend, at law or in equity, all actions, suits or other proceedings touching my law practice, or touching anything in which my law practice may be in any wise concerned;

23. Power to Demand and Receive. To demand, settle, collect, sue for, receive, enforce payment of, submit to arbitration or mediation, compromise, receive, give receipts or discharges for, or make such other appropriate disposition regarding such matters related

to my law practice as my lawyer attorney-in-fact deems appropriate, of all money, rights to payment, property (real and personal, tangible and intangible), securities, debts, chattels, causes of action or other property whatsoever now belonging or hereafter to belong to my law practice;

24. Power to Settle, Compromise, Arbitrate or Mediate. To settle or compromise, or submit to arbitration or mediation, all debts, taxes, accounts, claims, causes of action or disputes between my law practice and any other person or entity, regardless of the identity of the person or entity involved;
25. Power to Borrow. To make or endorse promissory notes, or to renew the same from time to time, without personal liability on the part of my lawyer attorney-in-fact;
26. Power to Deal with Taxes and Tax Agencies. To inspect, prepare, execute or file income, information or other tax returns or forms and to act on behalf of my law practice in dealing with any office of the Internal Revenue Service, any office of the Georgia State Department of Taxation, or any office of any other tax department or agency in connection with any income, withholding, employment or other tax matters (including, without limitation: signing a waiver of notice of disallowance of claim for credit or refund; signing a consent to extend the statutory time period for assessment or collection of a tax; signing a closing agreement under section 7121 of the Internal Revenue Code; receiving a refund check and negotiating it on behalf of my law practice; representing me at a conference with the tax agency; filling a written response on my behalf with the tax agency; signing employment tax returns; receiving confidential tax information); designation in writing any other person or agent to act on my behalf regarding the foregoing tax matters;

27. Power to Employ and Dismiss. To employ or dismiss agents, accountants, attorneys, or others, and to compensate them;
28. Power Regarding Insurance. To apply for, take out, renew, maintain, pay premiums on, modify, make claims, against, collect benefits from, surrender or cancel fire, casualty, professional liability or other liability insurance policies on me, on my lawyer attorney-in-fact, or any property of my law practice; to apply for, take out, renew, maintain, pay premiums on, modify, make claims against, take loans against, collect benefits from, surrender or cancel policies of disability insurance, long term care insurance, office overhead insurance, life insurance or other insurance; the foregoing powers apply to private and public insurance plans, including, without limitation, Medicare, Medicaid, SSI and Workers' Compensation;
29. Power to Execute Instruments. Regarding my law practice, to execute, acknowledge or deliver in my name, or to sign my name to, any deed, contract, instrument, certificate or document, including giving all necessary covenants, warranties and assurances, and to sign, seal, acknowledge and deliver the same; to execute disclosures, disclaimers, affidavits or any other documents on my behalf;
30. Power Regarding Safe Deposit Boxes. Regarding my law practice, to rent or surrender safe deposit boxes, and to enter any safe deposit boxes which I may now or hereafter have and to remove any of the contents there from or to place items therein;
31. Power to Deal with Any Governmental Agency. Regarding my law practice, to act on my behalf in dealing with any governmental department or agency;
32. Power to Resign as Fiduciary and to Appoint Successor Fiduciary. When authorized by the governing instrument, to resign any position which I may hold as fiduciary, and to



appoint a successor fiduciary in my place and stead, including the appointment of my lawyer attorney-in-fact as such successor fiduciary;

33. Power to Petition Court to Permit My Resignation as Fiduciary and for Appointment of Substituted or Successor Fiduciary. To petition the Court of appropriate venue and jurisdiction on my behalf to permit my resignation as fiduciary and to request the appointment of a substituted or successor fiduciary in my place and stead, including the appointment of my lawyer attorney-in-fact as such successor or substituted fiduciary;
34. Power to Maintain, Repair, or Demolish Property. To contract with and to pay contractors or workmen to maintain, make repairs to, or demolish any property which I may own in connection with my law practice;
35. Power to Enforce Acceptance of this Durable Special Power of Attorney. To initiate any litigation that may be necessary in order to require third parties to recognize the validity of this power of attorney and to seek damages, including punitive damages, for injury to me and my law practice because of any non-recognition;
36. Power to Coordinate and Cooperate with any Other Fiduciary Action on my Behalf. To coordinate and cooperate with any other attorney-in-fact or other fiduciary action on my behalf, in order to carry out the powers conferred on my lawyer attorney-in-fact herein;
37. Power to Notify Professional Liability Insurance Carriers. To notify any professional liability insurance carriers of my disappearance, disability, incapacity, incompetence, or inability to act on my own behalf, and to cooperate with such insurance carriers regarding matters related to my insurance coverage, including the addition of my lawyer attorney-in-fact as an insured under to my policy or policies.

Except as otherwise limited in this instrument, I do give and grant unto my said lawyer attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform all and every lawful act, deed, matter and thing whatsoever in and about my law practice and property associated with my law practice as effectually to all intents and purposes as I might or could do in my own proper person if personally present, the above specially enumerated powers being in aid and exemplification of the power herein granted regarding my law practice and not in limitation or definition thereof; and I hereby ratify all that my said lawyer attorney-in-fact shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of these presents.

And I hereby declare that any act or thing lawfully done hereunder by my said lawyer attorney-in-fact shall be binding on me, and on my heirs, legal and personal representatives, and assigns, whether the same shall have been done before or after my death, or other revocation of this instrument, unless and until reliable intelligence or notice thereof shall have been received by any party who, upon the faith of this instrument, accepts my said lawyer attorney-in-fact as authorized to represent me. I intend that this power of attorney be a substitute for the necessity of any court or agency proceeding to appoint a guardian, conservator, trustee, representative payee, receiver or other similar fiduciary for my law practice, since I wish to avoid the necessity for such a proceeding; however, should it become necessary for the court or agency to appoint such a guardian, conservator, trustee, representative payee, receiver or other fiduciary. I intend that the agency created by this power of attorney shall not be subsumed, nullified, or in any way impaired by the court or agency appointment of such a guardian, trustee, conservator of my person or estate, representative payee, receiver or any other fiduciary. I intend that any such fiduciary shall not be entitled to revoke, impair or alter the agency relationship created by this power of attorney. I intend that, in accordance with the law of every state or other jurisdiction,

this power of attorney shall continue in force after any such appointment, and shall in every respect be superior to and prevail over any such appointment, regardless of the jurisdiction appointing the guardian, conservator, trustee, representative payee, receiver, or other fiduciary for the administration of my affairs regarding my law practice during my lifetime.

Any provision of the law to the contrary, no person or entity (other than a court of competent jurisdiction and the State Bar of Georgia) shall have the authority to require my said lawyer attorney-in-fact to disclose any information relating to the actions taken or not taken by my said lawyer attorney-in-fact hereunder, and no person or entity (other than a court of competent jurisdiction and the State Bar of Georgia) shall have the authority to inspect or to permit the inspection of the records maintained by my lawyer attorney-in-fact hereunder. Nonetheless, my lawyer attorney-in-fact may consent to the disclosure of such information and/or the inspection of such records if my lawyer attorney-in-fact is required to do so by court order or the order of the State Bar of Georgia.

My lawyer attorney-in-fact shall be entitled to the payment of reasonable compensation from my law practice for the services which my lawyer attorney-in-fact renders under this instrument.

I reserve the right to amend in writing or to revoke this durable special power of attorney. This power of attorney may be revoked only by a document signed by me, expressly revoking this power of attorney, and recorded in the Clerk's Office of the Court of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, Georgia. The revocation of this power of attorney shall not affect the validity of any action taken by my said lawyer attorney-in-fact prior to the revocation. This power of attorney expressly supersedes and revokes all other durable special powers of attorney heretofore made by me regarding my law practice.

The actions authorized by this power of attorney are intended to create only the authority to act; this power of attorney is not intended to create any obligation to act on the part of my lawyer attorney-in-fact. My lawyer attorney-in-fact shall neither be liable for the failure to act nor for the failure to consider taking any of the action authorized in this power of attorney. My lawyer attorney-in-fact, while acting in good faith, is released from any liability to me or my estate for any acts or failures to act of my lawyer attorney-in-fact, except for willful misconduct or gross negligence. I agree to indemnify and hold my lawyer attorney-in-fact harmless from any liability and expense, including attorney's fees, that my lawyer attorney-in-fact may incur as a result of serving under this power of attorney, except for liability or expense arising from willful misconduct or gross negligence. This indemnification agreement does not extend to any acts, errors or omissions of my lawyer attorney-in-fact while rendering or failing to render professional services in my lawyer attorney-in-fact's capacity as attorney for my former clients, after such clients have become clients of my lawyer attorney-in-fact.

This power of attorney is granted in and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia; however, I intend that this power of attorney be universally recognized and that it be universally admissible to recordation.

The captions used in this Durable Special Power of Attorney have been used for ease of reference, and are not to be used for its interpretation.

By signing below, I indicate that I am emotionally and mentally competent to make this document, and that I understand the purpose and effect of this instrument. The signature of my lawyer attorney-in-fact is shown below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this \_\_\_ day of 20\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

JOHN DOE- Grantor Lawyer

\_\_\_\_\_ (SEAL)

NAME OF LAWYER, Lawyer Attorney-in-Fact

JOHN DOE signed the foregoing durable special power of attorney in my presence. I am a disinterested witness and I am not the spouse or a blood relative of JOHN DOE.

Witness

WITNESS (Printed Name) \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF GEORGIA COUNTY

I, the undersigned Notary Public in and for the jurisdiction aforesaid, in the State of Georgia, do hereby certify that JOHN DOE, whose name is signed to the foregoing power of attorney dated the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, has acknowledged the same before me in my jurisdiction aforesaid.

Given under my hand this \_\_ day of. \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_

Notary Public

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_