

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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[BIOGRAPHY](#) | [EXPERIENCE](#) | [CREDENTIALS](#) | [MEMBERSHIPS](#) | [RECOGNITION](#) | [IN THE PRESS](#)

Biography

James B. Durham is a Partner in the HBS Brunswick office. He is a past President of the State Bar of Georgia and a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers. Throughout his career, Jim has been involved in complex civil litigation including commercial litigation, construction litigation, industrial accidents, products liability defense, professional negligence, medical malpractice defense, shareholder derivative actions, and mining law and mineral resource litigation.

He was in trial for several months in the San Juan Dupont Plaza Hotel fire case representing International Elevators, a division of Otis Elevators. He is involved extensively in commercial litigation, including trade secret litigation, contractual dispute litigation, partnership/shareholder disputes, covenants not to compete, shareholder derivative actions, tax litigation, and large industrial accidents for corporate clients. He assists his clients with OSHA investigations and hearings.

More +

Jim has been involved in medical malpractice defense work representing physicians and hospitals throughout South Georgia.

Services

[Business Litigation](#)

[Construction](#)

[Environmental, Mass Torts, & Land Use](#)

[Medical Malpractice](#)

[Products Liability](#)

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During his 30 plus-year career, he has represented numerous insurance companies in matters involving personal injury defense, coverage issues, and first party defense.

Jim graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in 1980. Jim received his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia in 1983. While at the University of Georgia, Jim was President of the Student Union, President of Gridiron, President of Sphinx Honorary Society, and President of Blue Key Honorary Society. He has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since his graduation in 1983.

He is admitted to practice in all courts in Georgia, including the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court. Jim is further admitted in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States

Jim has been a AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™ with Martindale-Hubbell for over twenty years. He has been selected as a Georgia Super Lawyer every year beginning in 2005 and has been consistently selected as one of The Best Lawyers in America.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts

- Georgia
 - Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

U.S. District Courts

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

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U.S. Courts of Appeals

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. Supreme Court

Education

- J.D., University of Georgia, 1983
- B.A., *cum laude*, University of Georgia, 1980

Memberships

- American College of Trial Lawyers, Fellow
- Brunswick-Glynn County Bar Association; Executive Committee, 1986-1990; President, 1989; Vice President, 1988; Secretary, 1987; Member
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel, Member
- Judicial Qualifications Commission, 2004-2013

More +

- Advisory Committee to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Georgia, Member, 2008-2012
- Institute of Continuing Judicial Education, Trustee, 2004-2005
- Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency; Trustee, 2004-2008; Chairman, 2008
- Institute of Continuing Legal Education, Chairman, 2003-2004
- American Bar Association, House of Delegates Member, 2003
- State Bar of Georgia; President, 2002-2003; President-Elect, 2001-2002; Treasurer, 1999-2001; Member
 - Executive Committee, 1996-2004
 - Board of Governors, 1990-2004
 - Committee on Legislation, Chairman, 1999-2000
 - Special Advisory Committee to the Pro-Bono Project
 - Disciplinary Rules & Procedures Committee
 - Judicial Procedure & Administration Committee

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- Organization of State Bar Advertising Committee
- Court Futures Committee
- State Disciplinary Board Review Panel; Chairman, 1995; Vice Chairman, 1994
- Leadership Georgia, 1997
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, Member

Experience

Business Litigation

Throughout his legal career, Jim has been involved in a variety of complex civil litigation cases, including products liability defense and both trucking industry and mineral resource litigation. He represented International Elevators, a division of Otis Elevators, in a major case related to a hotel fire.

Insurance Coverage

During his more than 30 years of practicing law, Jim has represented numerous insurance companies in matters involving personal injury defense, coverage issues, and first-party defense.

Medical Malpractice

Jim frequently handles medical malpractice defense work, representing physicians and hospitals throughout South Georgia.

Recognition

- Georgia Super Lawyer, Super Lawyers®, 2008-2023

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™, Martindale-Hubbell
- [*The Best Lawyers in America*®](#), Best Lawyers®

In the Press

55 Hall Booth Smith Lawyers Recognized as 2024 Best Lawyers® Award Recipients

[August 21, 2023](#)

We're pleased to announce that 55 lawyers have been included in the 2024 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®.

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4 Georgia HBS Attorneys Honored in the 2023 Super Lawyers Magazine

[February 9, 2023](#)

GEORGIA – February 9, 2023 – We are excited to congratulate John E. Hall, Jr., Rush S. Smith, Jr., C. Michael Johnson, and James B. Durham as they have been recognized for their outstanding legal service and selected to the 2023 Georgia Super Lawyers list once again. John E. Hall, Jr. John Hall was honored

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Hall Booth Smith Attorneys Honored by The Best Lawyers In America 2023

[August 18, 2022](#)

47 lawyers from the firm have been honored in the 2023 edition of

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

The Best Lawyers in America.

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Hall Booth Attorneys Selected as Super Lawyers in the 2022 Georgia Super Lawyers Magazine

February 14, 2022

In the 2022 edition of the Georgia Super Lawyers magazine, the law firm of Hall Booth Smith (HBS) will once again be recognized for its outstanding legal work as six of its attorneys are on the list of Super Lawyers: John E. Hall, Jr., C. Michael Johnson, Thomas Mazziotti, Rush S. Smith, Jr. of the

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