

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Attorney at Law

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[BIOGRAPHY](#) | [CREDENTIALS](#) | [IN THE PRESS](#)

Biography

Derek Fernandes is an associate attorney in the Alpharetta office, where he focuses his practice on general liability and transportation matters. Prior to joining Hall Booth Smith, Derek gained valuable litigation experience representing clients in a wide range of immigration-related legal disputes. His practice included significant client interaction, legal research, drafting pleadings and briefs, and appearing before administrative tribunals and courts. Through this work, he developed a strong foundation in advocacy, case management, and client service while working closely with clients and colleagues to achieve favorable outcomes.

More +

Derek also served as a judicial intern for the State Court of Spalding County, where he worked under the supervision of the Honorable Josh W. Thacker. In that role, he conducted legal research, reviewed case materials, and assisted the court with the preparation of legal memoranda and recommendations.

Before beginning his legal career, Derek served as a commissioned officer in the Brazilian Navy's Special Operations Marine Battalion. During his military service, he managed

Services

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procurement, contracts, budgeting, and administrative operations while leading teams of non-commissioned officers and supporting the battalion's operational needs. His military background instilled the discipline, leadership, and attention to detail that continue to guide his legal practice today.

Derek received his J.D. from Atlanta's John Marshall Law School, graduating *summa cum laude* and as valedictorian. While in law school, Derek served as a staff editor of the Law Journal and was a member of the Advocacy Board and Moot Court program. He received his Bachelor of Naval Sciences from Escola Naval. A native Portuguese speaker, Derek is fluent in Portuguese and has working proficiency in Spanish, allowing him to communicate effectively with clients from diverse backgrounds.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia

Education

- J.D., *summa cum laude*, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School
- B.S., Brazilian Naval Academy

In the Press