HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



ldemartini@hallboothsmith.com

Of Counsel

404.954.6923

BIOGRAPHY | CREDENTIALS | MEMBERSHIPS | RECOGNITION | PRESENTATIONS | PUBLICATIONS | IN THE PRESS

Biography

Laura DeMartini is a skilled and reputed trial attorney with over 20 years of experience, where she practices in the areas of medical malpractice, professional licensing, medical board matters and hospital privileging issues and has represented numerous medical professionals including anesthesiologists, chiropractors, critical care doctors, dentists, dermatologists, emergency room physicians, family practice physicians, gastroenterologists, hospitalists, intensivists, internal medicine physicians, interventional cardiologists, medical oncologists, neurologists, obstetrician-gynecologists, oncologists, ophthalmologists, optometrists, otolaryngologists, pathologists, pediatricians, perfusionists, podiatrists, pulmonologists, psychiatrists, radiation oncologists,

Services

Aging Services

Correctional Health Care

Dental

Entertainment

Medical Malpractice

Professional Malpractice & Ethics

Strategic Teams

National Trial Counsel

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radiologists, and surgeons in medical malpractice cases and in front of their respective licensing boards. In addition, Laura represents healthcare companies, staffing companies, and mental healthcare facilities in cases involving claims of negligent hiring, negligent retention and negligent credentialing, as well as professional negligence, negligence, HIPAA breaches, and intentional torts.

Laura's legal expertise spans a wide range of industries and cases, including affirmative equitable relief, bankruptcy, catastrophic injury, commercial and construction litigation, contract disputes, insurance coverage, legal and professional malpractice, premises and product liability, real estate disputes, trucking litigation, and wrongful death claims. In addition, Laura regularly represents insurance companies in matters involving bad faith and coverage disputes. Laura also maintains a regulatory practice, advising providers on regulatory compliance, assisting with internal investigations, self-reporting requirements, risk management, policy development, and legislative interpretation.

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With a national practice, Laura works on cases throughout the country and has tried cases to jury verdict in Alabama, Georgia, Iowa and South Carolina. In addition to her Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, and Missouri state bar licenses, Laura has been admitted to practice pro hac vice in courts in Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. She has additionally worked on cases in Arizona, California, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Washington.

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A native of Atlanta, Laura attended the University of Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, *magna cum laude,* in 2002. She earned her Juris Doctor degree, *cum laude*, from the University of Georgia in 2005. While at the University of Georgia, Laura was on the Editorial Board and was an Articles Editor of the Journal of Intellectual Property Law.

Additionally, while in law school, Laura was sworn in under the Third-Year Prosecutor's Act and gained trial experience with her involvement in the prosecution clinic and work in the Office of the District Attorney.

In 2016, Laura was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for Lekotek of Georgia, a local non-profit whose mission is to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities into their families, schools and communities by providing accessible play, adapted toys, technology, information and resources.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia, 2005
- Alabama, 2009
- Missouri, 2011
- Indiana, 2026

U.S. District Courts:

- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, 2006
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, 2018

U.S. Courts of Appeals:

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, 2009

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Education

- J.D., *cum laude*, University of Georgia, 2005
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, Political Science, University of Georgia, 2002
    - Double Minor in Philosophy and Speech Communication

Memberships

- DRI
    - Medical Liability and Health Care Law Committee, 2010-Present
        - Committee Chair, 2021-2023
        - Committee Vice Chair, 2019-2021
        - Seminar Chair 2016-2017
    - DRI For Life Committee, 2015-2022
    - Annual Meeting Steering Committee, 2018-2019
    - Young Lawyers Committee, 2008-2015
    - Complex Medicine Seminar Steering Committee, 2013-2014
- Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- International Association of Defense Counsel
- Lekotek of Georgia, Board of Directors, 2017-2020

Recognition

- *Top Lawyers*, Medical Malpractice Law, GaBiz Magazine, 2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Best Lawyers®, 2026-2027
    - Awarded in: Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants
- Georgia Super Lawyers, Medical Malpractice Defense, Super Lawyers, 2023 – 2024
- Georgia's Top Rated Lawyer, Martindale-Hubbell & ALM, 2022
- Top Rated Litigator, Martindale-Hubbell & ALM, 2021 – 2022

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- Elite Lawyer of the South, Martindale-Hubbell & ALM, 2021 – 2022

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- Woman Leader in the Law, ALM, 2020 – 2022
- Georgia Rising Stars, Super Lawyers, 2012 – 2020
- America's Top 100 Civil Defense Litigators®, 2019
- America's Top 100 High Stakes Litigators®, 2018
- DRI's Albert H. Parnell Outstanding Program Chair Award, 2017
- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™, Martindale-Hubbell

Presentations

- **Administrative Defense Matters, Peer Review, Hospital Privileges and Board Issues**
  National Medical Association Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly; August 2022
- **Sorry, We've Been Sued**
  National Medical Association Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly; August 2022
- **Risk Management in 2022 – Real Medical Malpractice Cases, Real Clients and Real Concerns**
  GPMA; March 2022
- **Theater of the Courtroom: The Art of Storytelling**
  DRI Annual Meeting; October 2021

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- **Theater of the Courtroom: Overcoming Obstacles at Trial in a Pandemic**
  DRI Annual Meeting; October 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  The Midwest – IPMA; September 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  SW – TPMA; September 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons**

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Face Today
APMA – The National; July 2021

- **Deposition Maneuvers of Today's Plaintiff's Bar: How to Arm Yourself and Your Client for the 30(b)(6) Battle and Beyond**
  DRI, Medical Liability & Health Care Law Seminar; July 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  Midwest – IPMA; June 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  The Western – CPMA; June 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  OFAAS; June 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  ACFAS; May 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  Goldfarb Region III; May 2021
- **Risk Management in 2021: Real Cases, Real Clients and Real Concerns**
  GPMA; February 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  NY Clinical – NYSPMA; January 2021
- **Trending Now: Complex Claims Physicians & Surgeons Face Today**
  FPMA; January 2021
- **Risk Reduction Strategies in 2020 and Beyond**
  GPMA; Educational Foundation Virtual Conference; October 2020
- **How to Reduce the Risk of a Lawsuit in 2020 and Beyond**
  National Medical Association; Virtual Annual Convention & Scientific Assembly; August 2020
- **How to Reduce the Risk of a Lawsuit in 2020 and Beyond**
  PICA; Educational Webinar CME; July 2020
- **Working From Home, Homeschooling, and the Issues**

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Both Present
DRI for Life Podcast; May 2020

- **How to Diversify Your Committee**
  DRI Leadership Conference; January 2020
- **30(b)(6) Depositions & Corporate Implications in Litigation**
  CHG Healthcare Services, Inc.; November 2019
- **Watch Your Back for Reptiles – How to Slash Back and Speak the Defense Narrative**
  Chiropractic and Beyond; Continuing Education Program; September 2019
- **Do Not Let Your 30(b)(6) Deponent Get Snaked – Slash Back and Speak the Defense Narrative**
  American Property Casualty Insurance Association; National General Counsel Conference; September 2019
- **Risk Management, Locums, Litigation & Emotions**
  Weatherby Healthcare; May 2019
- **Physician Risk – Concerning Trends and How to Avoid Them**
  APMA; May 2019
- **Newbie Mistakes – Avoiding Risk in the First Ten Years of Physician Practice**
  GPMA; February 2019
- **Physician Risk – Concerning Trends and How to Avoid Them**
  GPMA; February 2019
- **Effective Witness Preparation & Emerging Trends with Opioid Litigation**
  MagMutual Insurance Company; Claims Professional Continuing Education; January 2019
- **Understanding Malpractice Risks and the Claims Process for Chiropractors**
  OUM Webinar; January 2019
- **Lawsuits Are A Pain In The Neck PART II**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; December 2018
- **Legal and Risk Management Update**
  Conference on Foot & Ankle Surgery; November 2018
- **How to Better Understand Your Client's Business and Make Your Claims Professional's Life Easier**
  DRI Annual Meeting; Medical Liability & Health Care Law

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Committee CLE; October 2018

- **Lawsuits Are A Pain In The Neck PART II**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; October 2018
- **Simple Things You Can Do To Reduce Your Risk of a Lawsuit**
  OPMA Region 7 Fall 2018 Meeting; September 2018
- **Depositions: Medical Reptile Deposition Tactics and How to Prepare for Apex, 30(b)(6), Expert and Client Depositions, Including Physicians, Nurses, Administrators and Other Health Care Employees**
  DRI; Striking Back Against the Reptile in Medical Malpractice and Long-Term Care Cases Seminar; June 2018
- **Top Practice Improvements to Improve Patient Care and Reduce Risks**
  APMA; 2018 Beachside Scientific Seminar; May 2018
- **Top Practice Improvements to Improve Patient Care and Reduce Risks**
  GPMA; 21st Annual Georgia Summit Program; February 2018
- **Why Patients Sue**
  Heartland Foot & Ankle Conference; October 2016
- **Dealing with Audits and Compliance with Medicare, HIPAA and Healthcare Insurance**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; September 2016
- **Wound Care: Have a Seat at the High Stakes Table**
  Conference on Wound Care; May 2016
- **Why Patients Sue**
  Georgia Podiatric Medical Association Meeting; February 2016
- **Chiropractic Board Matters: Compliance with Board Rules and What to Do if You Receive a Board Subpoena or Complaint**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; September 2015
- **Do You Want to be Dr. Smith or Dr. Jones? Demonstrating and Documenting Careful, Competent and Caring Treatment**
  North Carolina Foot & Ankle Society 2015 Winter Scientific Seminar; January 2015
- **Adjusting Your Behavior to Avoid the Pain of a**

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Lawsuit
Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; December 2014

- **Don't Let a Lawsuit Trip You Up**
  Georgia Podiatric Medical Association Meeting; October 2014
- **Adjusting Your Behavior to Avoid the Pain of a Lawsuit**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; September 2014
- **Top 10 Reasons for Lawsuits Against Podiatrists**
  Alabama Podiatric Medical Association Scientific Seminar; May 2013
- **Lawsuits Are A Pain In The Neck**
  Chiropractic and Beyond Continuing Education Program; 2013
- **Collaborative Care: The Use of Consultants**
  The Podiatry Institute; 2010

Publications

- **Bibb County Jury Returns $40M Verdict Against Hospitals After Deaf Woman's Death**
  Law.com; June 28, 2023
- **Drunk, Sleeping Jurors During Virtual Malpractice Trials**
  Medscape; March 24, 2022
- **Slash Back and Speak the Defense Narrative: Do Not Let Your 30(b)(6) Deponent Get Snaked**
  DRI; For the Defense; May 2019
- **How Reptile Theory is Used in Rule 30(b)(6) Depositions in Medical Malpractice / LTC / ALF Litigation**
  DRI; The Voice of the Defense Bar; December 21, 2018

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- **What Happens in Vegas Doesn't Always Have to Stay There: DRI Medical Liability and Health Care Law Seminar focuses on emerging issues in medical liability litigation**

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DRI; For the Defense; May 2017

- **Fort Oglethorpe Loses Lawsuit Over Cricket Pitch, Ordered to Pay Nearly $90,000**
  Walker County Messenger; September 10, 2014
- **From the Publications Chair: You Get What You Give**
  DRI; For the Defense; August 2013
- **GA Court Strikes Noneconomic Caps; Two Other Tort Reform Provisions Survive**
  DRI; The Voice of the Defense Bar; December 13, 2010
- **Default by Purchaser and Judicial Process After Termination**
  National Business Institute; Continuing Legal Education; 2003

In the Press

27 HBS Partners Recognized as 2026 Top Lawyers by GaBiz Magazine

January 29, 2026

Hall Booth Smith is pleased to announce that 27 of the firm's partners have been recognized as 2026 "Top Lawyers" by GaBiz Magazine in its Winter issue.

Read Full Article

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HBS Atlanta Welcomes Two New Attorneys, Laura DeMartini & Nate Chong

November 5, 2024

The Atlanta office is excited to welcome Of Counsel Laura DeMartini and Associate D. Nathan “Nate” Chong.

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