

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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

## Biography

Laura concentrates her practice in the health care industry, regularly representing providers including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and sub-acute facilities in all phases of litigation related to both general and professional liability claims.

She 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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Laura also assists local counsel, providers, and carriers with the evaluation and management of batch claims. She routinely assists with evaluation by identifying key factors and developing a matrix to produce a comprehensive assessment of liability, causation, and damages. Her goal is to streamline the evaluation process globally and as related to each individual claim. She assists with development of resolution strategies and provides structured support throughout the litigation process.

## Services

[Aging Services](#)

[Batch Claims & Class Action](#)

[Health Care](#)

[Medical Malpractice](#)

## Strategic Teams

[Batch Claims & Class Action](#)

[Coronavirus](#)

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As a member of the [Coronavirus](#) strategic team and [Aging Services](#) practice area, Laura assists providers as they navigate fast-changing regulatory and legislative guidance at the federal, state, and local level. She is also involved in the defense of providers facing liability claims arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

## Experience

### Aging Services

Laura has experience representing long-term care and senior housing facilities including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and personal care homes in all phases of litigation.

Additionally, she maintains a regulatory practice, advising providers of long-term care and skilled nursing services on compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. She assists facilities with internal incident investigations, risk management, and policy development.

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### Government Affairs

Laura works with health care providers including long-term care providers with legislative matters including legislative interpretation and policy impact analysis.

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### Health Care

Laura represents hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care entities in administrative and civil matters. She also consults with healthcare providers on a variety of legal issues including but not limited to:

- Medical Records Documentation
- Informed Consent

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- General Consent
  - Hospital Ethics Committee Issues
  - Mental Health Commitment
  - Guardianship
  - Risk Prevention
  - Peer Review
  - Credentialing
  - Medical Staff Issues
  - Regulatory Issues
- 

## Medical Malpractice

Laura has defended hospitals, physicians, nurses, dentists, staffing agencies and other medical defendants in all phases of medical malpractice litigation involving alleged negligent care and treatment, negligent misdiagnosis, lack of consent, and wrongful death.

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## Credentials

### Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia
  - Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

### Education

- J.D., Charleston School of Law
- B.A., Auburn University, 2009

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## Memberships

- Auburn Alumni Association
- Atlanta Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute (DRI)
- Georgia Bar Association

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- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Service Juris, Inc.
- The Junior League of Atlanta

## Recognition

- [Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America](#), Best Lawyers®, 2022-2024
  - Awarded in: Elder Law, Health Care Law, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, Personal Injury Litigation - Defendants
- [Georgia Rising Star](#), Super Lawyers®, 2023-2024
- Best Mentor Honoree, Daily Report's Georgia Legal Awards, 2022
- LTC Power Lawyers, Class of 2017

## Presentations

- **COVID Litigation in a Post-Pandemic World**  
Georgia Healthcare Association Summer Convention, June 2022
- **Issues with Causation and Damages in Nursing Home Cases**  
State Bar of Georgia Nursing Home Litigation Livestream, September 2020
- **Social Media: Impact on Liability Claims**  
HBS Women's Forum: Educate, Refresh, Relax; July 2018
- **Evolving Social Media Pitfalls and Management**

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## **Strategies for Providers**

American Society for Health Risk Management Annual Conference and Exhibition, October 2017

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- **Healthcare Employees and Social Media**  
Vizient MidSouth Legal Defense & Risk Management Forum, October 2016
- **Social Media Trends and their Impact on Liability**  
Insurance Professionals of Atlanta, September 2016
- **Former Employees**  
HBS Seminar in the South, August 2016
- **Disclosures: How Much is Too Much?**  
Georgia Health Care Association Bi-annual Convention, June 2016

## **Publications**

- **[Georgia Psychiatrist-Patient Privilege](#)**  
HBS Health Care Highlights Blog; March 18, 2021
- **[Federal Court Denies Remand and Grants Dismissal Based upon PREP Act](#)**  
HBS Coronavirus Litigation Blog; February 11, 2021
- **[CMS Issues ‘Holiday Leave Recommendations Letter’ for Nursing Homes, Residents, Resident Family Members, and Staff](#)**  
HBS Health Care Highlights Blog; November 25, 2020
- **[New Developments in AI Technology Offer a Glimpse of the Future of Long Term Care: Balancing Resident Care with Safety in Light of Necessary Pandemic Precautions](#)**  
HBS Health Care Highlights Blog; November 6, 2020

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- **[CMS Issues ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ Document On Nursing Home Visitation](#)**  
HBS Coronavirus Litigation Blog; July 1, 2020

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## In the Press

### [HBS Attorneys Chosen to 2024 Georgia Rising Stars List](#)

February 9, 2024

HBS is excited to announce that four attorneys have been selected to the 2024 Georgia Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers.

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### [34 Hall Booth Smith Lawyers Named to 2024 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America](#)

August 22, 2023

Hall Booth Smith is pleased to announce that 34 lawyers have been included in the 2024 edition of Best Lawyers:

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Ones to Watch® in America. The award recognizes associates and other lawyers who are earlier in their careers for their outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. “The unparalleled methodology of Best

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## **10 HBS Attorneys Recognized as 2023 Super Lawyers® Georgia Rising Stars**

February 9, 2023

GEORGIA – February 9, 2023 – Once again, Hall Booth Smith has been recognized for its outstanding legal work as ten of its attorneys have been honored as Georgia Rising Stars® in the 2023 edition of the Georgia Super Lawyers® magazine. Attorneys Jacquelyn Smith Clarke, Jake Evans, Joel McKie, Jacob Raehn, Paul Trainor, and Tiffany

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## Hall Booth Smith Attorneys Recognized as 2023 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch

August 18, 2022

Thirty-one lawyers from Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) have been honored as Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. This recognition is given to attorneys, in a variety of practice groups, who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. This honor is based on Best Lawyers®' highly selective

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## Hall Booth Smith Attorneys Recognized as 2022 Best Lawyers: Ones

## to Watch

August 20, 2021

Thirty lawyers from Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) have been honored as Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch. This recognition is given to attorneys, in a variety of practice groups, who are earlier in their careers for outstanding professional excellence in private practice in the United States. This honor is based on Best Lawyers'® highly selective

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## Georgia Psychiatrist- Patient Privilege

March 18, 2021

By: Laura Hall Cartner, Esq. and Kelsey Kicklighter Esq. There are certain types of records in Georgia personal injury cases that are considered privileged. For example, there is the attorney-client privilege. Another important privilege is the psychiatrist-patient privilege or the mental health privilege. This privilege is

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contained in O.C.G.A. §  
24-5-501, which states that  
communications

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## [Federal Court Denies Remand and Grants Dismissal Based upon PREP Act](#)

February 11, 2021

Written by: Sandra Mekita  
Cianflone, Esq. and Laura Hall  
Cartner, Esq. On February 10,  
2021, James V. Selna in the  
Central District of California  
denied Plaintiffs' Motion to  
Remand and granted  
Defendants' Motion to  
Dismiss in Garcia v.  
Welltower OpCo Group LLC,  
et al. He found that the PREP  
Act applied to Defendants  
and completely

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## [CMS Releases New Podcast](#)

## **Series for Frontline Staff of Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of COVID-19**

November 30, 2020

Written by: Alex Battey, Esq.  
and Laura Hall Cartner, Esq.  
In early 2019, The Centers for  
Medicare and Medicaid  
Services created a podcast  
entitled “CMS Beyond the  
Policy,” describing podcasts  
as a “modern, user-friendly”  
method of keeping their  
audience informed about  
Agency developments. Past  
episodes are available on  
iTunes and at  
<https://www.cms.gov/podcast>.  
Some past topics

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## **CMS Issues “Holiday Leave Recommendations Letter” for Nursing**

## Homes, Residents, Resident Family Members, and Staff

November 25, 2020

Written by: Laura Hall  
Cartner, Esq. and Kathleen  
Wilkinson, Esq. This year, the  
holiday season certainly looks  
a little different in light of the  
ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.  
With varying limitations on  
visitation since March, this  
year will host a particularly  
unique holiday season for our  
nations nursing homes,  
caregivers, residents and  
their families. On November

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## New Developments in AI Technology Offer a Glimpse of the Future of Long

## **Term Care:** **Balancing** **Resident Care** **with Safety in** **Light of** **Necessary** **Pandemic** **Precautions**

November 6, 2020

Written by: Laura Hall  
Cartner, Esq. and Anthony  
Petrozza, Esq. COVID-19 has  
disproportionately impacted  
long term care facility  
residents and staff. While  
most of us take pause to  
reflect on the sheer tragedy  
of the effect this virus has  
had on our elder population,  
those working in long term  
healthcare remain continually  
vigilant in their

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## **CMS Issues** **'Frequently** **Asked** **Questions'** **Document On**

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## Nursing Home Visitation

July 1, 2020

Written by: Drew Graham, Esq. and Laura Hall Cartner, Esq. On June 24, 2020, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (“CMS”) issued an updated set of Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQs”) regarding nursing homes and safe visitation to residents. While explicitly encouraging nursing homes to work with state and local authorities to maintain safety, CMS

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## Hall Booth Smith Names Ten New Partners

August 1, 2019

ATLANTA – August 1, 2019 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. is pleased to announce that 10 attorneys have been named Partner as the firm recognizes the talent and dedication of leaders across numerous practice groups. The new Partners are: Laura Hall Cartner is member of the

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firm's aging services and professional liability practice groups. She

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## **Hall Booth Smith is proud to welcome Tiffany Winks and Laura Hall as Associates in Atlanta**

July 16, 2013

Hall Booth Smith is proud to welcome Tiffany Winks and Laura Hall as Associates in Atlanta. Laura Hall has recently joined HBS's Atlanta office as an Associate. She attended the Charleston School of Law, receiving her JD in 2012. While attending, she was a member of Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, and served the

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