

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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Biography

Maria P. Wood is the Managing Partner in our Raleigh office and devotes her practice to defending healthcare providers in medical malpractice and aging services cases from the inception of a claim through and including trial and appeal. She also defends clients in correctional health care, professional malpractice and ethics, products liability, appellate, and general liability matters.

In her more than twenty-five year legal career, Maria has represented hospital systems, physicians, mid-level providers, and other healthcare providers in countless specialties and their practices, long-term care facilities (skilled nursing and assisted living facilities), and medical providers in correctional facilities. Maria's practice encompasses all aspects of litigation from the pre-suit stage through trial and appeal. She represents physicians and physician extenders not only in litigation but also in matters before licensing boards including the North Carolina Medical Board and North Carolina Board of Nursing. She regularly defends hospitals and other providers against claims involving catastrophic injury and wrongful death, including birth injury cases.

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Services

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With her aging services work, Maria appreciates the distinction between skilled nursing, assisted living, and other types of long-term care communities. This experience enables her to navigate her clients through the complex litigation process and risks unique to the aging services arena.

Maria has appeared in front of the North Carolina Supreme Court, where she argued a critical procedural issue affecting North Carolina medical malpractice litigation on behalf of a local hospital. She has also argued in front of the North Carolina Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia. In 2025, Maria prevailed in the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in a correctional healthcare case, successfully defending her client when the opposing party sought reversal of an order dismissing the case. She also previously served as amicus counsel for the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys in medical malpractice defense litigation.

Maria is a seasoned litigator and trial attorney who passionately advocates for each client with the expertise she has developed over the course of her career. She enjoys advising her clients not only as to their existing cases but also assisting with risk management and litigation strategies. Maria welcomes opportunities to give presentations to clients and their organizations about these issues, and she does so regularly.

Prior to joining HBS, Maria was an Equity Partner at a long-established civil defense litigation firm in Raleigh, North Carolina, where she practiced primarily medical malpractice defense.

Maria earned her Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University and a Bachelor of Arts, with honors, in Political Science from the University of North Carolina.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- North Carolina, 2001

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- Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

U.S. District Courts:

- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

U.S. Courts of Appeals:

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

Education

- J.D., Wake Forest University
- B.A., with honors, Political Science, University of North Carolina
Carolina

Recognition

- [*The Best Lawyers in America*](#)®, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, Best Lawyers®, 2025 - 2026

Memberships

- American Society for Healthcare Risk Management, North Carolina Chapter
- DRI
- North Carolina Assisted Living Association
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys
- North Carolina Bar Association
- Wake County Bar Association

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Presentations

- **Trial Triumphs: Lessons from the Courtroom**
North Carolina Defense Attorneys Association, June 13, 2025
- **Labor Law**
NCALA Administrator Certification Program; January, April & June of 2025
- **Senior Living Litigation Trends**
NCALA Fall Conference, October 9, 2024
- **Senior Living Litigation Trends**
WTW 2024 Healthcare Risk Conference; August 1, 2024
- **Labor Law**
NCALA Administrator Certification Program; February, April, August & November of 2024
- **Senior Care: Current Liability, Licensure, and Regulatory Risk**
Long Term Care Insurance ExecuSummit; September 12, 2023

More +

- **Labor Law**
NCALA Administrator Certification Program; April, June & August of 2023
- **Catastrophic Case Impact Focus Group**
NCADA 46th Annual Meeting and Seminar; June 10, 2023
- **Workforce Development Forum**
North Carolina Assisted Living Association Fall Conference and Trade Show, 2018
- **Medical Records Documentation: Litigation-Preparedness**
North Carolina Assisted Living Association Fall Conference and Trade Show, 2013
- **Protecting Your Agency from Liability for a Tragic Event**
North Carolina Public Risk Management Association Annual Conference, 2013
- **Transforming Adult Care Homes: Disaster-Preparedness Kit Against Litigation**
North Carolina Association of Long-Term Care Facilities Annual Convention and Trade Show, 2009

In the Press

[58 HBS Attorneys Recognized as The Best Lawyers in America® Award Recipients](#)

August 16, 2024

Hall Booth Smith, P.C. is pleased to announce that 58 lawyers have been included in the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

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[The Senior Advisor: Maria Wood on Fall Management Root Cause Analysis & Disclosures](#)

January 2, 2024

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

Last month, Raleigh Partner Maria P. Wood spoke alongside Joan Porcaro and Rhonda DeMeno from WTW on the fifth and final episode in their mini-series on fall management for their podcast The Senior Advisor. The series, which covers a variety of topics concerning the senior living industry, concluded with a discussion on post-fall root cause

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[Hall Booth Smith Opens New Office in Raleigh, North Carolina](#)

January 17, 2023

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA – January 17, 2023 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) is pleased to announce the opening of a new office in Raleigh as it continues to expand its footprint throughout North Carolina to better serve client needs. The HBS Raleigh office will be led by new Partner Maria P. Wood. Maria will

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