

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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## Biography

Michael Haigler is a Partner in our Jacksonville, Florida, office and focuses his practice on the representation of health care providers, including physicians, mid-level providers, and their respective practice groups along with health care institutions. Michael has successfully defended health care providers in both jury trials and arbitration proceedings throughout Florida. In addition to medical malpractice defense, Michael has represented clients in all phases of complex commercial litigation.

Michael has defended individuals, small business owners, local school boards, universities, insurance carriers, and national corporations. He has also handled favorable appellate cases before the North Carolina Court of Appeals. Additionally, Michael's practice includes advising insurance carriers on coverage, coverage related issues, and opinions related to the same.

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Prior to joining HBS, Michael worked for insurance defense firms in Charlotte, North Carolina, focusing on general liability, health care defense, business litigation, construction defect litigation, and

## Services

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personal injury defense. Michael formerly practiced as a litigator in North Carolina and has tried numerous cases to jury verdict as lead counsel in the District and Superior Courts of North Carolina. In 2021, he was selected as a North Carolina Rising Star in Civil Litigation by Super Lawyers®. Earlier in his career he worked in the automotive industry, gaining invaluable industry experience and client exposure

Michael earned a Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the Charlotte School of Law where he was also a Merit and Achievement Scholarship recipient. In law school, Michael received CALI Awards for the highest grades in Civil Procedure, Torts, Legal Writing, Law & Economics and Construction Law, and he was the President of Phi Delta Phi, International Legal Honor Society. Michael completed a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Alabama.

Born and raised in Charlotte, North Carolina, Michael enjoys the beach, traveling, and supporting the Alabama Crimson Tide, Carolina Panthers, and Charlotte Hornets. In his free time, Michael enjoys spending time with his wife, son, and dog.

## Credentials

### Admitted

State Courts:

- Florida, 2021
- North Carolina, 2014

U.S. District Courts:

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

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## Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, Charlotte School of Law
- B.A., *summa cum laude*, University of Alabama

## Memberships

- Jacksonville Bar Association
- Mecklenburg County Bar Association (former)
  - Audit Committee (former)
  - Young Lawyers Division (former)
- North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys (former)

## Recognition

- [Florida Rising Star](#), Super Lawyers®, 2021
- [Excellence for the Future Award in Construction Law](#), CALI, Fall 2013
- [Excellence for the Future Award in Law & Economics Seminar](#), CALI, Spring 2013
- [Excellence for the Future Award in Civil Procedure II](#), CALI, Spring 2012
- [Excellence for the Future Award in Lawyering Process II](#), CALI, Spring 2012
- [Excellence for the Future Award in Torts II](#), CALI, Spring 2012

## Presentations

Michael consistently presents internal training and information sessions to various national and regional insurance carriers regarding liability, coverage, and recent case law developments affecting insureds and claim management.

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## Publications

The following and authored appellate briefs for cases appealed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals with favorable defense options:

- ***Estate of Rivas v. Fred Smith Constr.***  
Inc., 812 S.E.2d 867 (N.C. Ct. App. 2018)
- ***Hamby v. Thurman Timber Co.***  
LLC, 818 S.E.2d 318 (N.C. Ct. App. 2018)
- ***Gaines-Perkins v. McGlynn Restoration***  
LLC, 271 N.C. App. 804 (2020)

## In the Press

### Hall Booth Smith Promotes Six Partners

August 14, 2023

Hall Booth Smith celebrates as it has named six new partners, all of which have shown incredible commitment, insight, and dedication to serving their clients' needs. With their expertise spanning a multitude of practice areas, the addition of these six partners further solidifies Hall Booth Smith's position in delivering top-tier legal services and reinforces its

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## **Hall Booth Smith Adds Haigler in Jacksonville and Myers in West Palm Beach**

October 21, 2021

JACKSONVILLE and WEST PALM BEACH, FL – October 21, 2021 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) welcomes two new Associates to its offices in Florida as the firm expands to serve client needs in the Sunshine State and beyond. Michael R. Haigler is an Associate in Jacksonville where he focuses his practice on the representation

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