

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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## Biography

Nicholas J. Garcia is a Partner in our Columbus office, with a growing practice focused on bankruptcy and creditors' rights. He also specializes in labor and employment, education, government liability, and property tax appeal litigation.

Before joining Hall Booth Smith, Nick was a law clerk to the Honorable John T. Laney III, a U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Together they co-authored bankruptcy articles published in the *Mercer Law Review*. Nick earned a Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University.

During law school, he served as the Editor in Chief for the *Mercer Law Review*. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Georgia. He is admitted to practice in both Georgia and Alabama.

## Services

[Bankruptcy Creditors' Rights](#)

[Business Litigation](#)

[Education](#)

[Governmental Liability](#)

[Labor & Employment](#)

## Experience

### Bankruptcy Creditors' Rights

Nick has experience representing and advising corporate creditors in consumer and corporate bankruptcy cases filed under Chapters 7, 11, and 13 of the Bankruptcy Code. Nick is well-versed in the challenge faced by creditors hailed into bankruptcy court and the process necessary to protect creditors' interests.

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### Business Litigation

Nick assists both individuals and business in litigation involving contractual claims and representing contractor and subcontractors in construction matters.

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### Governmental Liability

Nick represents local municipalities and government entities in employment matters and ad valorem tax matters.

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### Education

Nick has handled legal matters experienced by the Muscogee County School District and other local school districts. His representation of school districts has included defending school districts in EEOC matters and litigation arising under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act as well as claims arising under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

He has also assisted in the training of school district employees on school district policies and federal law pertaining to racial harassment, sexual harassment, and non-discriminatory employment and education practices.

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## Insurance Coverage

Nick has represented insurance providers and their insureds in both first party and third party actions. His experience ranges from automobile coverage to commercial coverage in areas such as personal injury, premises liability, and bad faith.

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## Labor & Employment

In addition to his representation of school districts in employment matters, Nick assists private companies and government entities through general advisement on employment matters, defense and resolution of claims brought by current and former employees, and training employees of all levels on best practices in the workplace with the goal of preventing occurrences that could subject the client to liability.

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## Credentials

### Admitted

#### State Courts:

- Alabama
  - Supreme Court
- Georgia
  - Court of Appeals

#### U.S. District Courts:

- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia

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## Education

- J.D., *cum laude*, Mercer University, 2015
- A.B., Journalism, University of Georgia, 2011

## Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Columbus American Inn of Court
- Columbus Bar Association
- State Bar of Georgia
  - Bankruptcy Section
- W. Homer Drake, Jr. Bankruptcy American Inn of Court

## Recognition

- [\*Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America\*](#), Best Lawyers®, 2021-2025
  - Awarded in: Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights / Insolvency and Reorganization Law, Education Law, Labor and Employment Law - Management
- [\*Georgia Rising Star\*](#), Super Lawyers®, 2024

## Presentations

- **Case Update Chapter 7**  
19th Annual Middle District of Georgia Bankruptcy Law Institute, September 2016

## Publications

- [\*\*US Supreme Court Holds That Title VII Protects Homosexual And Transgender Employees\*\*](#)

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

HBS Employment Updates Blog; June 23, 2020

- **[What Should Employers Do When Employees Refuse To Return To Work For Fear Of COVID-19?](#)**

HBS Employment Updates Blog; May 8, 2020

- **[Bankruptcy](#)**  
*Mercer Law Review*, July 2017
- **[Bankruptcy](#)**  
*Mercer Law Review*, July 2016

More +

- **[Can We Keep a Secret?: The Attorney-Client Privilege and Work-Product Doctrine in the Internal Law-Firm Setting-St. Simons Waterfront, LLC v. Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, PC.](#)**  
*Mercer Law Review*, March 2014

## In the Press

### **[33 HBS Attorneys Named to 2025 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America](#)**

August 16, 2024

HBS is excited to announce that 33 lawyers have been included in the 2025 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America.

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## 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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## Fifteen HBS Attorneys Appointed to Partner

January 5, 2024

HBS introduces fifteen attorneys as newly appointed partners in recognition of their exceptional client service and outstanding leadership

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## 34 Hall Booth Smith Lawyers

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## **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: 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.

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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

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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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## [Hall Booth Smith Attorneys Recognized in the Inaugural Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch Edition](#)

August 21, 2020

Twenty lawyers from Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) have been honored in the inaugural edition of the 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

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## [US Supreme Court Holds That Title VII Protects](#)

## **Homosexual And Transgender Employees**

June 23, 2020

Written by: Melanie V. Slaton, Esq., Mariel E. Smith, Esq., and Nicholas J. Garcia, Esq.  
On June 15, 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States (“SCOTUS”) delivered the landmark opinion in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* and broadened Title VII liability to include actions by an employer based on the homosexuality or transgender status of the individual

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## **What Should Employers Do When Employees Refuse To Return To Work For Fear Of COVID-19?**

May 8, 2020

Written by: Melanie V. Slaton,

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Esq., Mariel E. Smith, Esq., and Nicholas J. Garcia, Esq. As states struggle through the process of re-opening in the wake of COVID-19, many employers are also wrestling with the question of what to do about employees who refuse work due to safety concerns or in order to take advantage

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## Hall Booth Smith Adds New Associates in Atlanta, Columbus and Nashville

December 4, 2017

ATLANTA & COLUMBUS, GA & NASHVILLE — Hall Booth Smith, P.C. has added four new associates to its offices in Atlanta and Columbus, Georgia, and Nashville, Tennessee, as the firm continues to grow its litigation practice across the Southeast. Suzanne Lewis is an associate in the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith. Her practice focuses on

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