

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Attorney at Law

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Biography

Pearson Cunningham is an Associate in our Atlanta office, practicing primarily in our appellate and governmental liability groups.

Through his work in HBS' governmental liability group, Pearson has gained valuable experience defending local governments and their employees in a wide variety of claims under federal and state law. Stemming from this experience and the effective motion practice entailed, Pearson has honed his appellate advocacy skills. He has worked on numerous cases before state and federal appellate courts and has argued before the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

More +

A native of Covington, Georgia, Pearson received his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Georgia. After serving as a legislative aide for State Representative Barry Fleming, Pearson went on to earn his Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the Georgia State University College of Law.

During law school, he served as the Legislation Editor for the *Georgia State University Law Review* in which he supervised and

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edited the Law Review's annual publication of the "Peach Sheets," which detailed the legislative history for important pieces of legislation from the Georgia General Assembly. Pearson was also an active member of the College of Law's Moot Court Board and gained valuable experience clerking for then-Judge Ellington on the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia
 - Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

U.S. District Courts:

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

U.S. Courts of Appeals:

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

Education

- J.D., *magna cum laude*, Georgia State University
- B.A., University of Georgia

Memberships

- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association, Appellate Section
- State Bar of Georgia, Appellate Section

Presentations

- **Legal Climate Panel**
Independent Insurance Agents of Georgia, Young Agents
Sales & Leadership Conference; February 8, 2023

Publications

- **Whose Precedents Count for Qualified Immunity?**
HBS Governmental Liability Blog; December 28, 2021
- **Local Government**
Mercer Law Review, December 2022
- **Local Government**
Mercer Law Review, December 2021
- **Local Government Law**
Mercer Law Review, December 2020

In the Press

Whose Precedents Count for Qualified Immunity?

December 28, 2021

Written by: Pearson
Cunningham, Esq. On October
18, 2021, the Supreme Court
summarily reversed the Ninth
Circuit's denial of qualified
immunity to a Union City,

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California police officer in Rivas-Villegas v. Cortesluna. Many commentators and critics of the qualified immunity defense were a bit surprised. Just last fall, the Court seemed to signal that its

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[Hall Booth Smith Adds Four New Associates as Firm Continues to Grow](#)

December 27, 2018

ATLANTA – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. welcomes four new associates as the firm expands its offices across the Southeast to better serve client needs. Katherine R. Heath is an associate in our office in Asheville, North Carolina, and she handles a wide variety of general liability, governmental liability and product liability matters, as well as

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