

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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## Biography

Pearson Cunningham is a partner in our Atlanta and Athens offices, 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

## Services

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*Georgia State University Law Review* in which he supervised and 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

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## 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

## Recognition

- [Top Lawyers](#), Appellate Practice, GaBiz Magazine, 2026
- [Georgia Rising Star](#), Super Lawyers®, 2025

## In the Press

### **HBS Attorneys** **Recognized in** **2026 Georgia** **Super Lawyers**

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## [& Rising Stars Lists](#)

February 16, 2026

HBS is excited to announce that nine attorneys have been recognized on the 2026 Georgia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars list.

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## [27 HBS Partners Recognized as 2026 Top Lawyers by GaBiz Magazine](#)

January 29, 2026

Hall Booth Smith is pleased to announce that 27 of the firm's partners have been recognized as 2026 "Top Lawyers" by GaBiz Magazine in its Winter issue.

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## [Hall Booth Smith Names](#)

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## Twelve Partners

July 10, 2025

Atlanta, GA (July 10, 2025) – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) is proud to announce the elevation of 12 attorneys to Partner in recognition of their outstanding legal work, unwavering dedication, and contributions to the firm’s continued growth.

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## HBS Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Georgia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars Lists

February 28, 2025

HBS is excited to announce that nine attorneys have been recognized on the 2025 Georgia Super Lawyers & Rising Stars list

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## Whose

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## **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,  
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

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

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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