

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



rrivas@hallboothsmith.com

Partner

813.329.3882

[BIOGRAPHY](#) | [CREDENTIALS](#) | [MEMBERSHIPS](#) | [RECOGNITION](#) | [PUBLICATIONS](#) | [IN THE PRESS](#)

## Biography

Ryan Rivas is Managing Partner at Hall Booth Smith's Tampa, Florida, office. He has over a decade of legal experience and specializes in defending high exposure cases involving hospitals, physicians, dentists, nurses, and other health care providers in a broad spectrum of complex professional negligence cases on national, regional, and local levels. He is also a member of the firm's National Trial Counsel Team.

In addition to his work in the field of health care litigation, Ryan also devotes a large part of his practice to defending national retailers in high exposure premises liability, negligent security, Dram shop/liquor liability, transportation/trucking matters, and other general liability matters throughout the state of Florida. Amongst his peers he is recognized as an AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™ attorney by Martindale-Hubbell.

More +

Prior to joining HBS, Ryan worked as a trial attorney in a large national insurance defense firm, where he represented multiple hospital systems, dental practices, physicians, and other health care providers in a wide range of complex medical negligence

## Services

[Aging Services](#)

[Dental](#)

[General Liability](#)

[Medical Malpractice](#)

[Premises Liability](#)

[Transportation](#)

## Strategic Teams

[National Trial Counsel](#)



# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

matters, including birth-related trauma, brain injury, catastrophic injury, and wrongful death. Ryan has also represented long-term care facilities, psychiatric facilities, and individual physicians and health care providers in connection with disciplinary proceedings in front of the Florida Department of Health.

Ryan earned a Juris Doctor from Barry University and holds a Bachelor of Social Science in Criminology with minors in both Communications and Psychology from Florida State University.

Ryan is also actively involved in numerous professional organizations including DRI, The Florida Defense Lawyers Association, The Florida Bar, and the Hillsborough County Bar Association.

Ryan was born and raised in Tampa where he resides with his wife Melissa and their daughter Charlotte. In his spare time Ryan enjoys traveling, boating, golfing, and spending time with his family.

## Credentials

### Admitted

State Courts:

- Florida

U.S. District Courts:

- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida

### Education

- J.D., Barry University, 2011
- B.S., Criminology, Florida State University, 2003

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## Memberships

- DRI
- Florida Bar Association, 2012 – Present
- Florida Defense Lawyers Association, 2020 – Present
- Florida State Alumni Association
- Hillsborough County Bar Association, 2012 – Present
- St. Petersburg Bar Association, 2020 – Present

## Recognition

- [AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated](#), High Ethical Standing, by Martindale-Hubbell

## Publications

- **[Proper Medical Charting is Critical to Protecting Against Legal Risk](#)**  
Physicians Practice; August 21, 2021
- **[Unionization Efforts in the Time of COVID-19](#)**  
Tampa Bay Business Journal; April 16, 2021

## Presentations

- **Defending the Ground: Strategies for Premises Liability Cases**  
FDLA 28th Annual Florida Liability Claims Conference; June 19, 2025

## In the Press

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## **Hall Booth Smith Adds Four Attorneys in its Tampa Office**

January 31, 2022

TAMPA, FL – January 28, 2022  
– Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS)  
has added four attorneys to  
its Tampa office as the firm  
expands to serve its health  
care clients in the state of  
Florida. Frances G. Prockop is  
a Partner in our Tampa office  
with more than three decades  
of legal experience. She  
represents

**[Read Full Article](#)**

## **Tampa Bay Times: R. Ryan Rivas Discusses Area Hospital Vaccination Policies & Mandates**

September 4, 2021

In an article published by the  
Tampa Bay Times on

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

September 3, 2021, Partner Ryan Rivas is quoted discussing Tampa Bay hospitals' vaccination policies and their hesitancy to mandate vaccination for employees. After 18 months of treating COVID patients, many nurses are leaving their jobs due to burnout. Hospital administrators fear that mandating vaccines will

[Read Full Article](#)

## **Physicians Practice: Ryan Rivas Discusses the Importance of Medical Charting in Minimizing Malpractice Risks**

August 27, 2021

In an article published online in Physicians Practice on August 19, 2021, Partner R. Ryan Rivas discusses the importance of medical charting in minimizing malpractice risks. "For attorneys who represent

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

healthcare providers, sometimes the patient's medical records can be the one piece of evidence that saves the day, but other times they can be the

[Read Full Article](#)

## Orlando Business Journal: Ryan Rivas Discusses Employer- Mandated COVID-19 Vaccines

July 20, 2021

In an article published by the Orlando Business Journal on July 19, 2021, Tampa Partner R. Ryan Rivas is quoted discussing employer mandated COVID-19 vaccines. "I think mandatory vaccination is not a popular position to take. But it might be something where popularity gets overruled by necessity," he states, noting that health care providers are

[Read Full Article](#)

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## **HBS Adds Associate Kellie Llona in Tampa**

July 14, 2021

TAMPA, FL – July 14, 2021 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) welcomes Associate Kellie Llona to its Tampa office as the firm expands to serve client needs in the state of Florida. Kellie concentrates her practice on aging services, general liability and medical malpractice defense matters. Prior to joining HBS, she worked in the

**[Read Full Article](#)**

## **Tampa Bay Business Journal: Ryan Rivas & Jacqueline Voronov on Unionization Efforts in the COVID-19 Era**

April 21, 2021

In an article published online

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

and in print in the Tampa Bay Business Journal on April 16, 2021, Partners Ryan Rivas and Jacqueline Voronov discuss unionization efforts in the COVID-19 era. “The challenges faced by employers due to COVID-19 have emerged as fresh opportunities for unions to galvanize employees more easily than ever before,” the

[Read Full Article](#)

## **Hall Booth Smith Adds Attorney Olivia M. Mejido In Tampa**

March 24, 2021

TAMPA, FL - March 24, 2021 - Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) welcomes Attorney Olivia M. Mejido to its Tampa office as the firm expands to serve client needs in the state of Florida. Olivia concentrates her practice on long-term care, medical malpractice and dental litigation defense. In addition, she represents clients in premises liability

[Read Full Article](#)



# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

## **Hall Booth Smith Adds Three Attorneys Amid Florida Expansion**

January 20, 2021

JACKSONVILLE, NORTH PALM BEACH and TAMPA, FL – Jan. 20, 2021 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) welcomes three new attorneys at its offices in Florida as the firm expands to serve client needs in the Sunshine State and beyond. William T. Viergever is Of Counsel in North Palm Beach, and he brings more than

[Read Full Article](#)

## **Hall Booth Smith Opens Tampa Office as Rivas, Maskowitz Join Firm**

November 19, 2020

TAMPA, FLORIDA – November 19, 2020 – Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) is excited to

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

announce a new office in Tampa as the firm expands to serve health care, aging services and insurance clients in the Central Florida region.

The new Tampa office is located at 2202 N Westshore Blvd, Suite 200, Tampa, Florida 33607,

[Read Full Article](#)

[Load More Posts](#)