

# HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

229.382.0515

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

## Biography

A native of Tifton, Georgia, Stephen's practice areas include general liability, premises liability, governmental liability, transportation, medical malpractice, professional negligence, and both retail and hospitality liability. He is licensed to practice in all state and superior Courts in Georgia, the Georgia Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Georgia, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

More +

Stephen graduated from Valdosta State University, *magna cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Stephen went on to earn his Juris Doctor from the Walter F. George School of Law at Mercer University. While at Valdosta State, Stephen was a letterman on the varsity football team and was twice recognized as the top male student athlete in the athletic department for his academic achievements.

Stephen has served as President and Vice-President of the Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association. Stephen now lives in Adel, Georgia, with his wife, an orthopedic nurse, and their three daughters. Outside of work, Stephen enjoys running, coaching his daughters,

## Services

[General Liability](#)

[Governmental Liability](#)

[Medical Malpractice](#)

[Premises Liability](#)

[Transportation](#)

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hunting, and fishing.

## Experience

### General Liability

Stephen has represented clients in a variety of civil litigation matters including premises liability, auto accidents, and professional negligence suits. He has handled all phases of litigation, including pre-suit investigation, discovery, mediation, motion practice, hearings, summary adjudication, trials, and appeals. Stephen has successfully represented business owners, farmers, hospitals, fraternities, retail stores, grocery stores, national restaurant chains, hotels, homeowners, landlords, and other owners and occupiers of land in premises liability actions.

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### Governmental Liability

Stephen has represented governmental entities and officials covering a wide array of issues which include property tax appeals, L.O.S.T. negotiations and litigation, employment related claims, Board of Elections hearings, attending Board of Commissioners meetings, *ante litem* notice issues, defending and advising law enforcement entities and officials, Boards of Education involving bus accidents, and general litigation matters on behalf of governmental entities such as automobile accidents and other alleged acts of negligence.

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### Medical Malpractice

Stephen concentrates his professional negligence practice on the defense of hospitals, physicians, nurses, dentists, and other licensed personnel in professional malpractice litigation. He works with the health care practitioner to highlight his or her expertise through the support of outstanding expert witnesses and

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knowledgeable, thorough, and detailed preparation for deposition and/or trial.

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## Premises Liability

Stephen has extensive experience in retail and hospitality industry claims, including slip and falls, falling merchandise, negligent construction, and food related claims. His representation ranges from pre-suit investigations to trial, mounting successful defenses on behalf of medical facilities, grocery stores, retail stores, hotels, convenience stores, gas stations, local and national restaurants, and other property owners. Stephen is not only a zealous advocate for his clients but also readily assists clients in forming better business practices in order to avoid future litigation.

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## Transportation

Stephen has represented clients in both motor vehicle accidents and incidents involving individually owned and national trucking entities. His experience ranges from on-site accident investigation through trial. Stephen has provided opinions on loss coverage, apportionment among multiple carriers and policies, uninsured/underinsured motorists, and evaluating exposure levels.

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## Credentials

### Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia
  - Court of Appeals, Supreme Court

U.S. District Courts:

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

## Education

- J.D., Mercer University, 2008
- B.A., *magna cum laude*, Valdosta State University, 2005

## Memberships

- Georgia Bar Association
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar Association: President, 2013; Vice President, 2012

## Recognition

- [AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™](#), High Ethical Standing, Martindale-Hubbell
- [Georgia Rising Star](#), Super Lawyers®, 2023

## In the Press

### Hall Booth Smith Promotes Six Partners

August 14, 2023

Hall Booth Smith celebrates  
as it has named six new

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partners, all of which have shown incredible commitment, insight, and dedication to serving their clients' needs.

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## 10 HBS Attorneys Recognized as 2023 Super Lawyers® Georgia Rising Stars

February 9, 2023

GEORGIA - February 9, 2023  
- Once again, Hall Booth Smith has been recognized for its outstanding legal work as ten of its attorneys have been honored as Georgia Rising Stars® in the 2023 edition of the Georgia Super Lawyers® magazine.  
Attorneys Jacquelyn Smith Clarke, Jake Evans, Joel McKie, Jacob Raehn, Paul Trainor, and Tiffany

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