

HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.



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Partner

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Biography

Teresa Pike Tomlinson is a Partner in our Atlanta and Columbus, Georgia, offices, where she specializes in complex trial and appellate civil practice. She is known for her ability to handle strategically complicated and potentially high value cases. She is admitted to courts throughout the country, including numerous federal circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court.

Teresa practiced law for 16 years with the plaintiff's law firm of Pope McGlamry, where she specialized in complex litigation, giving her a unique perspective in her current defense cases. As plaintiff's counsel, Teresa led a trial team to a \$21.5 million award in her client's favor, and led litigation teams in cases to include nationwide class actions, securities/derivative litigation, Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act Litigation, and Multi-District litigation.

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As a young lawyer, Teresa prosecuted civil claims for surviving families of 1996 ValuJet Air Crash, making her mark and becoming the first woman partner at her firm. She currently leads Hall Booth

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Smith's multi-district efforts battling COVID-19 related claims in health care professional settings. Teresa previously served as the mayor of Columbus, Georgia, where she oversaw nearly 3,000 employees and a \$275 million budget and was the chief elected official of the city/county government, public safety director, and Homeland Security Director for a 16-county region. She was a statewide candidate for United States Senate in 2020 finishing second in a field of seven in the primary election.

Teresa earned a Juris Doctor from Emory University and a Bachelor of Arts in Government, Economics and Business Management from Sweet Briar College in Virginia. She served as Chair of the Board of Directors for Sweet Briar College, and in 2015 she led an initiative to raise \$28.5 million in four months to avert a planned closure of her alma mater and put the college back on solid financial footing.

She is a member of the Georgia Bar and has been admitted to practice before federal and state courts across the country, including the United States Supreme Court, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Eighth and Eleventh Circuits, and the Georgia Supreme Court, among others.

Experience

Teresa is an experienced litigator and strategic thinker who has decades of leadership experience in municipal governance, complex legal matters, and crisis management. She served two terms as Mayor and Public Safety Director of the Columbus Consolidated Government, and holds National Security Secret Clearance with the U.S. Department of Defense. Earlier in her career, she focused her legal practice on complex litigation and appellate work.

Business Litigation

Teresa brings decades of experience in complex litigation, strategic decision-making, crisis management, and government leadership to HBS clients. She joined the firm in 2019 after

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completing two terms as Mayor and Public Safety Director of the Columbus Consolidated Government, and she holds National Security Secret Clearance with the U.S. Department of Defense.

She previously spent a decade and a half handling complex litigation and appellate work at Pope McGlamry, where she led a trial team to a \$21.5 million judgment in her client's favor in a contract dispute that involved a related action by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia
 - Supreme Court

U.S. Courts of Appeals:

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Other Federal Courts:

- Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
- U.S. Supreme Court

Education

- J.D., Emory University
- B.A.; Government, Economics, and Business Management; Sweet Briar College

Memberships

- Georgia Bar Association, 1991-Present
- Governor's 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, 2017-2018
- Sweet Briar College, Chair of the Board of Directors, 2015-2018
- Georgia Municipal Association, Board of Directors, 2012-2016

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- Governor's Commission on 911 System Modernization, 2012-2014
- Justice Served, Inc.; Board of Directors; 2006-2010

Recognition

- [Distinguished Peer Rated Attorney](#), Martindale-Hubbell
- Distinguished Women of Achievement, North Columbus Rotary Club, 2023
- Georgia Trend's 100 Most Influential Georgians, 2013-2018
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Award, 2018

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- Honorary Alumna Award, Columbus State University, 2017
- Rosa Parks Women of Courage Award, 2017
- Georgia Stateswoman, 2015
- Distinguished Alumnae Award, Sweet Briar College, 2011

Presentations

Teresa is often invited to speak before other municipalities across Georgia and to local chambers of commerce and business development groups. She is also a frequent guest commentator on political and legal matters on Political Rewind by Georgia Public

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Radio, MSNBC's AM Joy show and The Daily Beast.

Publications

- [How \(to This Point\) Has PREP Act Application Gone So Wrong?](#)
The New York Law Journal; December 10, 2021
- [PREP Act Pitfalls: Federal Courts Deny Providers Their Due Protections](#)
HBS Coronavirus Litigation Blog; April 26, 2021
- **Just Peachy: A Great Night for Women Candidates in Georgia**
The Daily Beast; May 23, 2018
- **In Georgia, It's the NRA and the Legislators vs. the Police**
The Daily Beast; February 22, 2018

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- **Don't Mistake Racism for Politics**
The Atlanta Journal Constitution; January 12, 2018
- **The Conservative Plan to Rewrite the Constitution, and Yes, It's a Thing**
The Daily Beast; August 21, 2017
- **Generals are Playing Vital Civilian Role Now**
The Atlanta Journal Constitution; August 12, 2017
- **Why the Republican Brand is So Strong Where I Live**
The Daily Beast; June 30, 2017
- **The Kind of Democrat Who Can Win in the South — or Anywhere**
The Daily Beast; June 11, 2017
- **Sweet Briar College Commencement Address**
American Rhetoric; May 17, 2015

In the Press

Litigators **Lounge:** **Interview with** **Teresa Pike** **Tomlinson**

March 28, 2024

This episode of Litigators Lounge brings Women's History Month to an end with special guest Teresa Pike Tomlinson, a partner in the HBS Columbus office.

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McKnight's **Long-Term** **Care News:** **Teresa** **Tomlinson on** **SCOTUS** **Decision** **Regarding** **COVID Cases**

December 2, 2022

Lawsuits against nursing homes for allegedly failing to treat residents properly during the pandemic are more likely to be heard now

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in state and not federal courts following an announcement from the U.S. Supreme Court that it would not take up the case of Saldana v Glenhaven Healthcare. Saldana died of COVID-related causes while a

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New York Law Journal: Graham & Tomlinson on Potential PREP Act Circuit Court Review

December 13, 2021

In a New York Law Journal article evaluating the application of the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP) to claims of health care provider liability related to medical countermeasures against the COVID-19 pandemic, Drew Graham and Teresa Pike Tomlinson, Partners at Hall Booth Smith, explain why the PREP Act may finally get the review

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Law360: **Teresa Pike** **Tomlinson on** **PREP Act's** **Application in** **Nursing Home** **Wrongful** **Death Suits**

November 12, 2021

In a Law360 article published on November 12, Columbus-Based Partner Teresa Pike Tomlinson commented on whether the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act should apply in wrongful death lawsuits against nursing homes. This follows the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision to allow two cases against nursing home facilities to proceed in state

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PREP Act **Pitfalls:** **Federal Courts** **Deny**

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Providers Their Due Protections

April 26, 2021

Written by: Teresa Pike
Tomlinson, Esq. and Leesa M.
Guarnotta, Esq. From the
start of COVID-19 litigation,
Federal district courts have
failed to uphold the bargain
Congress made with
healthcare workers and
facilities to provide them
exclusive federal jurisdiction
and an exclusive federal
cause of action in the face of
lawsuits arising from their
alleged

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Mayor Teresa Tomlinson to Join the Law Firm of Hall Booth Smith, P.C.

November 13, 2018

The law firm of Hall Booth
Smith, P.C. (HBS) announced
that Columbus, Georgia
Mayor Teresa Tomlinson will
join its firm as a partner

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specializing in complex litigation, crisis management and strategic solutions at the conclusion of her term. Mayor Tomlinson will be working out of the firm's Atlanta and Columbus offices. "Teresa is an amazingly

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