HALL BOOTH SMITH, P.C.

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Partner

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BIOGRAPHY | EXPERIENCE | CREDENTIALS | MEMBERSHIPS | RECOGNITION | PRESENTATIONS | PUBLICATIONS | IN THE PRESS

Biography

Terrell W. “Chip” Benton III is a Partner in the Atlanta office of Hall Booth Smith, and he specializes in general liability, professional malpractice and ethics, professional negligence, and medical malpractice. His primary focus is representing physicians, hospitals, and other health care workers in medical malpractice lawsuits, and he has represented physicians before the State Composite Medical Board and the State Dental Board.

He also has extensive experience in handling premises liability, toxic torts, malicious prosecution, trucking, and automobile liability cases and has tried over 55 jury trials throughout Georgia in these matters.

More +
Chip began his legal career as a law clerk to Honorable Kenneth Kilpatrick in the Superior Court of Clayton County, where he was responsible for drafting orders on all motions before the Court. He joined Hall Booth Smith in 2000, and became a partner in 2004.

Chip is very active in the community and volunteers with the Truancy Intervention Project, where he represents children in

Services

General Liability

Medical Malpractice

Premises Liability

Professional Malpractice & Ethics

Strategic Teams

National Trial Counsel

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juvenile court on truancy matters. He serves on the Advisory Board for the Metro Atlanta Salvation Army and has served as a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. He has been active in Peachtree Road United Methodist Church and coaching in various youth sports programs in Atlanta.

He is married to Mary T. Benton and they have two sons, Will and Marshall.

Experience

General Liability

Chip has extensive experience in general liability cases including premises liability, automobile liability, and construction.

Medical Malpractice

Chip has been litigating in the health care field since 1997. He represents doctors, nurses, and hospitals throughout the State of Georgia and handles all matters in medical negligence cases and other high exposure catastrophic injury cases. He has extensive first chair jury trial experience in all areas of Georgia with over forty jury trials. Additionally, Chip has represented physicians before the State Composite Medical Board, the State Dental Board, and other regulatory agencies.

Some recent litigation highlights include the following:

- Lead counsel in a medical malpractice case defending a rheumatologist. The allegations involved over-prescribing Imuran and failing to monitor blood levels. Received defense verdict in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.
- Lead counsel for neurosurgeon in Cobb County, Georgia for a case involving failure to treat recurrent pituitary tumor. Received defense verdict, 2008.
- Lead counsel for emergency medicine physician in Middle

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Georgia accused of failing to diagnose Stevens Johnsons Syndrome. Received defense verdict, 2008.

- Lead counsel in medical malpractice case for pain management physician. The allegations involved physician's improper technique for performing cervical epidural steroid injections. Received defense verdict, 2007.
- Lead counsel in medical malpractice case in Gwinnett County involving nursing home care. Received defense verdict for internist for his alleged failure to monitor patient's PT/INR and Coumadin levels, 2007.
- Lead counsel for orthopedic surgeon in Baldwin County, Georgia, where allegations included physician's improper removal of locking plates for radius and ulna surgery. Received defense verdict, 2007.
- Co-lead counsel for CRNA in Fulton County. CRNA allegedly moved a patient pre-surgery allegedly causing his paralysis. Received defense verdict, 2007.
- Lead counsel for cardiothoracic surgeon in Fulton County, where allegations include failure to diagnose a deep vein thrombosis post quadruple bypass surgery. Received defense verdict, 2007.
- Lead counsel for emergency room physician in wrongful death case where the physician allegedly failed to diagnose a volvulus. Received defense verdict, 2006.
- Lead counsel for family practice physician in wrongful death action for failing to diagnose Cryptococcus for a patient previously diagnosed with Sarcoidosis. Received defense verdict, 2010.
- Lead counsel for dentist accused of improperly severing the lingual nerve during an extraction. Received defense verdict, 2009.
- Lead counsel for general surgeon in placement of dialysis catheter. The allegations involved improper surgical technique and failing to recognize complication. Received defense verdict, 2013.
- Lead counsel for dermatologist in Henry County, Georgia. The allegation was improper removal of a cyst on the scalp. Received defense verdict, 2013.
- Lead counsel for urologist in Toombs County, Georgia. The allegations were that urologist improperly administered microwave therapy for prostate reduction. Received defense

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verdict, 2013.
- Lead counsel for OB/GYN in Fulton County. The allegations involved retained sutures after a hysterectomy. Received defense verdict, 2013.
- Lead counsel for vascular surgeon in Fulton County on claims for negligence while placing a catheter. Received defense verdict, 2014.
- Lead counsel for pain management physician in Coweta County including allegations of improper placement of an epidural. Received defense verdict, 2014.
- Lead counsel for pain management physician in failure response to complications post epidural in Athens-Clarke County. Received defense verdict, 2015.
- Lead counsel for hospital in Morgan County for allegations of patient fall in hospital bathroom. Received defendant's verdict, 2017
- Lead counsel for local hospital for patient fall in hospital room in Fulton County. Received defendant's verdict, 2018.

Professional Malpractice & Ethics

Chip's practice includes representation of attorneys in legal malpractice claims ranging from real estate issues to fraud to general legal matters.

Credentials

Admitted

State Courts:

- Georgia, 1995

U.S. District Courts:

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

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

Education

- J.D., University of Oklahoma, 1995
- B.A., Southern Methodist University, 1992

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Atlanta Bar Association
- DRI
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association
- Lawyers Club of Atlanta

Recognition

- *Top Lawyers*, Medical Malpractice Law, GaBiz Magazine, 2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, Legal Malpractice Law - Defendants, Best Lawyers®, 2026
- *The Best Lawyers in America®*, Medical Malpractice Law - Defendants, Best Lawyers®, 2025
- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated™, Martindale-Hubbell
- Georgia Rising Star, Super Lawyers®; 2006, 2009-2010
- Top 40 Under 40, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, 2009

Presentations

- **Defense of a Personal Injury Case**
  Georgia ICLE, 2011-2018
- **Update of Medical Malpractice Case Law**
  2008

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- **How to Avoid Malpractice Lawsuits**
  The Medical Protective Company CME for Dentists and Physicians, Atlanta; 2003-2004
- **Situational Ethics: Ethics and Professionalism at Alternative Dispute Resolution and Trial**
  The Atlanta Claims Association

More +

- **Medical Malpractice Seminar**
  Update on Case Law, 2009
- **Defense of a Personal Injury Claim: Update on Tort Reform**
  October 2009
- **Medical Malpractice Seminar**
  ICLE, November 2008
- **How to Avoid a Lawsuit?**
  Medical Protective Physician's Group, October 2007
- **Jury Trials CLE**
  State Bar of Georgia, May 2007
- **Update on Medical Malpractice Law: Recent Cases and Their Impact on the Defense**
  Annual North Georgia Seminar, November 2004

Publications

- **Update of Georgia Law on General Liability**
  Atlanta Claims Convention, 2003
- **Hospital Liability for Doctors Practicing as Independent Contractors**
  For the Record, Hall Booth Smith, 2002
- **Recent Developments in Medical Malpractice**
  Hall Booth Smith Healthcare Law Seminar, 2002
- **Court of Appeals Adopt, Continuing Treatment Doctrine in Appropriate Medical Malpractice Case Including Alleged Misdiagnosis**
  For the Record, Hall Booth Smith, 2001

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In the Press

What Hospital Boards Need to Know About Nuclear Trials

July 28, 2026

In a recent article published by the Daily Report, Sheila Kazemian and Terrell “Chip” Benton analyzed the issue of Georgia’s nuclear verdicts and offered advice on how hospital boards can navigate the aggressive litigation market.

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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

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recognized as 2026 “Top Lawyers” by GaBiz Magazine in its Winter issue.

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58 HBS Attorneys Recognized as The Best Lawyers in America® Award Recipients

August 16, 2024

Hall Booth Smith, P.C. is pleased to announce that 58 lawyers have been included in the 2025 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

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HBS Attorneys Honored by The Best Lawyers® in America

August 19, 2015

Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) is pleased to announce

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eleven lawyers from the firm were honored in the 2016 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®. This award is based on an evaluation process that includes a collection of client and lawyer evaluations and peer reviews from attorneys in the same field. These HBS attorneys and

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HBS Attorneys Honored as The Best Lawyers in America

March 6, 2015

Hall Booth Smith, P.C. (HBS) is pleased to announce nine lawyers from the firm were honored in the 2015 edition of The Best Lawyers in America®. This award is based on an evaluation process that includes a collection of client and lawyer evaluations and peer reviews from attorneys in the same field. These HBS attorneys and

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Best Lawyers Magazine Recognizes Nine HBS Attorneys as “Best Lawyers 2012”

May 10, 2012

Hall Booth Smith (HBS) has once again been recognized for its outstanding legal work. Alex H. Booth, John E. Hall, Jr., Jack G. Slover, and Jonathan Marigliano, of the Atlanta office; Michael S. Meyer von Bremen of the Albany office; Terrell W. Benton, Jr. of the Athens office; Michael G. Frick of the Brunswick office; Anthony

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