



## EDUCATION

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# Education

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Our attorneys at Hall Booth Smith have broad experience in the area of education. We provide training, counseling, policy development, as well as investigative and a full range of litigation/trial services to public schools and other educational entities.

### About Our Practice

Our attorneys handle claims involving student issues such as discipline, school violence, special education, testing/promotion, and student records. We also handle employment issues involving teacher evaluation, remediation and discipline, teacher dismissals, at-will employees, sexual harassment, Title IX and Title VII. Our firm also represents professional educators in internal disciplinary proceedings and other matters relative to their employment.

In addition to handling litigation needs, our Education Practice Group focuses on the prevention of legal problems through comprehensive board policy development and review. We also provide staff development on a variety of topics.

In addition to providing legal advice and handling litigation needs, our firm believes in the need to focus on litigation prevention through regular consultations with decision makers, resulting in early identification of concerns and issues. Our firm provides a wide range of resources in this regard. We emphasize risk management in the prevention of legal disputes through ongoing consultation and training. We provide legal seminars for administrators and staff members in personnel law, student discipline, and other issues affecting schools. Our Education Practice Group also provides legal workshops for school board members, school system officials, and professional educators. In addition, we assist school lawyers in Georgia in representing their respective school clients.

Within the area of education law, the attorneys at HBS handle a variety of issues including:

- Employment Law
- Policy Development
- Employment Benefits
- Student Discipline and Student Rights
- Civil Rights and Constitutional Law
- Board Issues
- Election Law
- Special Education Law
- Condemnation Law
- Free Speech Issues
- Real Estate Law
- Religion in the schools
- Nepotism
- The Georgia Open Meetings Act
- Bidding and Contracts
- School Bonds and Public Finance
- Privacy Law
- Desegregation
- Environmental Law
- Special Counsel to Other Attorneys



**Malcolm C.**  
**McArthur**

**Partner**

[HBS Athens Office](#)

T: 706.316.0231

[mmcarthur@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:mmcarthur@hallboothsmith.com)



**Terrell W. Benton, Jr.**

Partner  
[HBS Athens Office](#)

T: 706.316.0231

[tbenton@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:tbenton@hallboothsmith.com)



**Russell A. Britt**

Partner  
[HBS Atlanta Office](#)

T: 404.954.5000

[rbritt@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:rbritt@hallboothsmith.com)



**Drew Brooks**

Attorney at Law  
[HBS Columbus Office](#)

T: 706.243.6259

[dbrooks@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:dbrooks@hallboothsmith.com)



**Stephen W. Coles**

Of Counsel  
[HBS Charlotte Office](#)

T: 980.859.0380

[stevecoles@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:stevecoles@hallboothsmith.com)



**Donnell J. Collins**

Partner  
[HBS Atlanta Office](#)

T: 404.954.6963

[dcollins@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:dcollins@hallboothsmith.com)



**Jennifer Dorminey Herzog**

Partner  
[HBS Tifton Office](#)

T: 229.382.0515

[th.com](#)

[jd@hallboothsmith.com](mailto:jd@hallboothsmith.com)

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## **GA Special Ed Update 10.7b**

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## **GA Special Education Newsletter October 2014**

Author - Jeffrey Daniel

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## Insurance

From appraisals, coverage, claims and adjusting issues to drafting and review of insurance policy, regulatory compliance advice and dispute resolution, HBS assists insurance industry clients with resolving the many challenges they face.

In addition to managing risk and defending liability claims, we regularly advise clients on the full range of insurance products, services, and coverages, including general liability, automotive, life, property and casualty, director and officers' liability, professional malpractice, errors & omissions coverage, business interruption and environmental, cyber-risk and other specialty coverages and exclusions.

Our lawyers represent clients in courts of all levels throughout the United States, litigating class actions, multiparty and multi-district cases as well as individual lawsuits involving virtually every type of claim, coverage, fraud and bad faith action. We handle regulatory investigations and enforcement actions and are experienced with all forms of alternative dispute resolution. Active insurance coverage attorneys in the international insurance markets, we also help domestic clients gain access to the overseas market and assist foreign insurers in managing their domestic litigation.

## Education

Hall Booth Smith provides transactional and operational counsel as well as investigative and litigation services to a wide variety of public and private school entities, their administrators and boards, and others involved with the education sector. We have represented K-12 educational institutions, colleges and universities, school district board members, administrators and staff, handling the full range of school-related issues they encounter, including civil rights, First Amendment rights, student discipline, school violence, special education, testing/promotion, access to student records, and fraternity and sorority matters. Our Education lawyers also advise on and resolve employment and labor issues including teacher evaluations, remediation and discipline, teacher dismissals, at-will employment, sexual harassment, and Title VII, as well as represent professional educators in internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings and other matters related to their employment.

Recognizing that the most effective solution is prevention, we review our clients' existing policies and help them devise risk avoidance strategies and comprehensive rules, policies, and procedures to minimize their exposure. As an added value, HBS

As industry leaders, HBS Insurance Coverage lawyers have been recognized as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars in the field of insurance. Team members regularly write and lecture on insurance and property ISU issues, and are active members in insurance industry groups. As a value-added, we offer clients employee training to help their staff understand the laws and regulatory requirements impacting their industry and strategies to minimize risk exposure.

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lawyers offer training programs to assure that our clients' administrators, school board members, school system officials, educators, and staff fully understand the rules and the importance of compliance. Through these workshops, attendees learn to readily identify and address issues and concerns before they become problems.

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