

IMMIGRATION



Immigration

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From individuals to multinational corporations, HBS Immigration Attorneys help clients secure employment-based permanent and temporary visas and family-based visas, advise on compliance issues and provide proactive advice to businesses of all sizes on best practices to avoid future liability.

Comprehensive Service

Experienced handling a wide variety of business and family-based immigration concerns, we offer seamless, effective global immigration strategies, prepare and review all types of immigration-related documents, advise on immigration issues in the context of corporate transactional matters, and assist with audits, investigations and hearings. Our lawyers have represented clients before the U.S. Congress and federal regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Department of State and the Department of Labor. Fluent in several languages, including English, German, French and Bengali, we are able to assist many of our clients in their native language.

Business Immigration

Our attorneys work closely with businesses to determine the most appropriate visa category and strategy based on both long- and short-term goals. We have advised on immigration status for corporate executives, managers, professionals and other employees in virtually every visa category, including:

- H-1B (professionals in specialty occupation)
- H-2B (temporary or seasonal employees)
- H-3 (trainee)
- L-1 (intra-company transfers)
- E-1, E-2 (treaty traders and investors)
- J-1 (physicians, teachers, scholars, interns, au pairs)
- F-1 (student) including Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- TN (professionals from Canada or Mexico under NAFTA)
- B-1/B-2 (business visitors, tourists)
- P (athletes, artists and entertainers)
- O (individuals with extraordinary ability or achievements)
- Q (cultural exchange visitors).
- Permanent residency (green cards) based on employment, including labor certification (PERM).
- EB-5 Investment Based Green Cards

Our lawyers also assist with due diligence investigations, resolving immigration-related issues in the context of corporate reorganizations, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, and maintaining post-transaction work authorizations of foreign personnel.

Employment Verification, Federal Investigations & Immigration Corporate Compliance

HBS Immigration attorneys help corporate clients ensure that their employment practices comply with all immigration-related requirements including employment verification compliance requirements. We provide I-9 and E-verify counseling, conduct I-9 audits, represent clients in government audits and investigation, and proactively help clients establish and implement corporate immigration policies and procedures to minimize liability exposure.

Family-Based Immigration & Naturalization

Our Immigration Practice Group also assists individuals and families, and handles a wide array of matters such as:

- Spousal Immigrant Petitions
- Immigrant Petitions for Relatives of U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents
- Permanent Resident Applications based on Family Relationships
- Adjustment of Status and Immigrant Visa Applications
- Naturalization Applications
- VAWA-Violence Against Women Act Petitions
- K-1/K-3 (Fiancé/Fiancée) Visas
- Conditional Residency Waivers
- Waivers of Inadmissibility
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

Keeping Our Clients Current on New Laws & Trends

HBS attorneys stay current on the latest legal developments regarding immigration and related employment laws, enforcement actions, and government policy changes. We keep our clients informed through direct communication, our [immigration law blog](#), seminars and customized training programs that teach companies and their HR staff how to be in compliance with the many immigration rules and regulations impacting their businesses.

Professional Involvement

Members of our Immigration team are active in the following organizations:

- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- German American Chamber of Commerce
- Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeastern United States
- French American Chamber of Commerce.
- Georgia Indo-American Chamber of Commerce

Our lawyers also frequently lecture on immigration and employment-related topics.

Teams

Leadership



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Related Industries

Entertainment

Representing creative minds and creative businesses, Hall Booth Smith provides clients with the business advice and legal guidance needed to succeed in the ever-evolving multimedia entertainment marketplace.

From day-to-day business operations and management advice to transactional guidance and dispute resolution, our attorneys help those in the entertainment industry manage talent and preserve, protect and actualize their entertainment property and services. We have critical access to key players in the entertainment industry and provide clients with the business-oriented and dedicated legal advice needed to thrive.

Transactional and litigation attorneys work together seamlessly, handling all of our clients' legal needs and helping them achieve their goals. Our experience is diverse and includes advising clients regarding music, film, television, software, books and other print media, advertising, and graphic, visual and performing arts, social media and gaming, negotiating the full range of transaction documents and industry agreements, and litigating disputes. We assure that our clients' creativity and their rights in creative works are fully protected.

As active members of various respected industry-leading societies, including NARAS, CMA, we remain at the forefront of industry trends and legal developments. Our attorneys speak regularly on industry panels, contribute as writers to respected industry publications and serve on boards of several

Food & Agriculture

Scientific developments, technological efficiencies, global trade, and government support and regulation have changed food and fiber production in the United States into a sophisticated and complex business. From a farmer's field to a consumer's kitchen table, complicated legal issues now arise for growers, agribusinesses, distributors, brokers, and food retailers. Hall Booth Smith (HBS) specializes in providing legal counsel to and litigation and regulatory advocacy for farmers and agribusinesses.

Because most of our Agriculture Law Practice Group attorneys either grew up on a farm, earned degrees in agriculture, or have spent their careers counseling farmers and agribusinesses, our specific and keen understanding of the business practices and needs of farmers and agribusinesses superiorly position us to handle any agricultural matter. With six offices located throughout Georgia and offices in South Carolina, Tennessee and Florida, we couple the expertise and reputation of a large firm with the accessibility of a local firm.

The legal issues farmers and agribusinesses face are often unique to the agriculture sector. For example, HBS handles issues for buyers and sellers under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA), a complex federal statute which establishes a code of fair business practices that protects businesses dealing in fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables. In many cases, the laws relevant to the issues facing agriculturists arise out of the laws and regulations that are applicable to any contract, insurance policy,

industry non-profit organizations.

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property right, business organization, or succession plan.

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Retail and Hospitality

HBS helps hospitality industry clients both maximize their financial return and meet consumer service expectations.

Subject to a host of federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and code requirements and facing economic, real estate, employment and customer challenges, restaurants, hotels, leisure resorts, recreational facilities and other hospitality businesses turn to HBS for guidance. Our Hospitality lawyers are experienced advising on all aspects of hospitality businesses, from project conception and regulatory guidance through financing, development, operations and dispute resolution.

Whether addressing a labor and employment, transactional, privacy law, food and beverage, real estate or construction matter or attempting to resolve an issue involving employee benefits and compensation, intellectual property, data protection or potential liability, we advise our clients each step of the way, helping them leverage opportunities and avoid attendant risks. We vigilantly monitor the evolving regulatory and legal framework impacting our clients, to make sure that they are prepared for the future.

Government & Municipalities

With a team of former and current government leaders, and those actively involved in various areas of government, HBS offers comprehensive representation and advice to those in government, including states, counties, cities, non-profits and other related industries.

Our team members are regarded as among the most influential leaders in the state of Georgia and are repeatedly recognized for their work on behalf of clients in the government arena. Regularly interacting with legislative leaders concerning client needs, we maintain close working relationships with elected officials, appointed officials, and agency staff, enhancing our ability to provide expertise and counsel. Leveraging our connections, regulatory know-how and legal experience, we work with local, county and state government officials to craft good policy and address our clients' legislative, regulatory and legal concerns.

HBS attorneys assist clients with the full range of local, county and state government affairs, regulatory matters, lobbying efforts, and political and campaign finance issues. Understanding the regulatory

Our team of experienced litigators regularly handle claims for our hospitality industry clients in courts of all levels and has successfully defended class actions, multi-district litigation, personal injury claims, construction disputes and a wide variety of other matters. With a former State Senator and active government affairs attorneys, we are also adept at representing hospitality industry clients regarding their legal, regulatory and government affair challenges.

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framework which affects our clients' business operations, we are particularly adept at helping related regulated industries such as utilities, energy and trade associations, telecommunication companies, health care, insurance, local governments, and nonprofit organizations with compliance matters.

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