

# HM&B

## HAMILTON, MILLER & BIRTHISEL<sup>LLP</sup>

*Attorneys At Law*



**Super Lawyers**

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HM&B

Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel was founded by attorneys dedicated to the practice of admiralty and maritime, transportation, personal injury defense, international, hospitality, commercial litigation, medical and professional malpractice defense, property and casualty, construction, subrogation, and products liability law. We also provide ancillary services, including emergency and crisis management, corporate training, and arbitration.

Our firm is AV® rated by Martindale-Hubbell®, the highest peer review rating attainable by a law firm. The firm serves a wide range of industries related to our practice areas including: All transportation and marine industries; international and domestic marine and transportation insurers; ship, yacht and marine equipment manufacturers; the passenger cruise industry; ship owners and recreational boating and yacht interests; marine towing, construction, and dredging companies; vessel financing; trucking; freight forwarders, cargo carriers and insurers, all modes; hospitality; insurance; healthcare; and construction.

Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel's diverse attorneys bring a broad spectrum of backgrounds, cultures, and expertise to their practice, but they all share certain qualities. They are creative, tireless advocates in the courtroom and at the negotiating table, who know how to get results. We are unwavering in our commitment to creating a workplace that values the contribution of all of our employees, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age,

## WHY CHOOSE US?

We take great pride in our ability to quickly evaluate claims and advise our clients of the most expeditious, cost effective path to resolution. Our firm has a highly successful and consistent track record in the courtroom, at the negotiating table, and in transactional matters.

- AV® RATED
- RATED BEST OF THE BAR
- FLORIDA SUPER LAWYERS
- FLORIDA BAR BOARD CERTIFIED

disability, marital or veteran status, or any other protected status.

Clients have entrusted our lawyers with their most complex, high-exposure matters. Our lawyers have handled thousands of cases involving marine disasters, crew claims, passenger claims, aviation cargo claims, surface transportation disasters and cargo claims, wrongful death, personal injury, all manner of transportation related civil litigation and transactional matters, products liability, class actions,



medical/professional malpractice, hospitality industry claims, negligent security, premises liability, insurance coverage and bad faith, and a wide variety of international disputes.

Our attorneys have many years of experience in alternative dispute resolution and understand the preparation required, the strategy involved and have the ability to “think on their feet” and adjust quickly. We are well respected by arbitrators and mediators for our thorough knowledge of the facts of each matter and our meticulous preparation which reflects well on our clients before the arbitration or mediation has even started.

Many of the firm's partners are Florida Bar board certified or are licensed in multiple jurisdictions and the U.S. Court of International Trade. They have been consistently ranked as the Best of the Bar by the South Florida Business Journal, voted as Florida Super Lawyers in maritime and transportation representation, and recognized by their peers as achieving the highest levels of professional excellence and ethical standards.

We advise, present alternatives, and have the experience and determination to stand in front of the jury or to be tough at the negotiating table. Our success is measured by our clients’ satisfaction with the result. We never forget that mission and our partners proudly celebrate nearly twenty years of achieving this goal.

We are large enough and resourceful enough to be considered a force both in the courtroom and at the

negotiating table yet have retained a small firm approach to our client relationships. Calls are returned promptly, communication is open and frequent, our clients have close relationships with every member of their defense team, and we take the time to intimately understand our clients’ business objectives. Our legal strategies are guided by the most cost-effective approach to our clients’ particular issues. While we will tenaciously litigate our clients’ interests when necessary, we understand that successful legal representation involves more than just victory in the courtroom, it involves big-picture thinking and strong negotiating skills backed by a thorough knowledge of the law.

Our responsiveness to our clients is never more evident than in an urgent situation such as a high profile products liability case, environmental incident, transportation disaster, or major marine casualty. Our team is ready to travel wherever needed to assist with investigations and defense.

Above all, we recognize the need to understand and achieve each individual client’s goals. Both large and small companies choose us and stay with us because of our knowledge, experience, focus, and the results we produce on behalf of our clients.

To learn more about how we can assist your company in all aspects of admiralty, international maritime and transportation law, personal injury defense, or any of our other practice areas, please contact any of our offices or email us at [info@hamiltonmillerlaw.com](mailto:info@hamiltonmillerlaw.com).



# PRACTICE AREAS

HAMILTON, MILLER & BIRTHISEL, L.L.P.

We do not try to be a full service law firm. We focus on the following practice areas where we are known to be the best in our field.

## ADMIRALTY & MARITIME

- Personal Injury Defense and Wrongful Death
- Jones Act
- Unseaworthiness
- Maintenance and Cure
- Penalty Wages
- Shore excursion claims
- Marine Insurance
- Environmental
- Cargo claims
- Charter Party Disputes
- Contracts/Commercial Documents
- Maritime Financing, Bankruptcy, Liens
- Products Liability
- Recreational Boating & Personal Watercraft
- Charterer's Liabilities

## TRANSPORTATION

- Trucking Accidents
- Customs Issues
- Non-vessel operating common carriers
- CARMAC
- Cargo

## HOTEL & RESORT

- Personal Injury Defense
- Premises Liability
- Negligent Security
- Contracts & Commercial Documents
- Defense of International Claims

## LITIGATION

- Bad Faith Insurance Defense
- Commercial Litigation
- Class action
- Environmental
- Landlord/Tenant disputes
- Complex business litigation
- Personal Injury Defense
- Products Liability
- First and third party insurance coverage disputes

## MALPRACTICE

- Medical Malpractice Defense
- Professional Liability Defense

## PROPERTY & CASUALTY

- Personal Injury Defense
- Negligent Security
- Premises Liability
- Cargo, trucking, auto

## IMMIGRATION

- Work Visas
- Family Petitions
- Investor Visas



# GLOBAL REACH

Our roots may be in Florida, but our reach extends to the entire Caribbean. Your international legal counsel needs to be diverse, it needs to have a presence, and it needs to have in-depth knowledge of the region. Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, L.L.P. offers all of these important components, along with key contacts and resources throughout the region.

The attorneys of Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, L.L.P. possess varied backgrounds and cultural knowledge that is unsurpassed. Our attorneys are licensed in multiple jurisdictions in the U.S., Jamaica, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Court of International Trade. We handle matters throughout the Caribbean, including but not limited to Jamaica, the Bahamas, Barbados, the Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, Anguilla, Antigua, Trinidad and Tobago, Puerto Rico, Cayman Islands, and the Dominican Republic.

Our offices in Kingston, Jamaica and St. Thomas, USVI routinely handle cases involving insurance defense, products liability, personal injury defense, charterer's liabilities, cargo claims, medical and professional malpractice defense, insurance coverage and bad faith matters, vessel arrests, marine cargo claims, shipowner's liability, surface transportation disasters and cargo claims, and all manner of transportation related civil litigation and transactional matters.

Our lead counsel in the Kingston, Jamaica office, Herbert Hamilton, is an experienced litigator who has served as legal counsel to major domestic insurers and major cruise lines. He has more than 30 years of trial experience. Jerry Hamilton, who manages the Jamaica office, is also admitted to practice in Jamaica and practices frequently on the island.

Our lead counsel for the U.S. Virgin Islands is firm partner Jennifer Miller who is admitted to practice there and actively practices in the Virgin Islands. Ms. Miller manages our Virgin Islands office and has represented hotels, ports, and businesses in all types of litigation.

The firm is on target to continue its expansion into the Caribbean, with additional offices in the Caribbean being opened as dictated by our clients' needs. Our U.S. offices in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Tampa are strategically located in proximity to the Caribbean and give us the ability to send legal staff quickly wherever needed to assist with investigations and defense.

Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, L.L.P. presents a combination of expertise, locations, resources, and in-depth knowledge of the Caribbean that sets it apart from most other law firms. These interrelated components could be the difference between your company's success and failure when faced with a claim in the Caribbean.



# COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The leadership of Hamilton Miller & Birthisel is committed to creating a workplace that values the contribution of all of our employees, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other protected status. We understand that our clients require our attorneys and staff to offer them the innovative thinking that comes from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and viewpoints.

We don't simply call our firm diverse because we have a high percentage of female and minority professionals and staff. The diversity of our firm reaches the highest level of firm management. Three of our firm's five partners are minorities and one is a woman. The fact that our firm is managed by a diverse team speaks volumes.

Although recruiting and hiring diverse professionals and staff is important to us, we recognize that is only the beginning. We are committed to mentoring all of our employees to encourage excellence and to foster their development and success. Our diversity

initiatives are never finished but continually evolving based on the firm's growth and our desire to constantly improve our business practices to remove any barrier to the growth and realization of the potential of our employees.

We are proud to be certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) by the South Florida Minority Business Development Council, an arm of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc.®. Our firm is a member of the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms. Our attorneys belong to the Cuban American Bar Association, the Jamaican Bar Association, the Caribbean Bar Association, the Urban League, and the National Hispanic Bar Association.



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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisements. We urge you to review our professional qualifications. Before you decide, ask us to send you free, written information about our qualifications and experience.