

# LINKHORST & HOCKIN, P.A.

*Attorneys at Law*

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## **FIRM PROFILE**

Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A., is an AV-Rated boutique law firm whose primary practice is in the area of construction law and litigation. Since its inception, Linkhorst & Hockin has been rated as a Preeminent Law Firm in the area of Construction Law by the Martindale Hubbell Bar Register. The firm's two partners, Adam C. Linkhorst, Esquire, and John A. Hockin, Esquire, are both Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law. Our associates, Jason Maier and Ryan Kadyszewski are also Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law. This is a distinction held by few attorneys in the State of Florida. Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. is one of only two law firms based in Palm Beach County with the distinction of having four or more attorneys who are Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law.

Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A., represents various parties in construction disputes, including both public and private owners including condominium and homeowners associations, general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, design professionals and sureties in all types of disputes including, but not limited to, construction lien foreclosures, payment and performance bond disputes, bid protests, construction defects, construction contract disputes and other similar types of construction related matters. In addition, Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. has significant experience in representing parties in transactional construction law, such as the drafting, review and negotiation of construction contracts and other types of construction industry documentation including payment and performance bonds.

Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. is centrally located in Jupiter, Florida, to effectively represent parties in the construction industry throughout Florida. The firm's goal is to maintain its reputation as the construction law firm that serves its clients in an effective, economical and cost efficient manner. In order to achieve this, Linkhorst & Hockin puts the client's needs and goals as its top priorities and keeps in regular contact with the client so that the firm consistently acts in the client's best interests. In addition, the firm recognizes the efficacy of alternative dispute resolution as an effective technique and frequently utilizes mediation and arbitration as methods of resolving disputes. In short, Linkhorst & Hockin endeavors to provide representation in a manner which caters to the needs and goals of each individual client.

As a vital member of South Florida's construction industry, Linkhorst & Hockin recognizes the significance of maintaining an active role with various industry trade groups. The firm is an active member of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Associated Builders and Contractors Association (ABC) Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), Treasure Coast Builders Association (TCBA), Underground Contractors Association of South Florida (UCA), Engineering Contractors Association of South Florida (ECA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA), Florida Surety Association (FSA), Gold Coast Builders Association (GCBA), Florida Transportation Builders

Association (FTBA), the Reconstructing Lives Foundation and ACE Mentorship of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. In addition, the individual members of the firm are members of various legal based construction organizations, including the American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry and Construction Law subcommittee of the Florida Bar Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section and Palm Beach County Bar Association Construction Law Committee.

Both Mr. Linkhorst and Mr. Hockin have frequently lectured on various construction law topics for construction trade groups, educational organizations, and legal organizations, including the Broward County Bar Association, the Florida Bar and Florida International University's Construction Management Department. The topics of their lectures included construction lien law and payment bond issues, understanding and negotiating construction contracts, bid protests, delay and scheduling claims, licensing requirements, and alternative dispute resolution and various other issues in construction law.

### **ATTORNEY RESUMES**

**ADAM C. LINKHORST, ESQUIRE**, is the managing partner of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He was among the first class of attorneys in the State of Florida to become Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law in 2005, when that specialty area first became recognized by the Florida Bar. He maintains an AV Preeminent Rating pursuant to the Martindale-Hubbell rating system. He has focused his practice on construction law since being admitted to the Florida Bar in 1995. Mr. Linkhorst has represented various parties in construction issues, including residential and commercial owners, general contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, material suppliers, equipment rental companies and sureties in all types of disputes, including bid protests, construction lien foreclosure and defect actions, payment and performance bond claims, contract disputes and all other areas of construction litigation, arbitration and mediation. In addition, Mr. Linkhorst has significant experience in the transactional area of construction law and has drafted, reviewed and negotiated numerous construction contracts for both public and private projects.

Mr. Linkhorst received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from The State University of New York at Albany in 1991 and a Juris Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in 1995. He is admitted to practice before all state courts in Florida as well as the United States District Courts for the Southern and Northern Districts of Florida, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth, Eleventh and Federal Circuits and the United States Court for Federal Claims. In law school, Mr. Linkhorst was a member of the Nova Law Review and Moot Court Society and also served as Chief Justice on the Honor Court.

Mr. Linkhorst previously served as the chairperson of the Broward County Bar Association Construction Law Committee and has lectured for the Florida Bar, Florida International University's Construction Management Program, the Broward County Bar Association, and various Continuing Legal Education providers and trade organizations on construction law topics.

Mr. Linkhorst is an active member of several trade organizations including the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) (Florida East Coast Chapter – board member and general counsel), Associated Builders and Contractors Association (ABC) American Bar Association Forum on the Construction Industry, Construction Law subcommittee of the Florida Bar Real Property Probate & Trust Law Section, Underground Contractors Association of South Florida (UCA), Engineering Contractors Association of South Florida (ECA), Construction

Financial Management Association (CFMA) (past board member of the South Florida Chapter), Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA), and Florida Surety Association (FSA).

In 2009, Chambers and Partners (international attorney rating service) stated that: "Adam Linkhorst has set up a remarkable construction practice with Linkhorst & Hockin in Palm Beach. Appreciated for his dynamism and his ability to reach favorable settlements for his clients, he is one of the most promising lawyers in Florida." Mr. Linkhorst was identified as a Super Lawyer for 2009 by SuperLawyers.com.

Mr. Linkhorst was also honored by the Palm Beach County Legal Aid Society by being awarded the 2009 Construction Law Pro Bono Award for Palm Beach County. This honor was bestowed on Mr. Linkhorst during the Legal Aid Society's Annual Dinner, which was attended by over 700 people. The Award was given to recognize Mr. Linkhorst and Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A.'s volunteer representation of a severely disabled client whose home was subject of a foreclosure action by a contractor who had performed shoddy work.

Mr. Linkhorst is also on the board of directors of Reconstructing Lives, a foundation dedicated to seeking out individuals from the construction industry who have been dealt a hand that has created unexpected needs in their home – needs which they are incapable of meeting on their own. Whether a tragic accident has left the individual wheelchair bound, a natural disaster has devastated their home or an illness has created a specialized need. Reconstructing Lives and its partners are devoted to making the life transition easier.

Mr. Linkhorst is also on the Board of Directors of ACE Mentorship of Palm Beach and Martin Counties. *ACE* stands for *Architecture, Construction and Engineering* and is a mentorship program established to provide high school students exposure to the integrated construction industry and scholarship opportunities to further the students' educational endeavors.

**JOHN A. HOCKIN, ESQUIRE**, is a partner in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He was among the first class of attorneys in the State of Florida to become Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law in 2005, when that specialty area first became recognized by the Florida Bar. Mr. Hockin graduated *cum laude* from the University of Scranton in 1996 with a bachelor of science in political science and history and a minor in Spanish and *cum laude* from the University of Miami - School of Law in 1999. Mr. Hockin is certified to practice law in all state courts in Florida and Georgia, as well as the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Mr. Hockin has represented various public owners in construction disputes, including the City of Delray Beach, Florida, the School Board of Broward County, Florida, the School District of Palm Beach County, Florida and the Town of Golden Beach, Florida. In addition, Mr. Hockin has represented various other parties in construction disputes, including private owners, general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, design professionals and sureties in construction disputes, including bid protests, lien foreclosure issues, payment and performance bond issues, construction defect litigation and other related issues. In addition, Mr. Hockin has significant experience in drafting and reviewing construction contracts, on both public and private projects.

Mr. Hockin is an active member of several trade organizations, including the Treasure Coast Builders Association (TCBA), where he serves as an advisor to the board of directors. In addition, Mr. Hockin is a frequent lecturer on construction law issues for various Continuing

Legal Education panels, such as Lorman and Sterling Educational Services. The topics upon which Mr. Hockin has lectured include bid protests, payment and performance bond issues, construction defect law and other related issues.

**RYAN V. KADYSZEWSKI, ESQUIRE**, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University in May, 2000, with a Bachelor of Science in sociology and from the University of Florida - Levin College of Law in 2003. Mr. Kadyszewski is certified to practice law in all state courts of Florida. In 2011, Mr. Kadyszewski became Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law and thus the Florida Bar recognizes Mr. Kadyszewski as an expert in Construction Law.

Prior to his employment with Linkhorst & Hockin, Mr. Kadyszewski served as general counsel for Southwind Construction & Homes, Inc. While acting in such capacity, Mr. Kadyszewski gained a significant amount of experience in negotiating construction contracts and mediating disputes with subcontractors and other parties. In addition, while acting as general counsel for Southwind Construction & Homes, Mr. Kadyszewski regularly negotiated construction contracts with both owners and subcontractors and advised Southwind regarding various legal issues.

**JASON P. BLEVINS, ESQUIRE**, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He graduated, summa cum laude, from West Virginia University (WVU) with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with minors in Political Science and Philosophy in 1997. While at WVU, Mr. Blevins obtained numerous honors and awards for academic excellence including Golden Key National Honor Society, *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi* and *Psi Chi*, the National Honor Society in Psychology. Mr. Blevins obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from WVU in 2000.

Mr. Blevins is admitted to practice in the Florida Supreme Court (includes all Florida State courts), the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Blevins is a member of the Florida Bar, Palm Beach County Bar Association, American Association for Justice (formerly known as the Association of Trial Lawyers of America) and the American Bar Association.

Mr. Blevins has substantial litigation experience including first chair trial experience. Mr. Blevins has practiced in various areas of civil litigation including construction litigation, commercial litigation and insurance disputes including complex bad faith matters. Additionally, Mr. Blevins has experience litigating personal injury and wrongful death matters.

Mr. Blevins is also actively involved in community organizations. He works with the March of Dimes through their Walk America program to raise money for premature babies. Mr. Blevins has also provided pro bono legal services to the poor through the Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach program.

**JASON C. MAIER, ESQUIRE**, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in May, 1996, with degrees in Political Science and Economics, and received his Juris Doctorate from West Virginia University College of Law in May, 1999. Presently, Mr. Maier is licensed to practice in all State and Federal Courts in the State of Florida, is a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and sits on the Construction Law Committee of the Florida Bar Association. Additionally, Mr. Maier is an active member in construction trade groups including the Associated General Contractors, South Florida Chapter (AGC), and is an active voting member of the Legislative Political Action Committee of the Associated Builders and Contractors, South Florida Chapter (ABC).

Mr. Maier's practice is concentrated in the areas of complex commercial litigation and complex construction litigation, including lien law, bond law, and the interpretation of A.I.A. contract documents. Presently, Mr. Maier's clients primarily consist of owners, general contractors, subcontractors and design professionals. Additionally, Mr. Maier has approximately four years of experience in general tort and medical malpractice litigation and insurance law.

In 2006, Mr. Maier became Board Certified by the Florida Bar in the area of Construction Law. Mr. Maier also provides pre-litigation support services to the construction industry and provides lectures to clients and fellow lawyers on construction law and industry related issues.

**JARED S. GILLMAN, ESQUIRE**, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He graduated from the University of Miami with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Business Management and a minor in Music Business in 2005. He obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, in 2008. He is certified to practice law in all state courts of Florida as well as the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Prior to his employment at Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A., Mr. Gillman was an Assistant State Attorney for 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. While at the State Attorney's Office, Mr. Gillman participated in excess of 20 jury trials, ranging from jury selection to verdict, and was responsible for managing over 120 felony cases. Mr. Gillman was honored as an Outstanding Prosecutor in 2009 by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, one of only four selected in the State of Florida.

Mr. Gillman is a member of the Martin County Bar Association and the Justice Major Harding American Inns of Court.