

LINKHORST & HOCKIN, P.A.

Attorneys at Law

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¹ Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Construction Law

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³ Also Admitted in the State of Georgia (inactive)

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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. Linkhorst & Hockin is rated as a Preeminent Law Firm by the Martindale Hubbell Bar Register. The firm's two partners, Adam C. Linkhorst and John A. Hockin, are both Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Construction Law. This distinction is held by few attorneys in the State of Florida.

Linkhorst & Hockin represents various parties in construction disputes, including both public and private owners, condominium and homeowner's associations, general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, design professionals and sureties in all types of disputes such as those involving 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 has significant experience in representing parties in transactional construction law, such as the drafting, the review and negotiation of construction contracts and other types of construction industry documentation. Linkhorst & Hockin also practices in the area of commercial litigation, which means Linkhorst & Hockin represent parties involved with business disputes. Mr. Linkhorst is also Certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Circuit Court Mediator.

Linkhorst & Hockin 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 and cost-efficient manner. To achieve this, Linkhorst & Hockin puts its client's needs and goals as top priorities and keeps in regular contact with each client so that the firm consistently acts in the client's best interests. The firm also recognizes the efficacy of alternative dispute resolution as an effective technique and utilizes mediation and arbitration as methods of resolving disputes. In short, Linkhorst & Hockin

endeavors to provide representation which caters to the needs and goals of each individual client.

As a vital member of Florida's construction industry, Linkhorst & Hockin recognizes the significance of maintaining an active role with various industry trade groups including: the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), Associated Builders and Contractors Association (ABC) Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), Underground Contractors Association of South Florida (UCA), American Institute of Architects (AIA), Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) and ACE Mentorship. Members of the firm are also involved with various legal based construction organizations. on the Construction Industry and Construction Law subcommittee of the Florida Bar and Palm Beach County Bar Association.

Both Mr. Linkhorst and Mr. Hockin have lectured on various construction law topics for construction trade groups, educational and legal organizations. The topics of their lectures have included construction lien law and payment bond issues, construction contracts, bid protests, delay and scheduling claims, licensing requirements, alternative dispute resolution and Building Information Modeling (BIM) contracting and liability issues.

ATTORNEY PROFILES

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 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 public, commercial, and residential 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. Mr. Linkhorst is Certified by the Florida Supreme Court as a Circuit Court Mediator. Mr. Linkhorst also has significant experience with transactional construction law and has drafted, also 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 degree from Nova Southeastern University in 1995. He is admitted to practice before all state courts in Florida and the United States District Courts for the Southern, Middle 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 served as Chief Justice of the Honor Court.

Mr. Linkhorst 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 actively involved with several construction industry 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), Construction Association of South Florida (CASF), Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA), and Florida Surety Association (FSA).

Chambers and Partners (international attorney rating service) has 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 has been identified as a Super Lawyer by SuperLawyers.com.

Mr. Linkhorst was 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’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 served on the Board of Directors of Construction Angels, a foundation whose goal is to be a first responder to families who have lost a loved one who was working on a construction jobsite. Construction Angels supports the surviving family members when such an incident occurs and facilitates aid during their time of immediate need.

Mr. Linkhorst served 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.

Mr. Linkhorst is 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.

Mr. Linkhorst was selected as a Finalist by the Daily Business Review as a 2013 Most Effective Lawyer in the categories of Arbitration, Mediation, and Products Liability. The selection was based on his representation of a condominium association located in Boynton Beach, which obtained a \$24 million settlement related to defective Chinese drywall.

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 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 degree in political science and history and a minor in Spanish and with a Juris Doctorate degree *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, the Town of Golden Beach, Florida, and the Healthcare District of Palm Beach County. 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 actions, payment and performance bond disputes and construction defect litigation. In addition, Mr. Hockin has significant experience in drafting and reviewing construction contracts, for both public and private construction projects.

Mr. Hockin is actively involved with several construction trade organizations. In addition, Mr. Hockin has lectured on construction law issues for various Continuing Legal Education panels. The topics upon which Mr. Hockin has lectured include bid protests, payment and performance bond issues and construction defect law.

Mr. Hockin was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star in the areas of construction and surety law. Mr. Hockin was also selected as an American Registry Florida Outstanding Young Lawyer in the areas of construction and surety law.

MALINDA R. LINKHORST, ESQUIRE, is a Senior Attorney with Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. Mrs. Linkhorst graduated from the State University of New York at Albany in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and with a Juris Doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University in 1995. She is admitted to practice before all state courts in Florida.

While in law school, Mrs. Linkhorst was an active member of the Moot Court Society. Prior to her employment with Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A., Mrs. Linkhorst was a criminal defense attorney with the Office of the Public Defender in Broward County, Florida and has extensive litigation experience.

R. SCOTT CLAYTON, ESQUIRE, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. Mr. Clayton graduated from Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in fine art. Mr. Clayton graduated from Florida Coastal School of Law in 2004. Following graduation from law school, Mr. Clayton clerked for the Honorable Marlene Lynch Ford in the Superior Court of New Jersey. Mr. Clayton is licensed to practice law in all state courts in Florida and New Jersey, as well as the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Prior to his employment with Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A., Mr. Clayton was senior associate at a state-wide insurance defense firm where his practice focused on representing developers and contractors in construction defect litigation. Mr. Clayton also handled personal injury, premises liability, and subrogation matters. Mr. Clayton has extensive litigation experience and has tried numerous cases to verdict.

Before relocating to Florida, Mr. Clayton practiced law in New Jersey with a focus on civil rights litigation, defending police and sheriff's officers, and other public entities in cases alleging violations of constitutional rights.

Mr. Clayton is a member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association and is a member of the construction law committee. In addition, Mr. Clayton is an avid surfer and is a member of the Friends of Jupiter Beach.

GENNY L. CONTRERAS, ESQUIRE, is an attorney in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. Ms. Contreras is a member of the Palm Beach County and Martin County Bar Associations. Ms. Contreras is licensed to practice law in all Florida State Courts and the United States District Courts for the Middle and Southern Districts of Florida.

Ms. Contreras' passion for law started while studying business and owning a construction company where she holds licenses in Real Estate and is a State of Florida Certified Air Conditioning Contractor (CAC) and State of Florida Certified General Contractor (CGC). Pulled in a different direction, she decided to pursue her legal education and graduated from St. Thomas School of Law, Miami, Florida where she received her Juris Doctor Degree along with a Certificate in Environment Sustainability, Business Law, and Real Estate Law. In addition to her demanding schedule, Ms. Contreras received a Pro Bono Commendation Certificate for outstanding commitment to public service.

Ms. Contreras primarily practices in construction and civil litigation matters including commercial and contractual disputes, construction disputes and defects, construction lien and bond claims, and professional licensing complaints and related issues.

Ms. Contreras is one of the few attorneys in Florida who is simultaneously licensed as a contractor. She uses this practical, hands-on experience for the benefit of her clients.

As a lifelong resident of South Florida, she graduated from Palm Beach State College with a B.A.S. in Supervision and Management and was of the President's Academic Honors List. She was a member of the Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society.

In her free time, Ms. Contreras likes to read, kayaking, spend time with friends and family, and play pickleball.

G.M. "Mike" HEITMAN, ESQUIRE, is an associate in the firm of Linkhorst & Hockin, P.A. He has over 18 years of legal experience representing construction companies, sureties, and insurance carriers in construction litigation, arbitration, and mediation. Mr. Heitman, who has 10 years of hands-on construction experience as an engineer, estimator, project manager, and designer, became a construction attorney to better serve the interests of his fellow construction professionals and the general public as construction consumers.

Mr. Heitman has represented design professionals, contractors, construction managers, owners, insurers, sureties, and developers of multiple construction projects from single-family dwellings up to multimillion-dollar regional reservoirs. He has drafted and negotiated these construction contracts, shepherded projects throughout the permitting process, and successfully negotiated

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and resolved construction claims and disputes. When a claim or dispute cannot be resolved through mediation, he has successfully represented his clients in arbitration and litigation. With his experience as a trained professional engineer, he is equipped to provide his clients insightful representation with a grasp of technical detail.

Mr. Heitman is Board Certified in Construction Law by The Florida Bar. He is also an active participant in the legal community as a member of the Florida Bar Association and the Palm Beach County Bar Association.

He earned his civil engineering degree from Georgia Tech in 1992. He then served as a volunteer water engineer for the Peace Corps in Kenya from 1992 to 1994, afterward working on heavy civil construction projects throughout the Southeastern United States. He became licensed as a Florida Professional Engineer and a Florida Certified General Contractor in 1999. Mr. Heitman attended University of Alabama School of Law and earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 2005.

Mr. Heitman is a native Floridian with deep roots dating back over 150 years. Understanding the unique cultural and economic nuances of doing business in The Sunshine State gives Mike the insight to show clients how to legally and financially survive and thrive here.