



# BRET HAMLIN

Shareholder

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## PRACTICE FOCUS

Qualified Retirement Plans  
Executive Compensation  
Fiduciary & Prohibited  
Transactions  
Cybersecurity, Data Breach &  
Protection  
Employee Benefits & Executive  
Compensation  
Representation Before Federal  
Agencies

## EDUCATION

University of Akron, B.S., 1985  
University of Akron School of  
Law, J.D., 1991

## BAR ADMISSIONS

American Bar Association  
The Florida Bar  
Hillsborough County Bar  
Association

## COURT ADMISSIONS

All Florida State Courts

***"Bret is very knowledgeable and uses his experience and expertise to greatly assist on matters." Client quote, Chambers USA***

Bret Hamlin practices primarily in the areas of employee benefits, deferred compensation and trusts. Prior to entering the private practice of law, he provided plan design and consulting, third-party administration and investment, as well as retirement plan education services for clients.

Bret represents large, medium and small employers with respect to many employee benefit matters, including both single employer and multiple employer qualified retirement plans, executive deferred compensation and welfare benefit plan matters. A significant portion of his practice involves plan compliance, ERISA fiduciary best practices and plan corrections under Internal Revenue Service and Department of Labor compliance resolution and plan correction programs. He also represents clients before the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to employee benefits matters, including, but not limited to, Internal Revenue Service plan examinations and Department of Labor plan investigations.

Bret is an active member of the Employee Benefits Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Taxation, the Tampa Bay Pension Council and the Florida West Coast Employee Benefits Council.

Bret frequently speaks to both professional groups and plan sponsor groups regarding a variety of employee benefit topics.

## BRET HAMLIN

He is active in a number of community and civic organizations. Bret devotes a great deal of time to United States Masters Swimming and its local and regional affiliates.

### HONORS

- American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, Fellow (inducted 2015)
- AV Preeminent® Rating, Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review
- Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyer, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation (2023-2025)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*® (2008-2026)
  - Employee Benefits Law
  - 2021 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
  - 2017 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year
  - 2014 Tampa Employee Benefits (ERISA) Lawyer of the Year

### COMMUNITY & PROFESSIONAL

- Tampa Bay Pension Council, Chair
- American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, Member of the Board of Governors, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair
- American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, Employee Benefits Committee, Former Chair
- American Bar Association, Joint Committee on Employee Benefits, Former Chair
- Florida West Coast Employee Benefits Council, Former President

### NEWS & INSIGHTS

Seventy-Seven Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Recognized in the 2026 Edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *The Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® in America  
Firm News, 8.21.25

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2025 Chambers Recognition  
Firm News, 6.5.25

Eighty-Three Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2025 Publication  
Firm News, 8.15.24

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Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2024 Chambers Recognition  
Firm News, 6.6.24

Eighty-Three Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2024 Publication  
Firm News, 8.17.23

Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys and Practices Receive 2023 Chambers Recognition  
Firm News, 6.1.23

Eighty-One Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2023 Publication  
Firm News, 8.18.22

Seventy Six Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2022 Publication  
Firm News, 8.19.21

67 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys Cited in The Best Lawyers in America 2021 Publication  
Firm News, 8.20.20

2019 Best Lawyers Cites 46 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names Six "Lawyer of the Year"  
Firm News, 8.16.18

Bret Hamlin Appointed Incoming Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee of the ABA Taxation Section  
Firm News, 7.17.18

2018 Best Lawyers Cites 44 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names Five "Lawyer Of The Year"  
Firm News, 8.15.17

2017 Best Lawyers Cites 44 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names Two "Lawyers Of The Year"  
Firm News, 8.15.16

2016 Best Lawyers Cites 40 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names Five "Lawyer of the Year"  
Firm News, 8.17.15

2014 Best Lawyers Cites 42 Hill Ward Henderson Attorneys & Names Three "Lawyer Of The Year"  
Firm News, 8.30.13

## BRET HAMLIN

Best Lawyers In America  
Firm News, 7.31.12

### CLIENT ADVISORIES

IRS Provides 2-Year Grace Period for Roth Catch-Up Contribution Requirement Under Secure 2.0  
Advisory, 9.7.23

DOL Releases Cybersecurity Guidance For Retirement Plans  
Advisory, 5.24.21

Update On the ARPA Cobra Subsidy: DOL Releases Additional Guidance and Model Notices  
Advisory, 4.15.21

### NOTEWORTHY

*Chambers USA* ranks the leading lawyers and law firms across the USA. Legal rankings are based on in-depth market analysis and independent research, conducted by an experienced team of researchers. Individual lawyers are ranked in their practice area(s) based on legal knowledge and experience, ability, effectiveness and client service.

*"Bret is very knowledgeable and uses his experience and expertise to greatly assist on matters."* Client quote, *Chambers USA 2025*

*"He is very responsive, very knowledgeable and very detail-oriented."* Client quote, *Chambers USA 2024*

*"He is always on top of the issues and is very responsive."* Client quote, *Chambers USA 2023*