

SPOTLIGHT ON THE

Workers' Compensation & Employment Practice

STATEWIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Boyd & Jenerette, P.A.	3
About the Workers' Compensation Practice	5
Workers' Compensation Attorneys	7
Glen A. McClary, Shareholder / Practice Group Co-Leader	7
Benford L. Samuels, Jr., Shareholder / Practice Group Co-Leader	9
Mark K. Eckels, Shareholder	11
Blake J. Hood, Partner	13
Mary Nelson Morgan, Partner	15



About Boyd & Jenerette, P.A.

Statewide Defense in Florida and Georgia

Boyd & Jenerette is an experienced yet progressive civil litigation law firm that represents insurance companies and self-insured entities in a wide range of claims and litigation matters across Florida and Georgia.

The attorneys at Boyd & Jenerette are well aware of the current issues facing our clients including costs of defense, close file rates, extracontractual exposure and current legal trends, and therefore we partner with our clients to develop defense strategies that are beneficial both as to cost and ultimate outcome.

We strongly believe that the traditional defense firm structure that was focused almost entirely on billable hours is outdated and does not meet our clients' needs. In addition, we have found that we do not need to have multiple physical office locations in order to cost effectively service our clients' needs throughout Florida and Georgia.

We take advantage of the efficiencies that are possible due to technology and have attorneys who work remotely in multiple locations with secure access to the firm's databases.

Boyd & Jenerette applies a business approach to the practice of law and is constantly searching for innovative ways to reduce the cost of litigation for our clients.

Recognized for Credentials and Leadership

Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. strives to build long-term client relationships through outstanding service, which is reflected in part through attorney credentials and peer recognition. Six of the firm's attorneys are Board Certified by The Florida Bar, including one in the area of Civil Trial, one in Appellate Practice, two in Construction Law, and two in Workers' Compensation.

The firm is AV[®] Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and 11 of the firm's attorneys are also AV Peer Review Rated at an individual level.

Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. is also recognized in the 2018 "Best Law Firms" list by U.S. News & World Report and Best Lawyers® in the following two areas: Tier 2, Jacksonville, Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants, and Insurance Law. The firm is honored to have been recognized in Best Lawyers[®] "Best Law Firms" rankings for eight consecutive years (2011 – 2018).

Practice Areas

Appeals Alternate dispute resolution Auto liability Construction Insurance coverage and bad faith Insurance defense and general liability Longshore & maritime Mass torts Premises liability Products liability Professional liability Property damage claims Trucking and transportation Workers' compensation and employment We practice in all state, federal, appellate, and workers' compensation courts across Florida and Georgia, and other state admissions include the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.



About the Workers' Compensation & Employment Practice

The defense of workers' compensation claims has been a focal point of Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. for more than 60 years.

The firm serves clients by providing aggressive yet practical representation throughout the states of Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

The workers' compensation attorneys at Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. strive to set the standard for excellence and to stay on the forefront of workers' compensation laws, as outlined below.

- Timely returning client phone calls or emails on the same day.
- Working on nearly paperless files, allowing us to instantly have access to all data and be able to quickly respond no matter where our attorneys are located.
- Maintaining appropriate file counts to make sure each and every client gets the attention they deserve.
- Quickly assessing the client's risk and provide timely defense plans and reporting to meet client needs.
- Monitoring the file's days open with the goal to quickly resolve or bring matters to conclusion in a cost-effective manner.

Workers' compensation attorney highlights:

- Two of the practice area attorneys Mark K. Eckels, Blake J. Hood are Board Certified in Workers' Compensation Law by The Florida Bar.
- Mark Eckels served on The Florida Bar's Workers' Compensation Board Certification Committee.
- Mark Eckels served on The Florida Bar's Workers' Compensation Rules Advisory Committee.
- Blake Hood is admitted to practice in North Carolina and routinely handles workers' compensation claims in that state, in addition to his work in Florida.
- Mark Eckels and Mary Morgan are admitted to practice in Georgia and routinely handle workers' compensation claims in that state.
- Five of the practice group's attorneys are qualified as continuing education instructors by the State of Florida, Division of Financial Services, Bureau of Licensing.
- Three of the practice group attorneys are AV[®] Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell.
- In 2007, the E. Robert Williams Inn of Court was formed. Named in honor of the Firm's longtime partner, the E. Robert Williams Inn of Court was the first ever American Inn of Court devoted exclusively to the field of workers' compensation. The Inn is comprised of lawyers, judges, mediators, and law students who are significantly involved in the practice of workers' compensation. Benford Samuels served as the Inn's first vice-president, and then president, and in 2013, he received the Inn's John J. Schickel Professionalism Award.

Areas of service within the workers' compensation practice include:

- Appeals
- Claim prevention and litigation
- Coverage compliance investigations
- Defense Base Act
- Fraud defense
- General releases
- Insurance premium audits
- Jones Act
- Lien resolution and preservation
- Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act

- Medical investigations
- Medicare Set Aside allocation reviews
- Part II / Coverage B claim defense
- Special Disability Trust Fund claims
- Stop work orders
- Subpoena issuance
- Unemployment claim defense
- Uninsured employer defense
- Workers' Compensation claim defense
- Workers' Compensation Immunity
 Defense

The Firm's attorneys, paralegals and legal assistants are all committed to providing prompt and responsive client communication.

MEET OUR WORKERS' COMPENSATION ATTORNEYS



Glen A. McClary Shareholder Practice Group Co-Leader 904.353.6242 gmcclary@boydjen.com

Glen McClary maintains a statewide practice in the areas of workers' compensation, employment, business law and general litigation. He strives to provide the highest level of service with innovative legal and business solutions. He represents a wide range of clients from different industries with an emphasis on understanding his clients' needs and business practices. He was honored by the American Institute of Legal Counsel as "Top 10 Best in Client Satisfaction" for 2016 in the Workers' Compensation Division.

He is known as a counselor who partners with clients to achieve their goals by using his experience as a litigator and business leader. His focus is on finding and achieving the correct solution for the client's goals whether it be through the legal system or through other avenues. He is skilled and studied in the tactics of mediation resolution but also has a deep bench of trial experience.

Mr. McClary handles numerous cases involving significantly complex issues in multiple jurisdictions throughout the State. He frequently practices out of the Jacksonville and South Florida offices.

In the area of workers' compensation, Mr. McClary defends insurance carriers and employers in multiple industries including the trucking, transportation, construction and hospitality industries across the state of Florida in a range of matters.

He counsels employers in risk avoidance and mitigation by maintaining compliance with the Florida Division of Workers' Compensation rules and responding to legal trends. He stays abreast of changes in the law, such as the Florida Supreme Court's recent ruling finding the state's mandatory attorneys' fee schedule for workers' compensation cases unconstitutional and advises clients on adjusting trial strategies accordingly.

Mr. McClary served as sole Managing Shareholder of the Firm from 2000 to 2012, where he used his business acumen to develop and lead Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. producing a significant period of growth to one of the state's largest firms. He continues to be instrumental in leading the Firm as a prominent member of the Firm's management team.

He is a certified instructor and teaches regular courses for clients. He lectures throughout the State to various groups including judges, clients, employers, businesses and medical practitioners and the resort and hospitality sector.

Admissions

Florida, 1993 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 1993

Awards and Recognition

Listed by American Institute of Legal Counsel, Workers' Compensation Division, In the category "Top 10 Best in Client Satisfaction," 2016 Listed in *Florida Trend* Legal Elite Listed in Ultimate CEO, 2011 and 2012 Listed in Master of Industry, 2011 Listed in Who's Who among Leading Lawyers Top 5 Industry ranking in the *Jacksonville Business Journal* Book of Lists, 2011-2016 Selected to join Trade Mission to Ecuador, 2012

Memberships

American Bar Association E. Robert Williams Inns of Court The Florida Bar

- Workers' Compensation Section, Member
- Workers' Compensation Section, Past Chair
- Labor and Employment Section, Member

The Jacksonville Bar Association

Publications & Seminars

- "Interpretation of Section 33(g) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act," News and 440 Report, published by the Workers' Compensation of The Florida Bar
- "Peremptory Challenges: Not What They Used to Be," (Co-Author), The Advocate
- Various Courses, The Association of Workers' Compensation Claims Professionals
- Guest speaker to the Judges at Annual Meeting in Tallahassee, Florida
- Speaker at the Workers' Compensation Education Seminar, Jacksonville, Tampa, Tallahassee, Fort Lauderdale
- Speaker at the Florida Workers' Compensation Forum, Orlando, Florida
- Featured speaker at The Complete Survival Guide to Florida Workers' Compensation, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
- Speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Business Forum, Putnam County, Florida
- Speaker Workers' Compensation Educational Conference, Orlando, Florida

Education

J.D., with honors, Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL, 1992

- Member, Journal of Transnational Law and Policy
- Phi Delta Phi
- Mock Trial Team

B.A., University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL, 1988



Benford L. Samuels Jr. Shareholder Practice Group Co-Leader 904.493.3761 bsamuels@boydjen.com

Mr. Samuels concentrates his practice on workers' compensation disputes in Florida state courts. He also regularly defends claims brought under the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act throughout the southeastern United States. Mr. Samuels' breadth of experience in the employer liability arena has allowed him to develop an expertise in counseling employers, manufacturers, insurers, servicing agents, and self-insured entities on a diverse spectrum of employer liability issues. Mr. Samuels has lectured extensively on a wide range of topics in workers' compensation and longshore forums.

Mr. Samuels received the E. Robert Williams Inn of Court's John J. Schickel Professionalism Award in 2013. The E. Robert Williams Inn of Court is comprised of lawyers, judges, mediators, and law students who are significantly involved in the workers' compensation area of law in Jacksonville. The Inn's mission is to promote professionalism, provide tutelage and mentoring among its members, while playing an active part in North Florida's legal community. Mr. Samuels, one of the founders and past presidents of the chapter, is active in promoting the organization's mission for its members, his clients, peers, and in practice.

Admissions

Florida, 1988 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2005

Awards and Recognition

AV[®] Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell E. Robert Williams Inn of Court's John J. Schickel Professionalism Award, 2013 Listed in *904 Magazine* as "Lawyer of the Year," 2010 Listed in *Florida Trend* Magazine as Florida's "Legal Elite" (2006, 2007)

Memberships

American Bar Association The Florida Bar

Worker's Compensation Section

The Jacksonville Bar Association

- Worker's Compensation Section,
 - o Chair, 1991-1993
 - o Co-Chair, 1994-1995

Longshore Claims Association

E. Robert Williams Inn of Court

- President, 2009-2010
- Vice President (2007, 2008)

Florida Theatre Board of Directors Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM)

Publications and Seminars

- Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act in Florida
- Jones Act
- Adjuster Ethics
- Use of Mediation in the Longshore Forum
- Overview of Florida Statute 440.09 and Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act
- Instructor, State of Florida, DFS, Bureau of Licensing:
 - o 3-24a Adjuster Law & Policy
 - o 3-24b Adjuster Ethics
 - o 3-24c Adjuster Optional
- Instructor, Association of Workers' Compensation Professionals
- Featured speaker, The Complete Survival Guide to Florida Workers' Compensation, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, October, 2006
- Guest speaker, The Use of Mediation in the Longshore Forum, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Workers' Compensation Program, Jacksonville, FL

Education

J.D., Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University, Macon, GA, 1988

- Phi Delta Phi
- B.A., Mercer University, Macon, GA, 1985



Mr. Eckels devotes his practice to the defense of employers and insurance carriers in workers' compensation and Longshore claims. He practices throughout Florida and Georgia in the workers' compensation context, while his longshore and Defense Base Act practice extends nationwide.

He handles all facets of workers' compensation and longshore claims from the initial reporting of an accident and its investigation, through the discovery process to trial, and any appellate proceedings thereafter. He is routinely called upon by insurance companies to provide coverage opinions in complex coverage disputes or to evaluate jurisdictional issues that often arise between competing state and federal jurisdictions.

Mr. Eckels is Board Certified in Workers' Compensation by The Florida Bar, a designation he achieved in 2000. He served on The Florida Bar's Workers' Compensation Board Certification Committee (2007-2013), including a term as chair. He also served on The Florida Bar's Workers' Compensation Rules Advisory Committee (2002-2012), and served as chair (2011-2012).

Employers, manufacturers, insurance carriers, shippers, logistic companies, maritime employers, stevedoring companies and defense contractors are clients of Mr. Eckels. He represents companies engaged in all facets of the shipping industry, from ship to shore and overland transportation. In this regard, he serves as designated statewide or national counsel for several logistic companies, insurance carriers, longshore employers and Defense Base Act contractors.

His ability to practice law in Georgia, along with his longshore claims experience, allows him to sort out issues that arise from the concurrent jurisdiction that exists in Georgia. His maritime practice also includes the defense of Jones Act claims, general maritime negligence claims, and 905(b) claims.

Mr. Eckels lectures extensively on a wide range of workers' compensation and longshore/Defense Base Act topics. He has presented at nationally recognized seminars including the Loyola Longshore Conference in New Orleans, the Signal Maritime Conference, and the Florida Workers' Compensation Educational Conference in Orlando. In addition, he provides in-house training for clients on topics including claims handling, jurisdictional disputes, ethics, and the interplay between the ADA, FMLA, and state workers' compensation laws.

In his spare time, he is an avid runner, having completed over 75 marathons, including marathons in all 50 states, as well as marathons in Budapest, Paris, Dublin, Zurich, Athens, Antarctica and Beirut. He has completed 3 Ironman competitions (Florida, Germany and Brazil), and several half-Ironman events. He is an Eagle Scout and currently serves as an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 906 chartered by St. John's Cathedral. He served on the Board of the St. Mark's Foundation for St. Mark's Lutheran Church from 2009-2011 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for St. Mark's Ark, the church's day care. He has been a member of the Baptist Hospital Institutional Review Committee since 2003.

Admissions

Florida, 1993 Georgia, 2006 U.S. District Court

- Middle District of Florida, 1993
- Northern District of Florida, 2013
- U.S. Court of Appeals
 - 11th Circuit (1993)
 - 5th Circuit (1999)
 - 7th Circuit (2005)

Awards and Recognition

Board Certified in Workers' Compensation by The Florida Bar, 2000 to present AV[®] Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell Listed in Florida's "Legal Elite" by *Florida Trend* magazine, 2006, 2010 and 2011 Listed in Florida Super Lawyers for Transportation and Maritime, 2014-2018 Listed in "Top Lawyers" by *Jacksonville Magazine*, 2010 to 2016 Listed in Best Lawyers in America[®] for Workers' Compensation, 2013-2019

Memberships

The Florida Bar

- Board Certified in Workers' Compensation Law, 2000-present
- Workers' Compensation Board Certification Committee, 2007-2013; Chair 2012-2013
- Workers' Compensation Rules Advisory Committee, 2002-2012; Chair 2011-2012

The Georgia Bar

The Jacksonville Bar Association, Co-Chair, Workers' Compensation Section, 2008-2009 Defense Research Institute

Longshore Claims Association

Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund, Inc., Northeast Florida, Co-Chair, 2007-2008

E. Robert Williams Inn of Court, Barrister, 2007-2011

Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute

Publications and Seminars

- Instructor, Various Courses, Association of Workers' Compensation Claims Professionals
- Instructor, Workers' Compensation and Related Courses, Lorman Education Services
- Certified Instructor of Insurance Education, State of Florida.

Education

J.D., cum laude, Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, FL, 1992

- Winner, Jan Eric Cartwright Award
- Chief Justice, Stetson College of Law Honor Court
- B.A., Furman University, Greenville, SC, 1989
 - President, Student Body; Member, Omicron Delta Kappa, Lacrosse Team, Quaternion Club
 - Winner, Alfred S. Reid Award and Bradshaw-Feaster Medal for General Excellence
 - Co-chairperson, Collegiate Educational Service Corps



Blake Hood devotes his practice to the defense of employers and insurance carriers in claims and appeals arising under the Florida Workers' Compensation Act as well as claims brought under the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

He is Board Certified by The Florida Bar in Workers' Compensation, a designation he earned in 2013. He is an expert in workers' compensation law dealing with the analysis and litigation of problems or controversies arising out of the Florida Workers' Compensation Law.

His practice extends throughout the state of Florida, and he is licensed to practice law in North Carolina as well. He represents many insurance carriers and third-party administrators. Additionally, he lectures on various topics concerning state and federal workers' compensation claims.

He proudly served as Co-Chair for the Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund between 2010 and 2012 and helped co-ordinate numerous fundraising events for the purpose of raising scholarship funds for the organization. When not working, Mr. Hood enjoys spending his time with his wife and daughter, cooking, reading and playing classical guitar.

Admissions

Florida, 2002 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, 2007 North Carolina, 2006

Memberships

American Bar Association The Florida Bar

 Board Certified in Workers' Compensation Law, 2013 to present The Chester Bedell Inn of Court, Associate, 2006-2007
 E. Robert Williams Inn of Court, Barrister, 2011 to present The Jacksonville Bar Association

• Workers' Compensation Section, Co-Chair, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 The North Carolina Bar Friends of 440 Scholarship Fund, Inc., Jacksonville Division Co-Chair, 2010-2012 Phi Beta Kappa

Phi Delta Phi

Publications & Seminars:

Speaker on "Repetitive Trauma, Exposure and Occupational Disease," The Florida Bar 2016 Workers' Compensation Forum, April 7, 2016, Orlando, Florida.

"Florida Common Law Jurisprudence," by Michael Cavendish and Blake J. Hood, *The Florida Bar Journal*, January, 2007 Volume 81, No. 1, Page 8.

Mr. Hood presents seminars to numerous organizations and clients. His topics include the jurisdictional issues arising from the interaction of Florida's Workers' Compensation Act, the Jones Act, and the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

Education

J.D., Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, FL, 2002 B.A., Emory University, Atlanta, GA, 1999



Mary Nelson Morgan Partner 904.493.3759 mmorgan@boydjen.com

Mary Morgan concentrates her practice on the defense of employers and insurance carriers in workers' compensation claims and in claims arising out of the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act. Her practice also includes Jones Act, personal injury, alternative dispute resolution, and employment law. She is admitted to all local, state and federal courts in Florida.

Ms. Morgan was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 2011 and is a Florida Supreme Court Certified Mediator. She is a past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Florida Workers' Compensation Joint Underwriting Association. She joined Boyd & Jenerette, P.A. as part of a merger in 2009.

She is a native of Lincoln, Nebraska and has been practicing law in Florida since 1978.

Admissions

Florida, 1978 Georgia, 2011 U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit U.S. Claims Court Certifications Supreme Court Certified Mediator Certified Instructor of Insurance Education, Florida Department of Insurance

Awards and Recognition

AV[®] Preeminent Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell Listed in *904 Magazine* as a Top Lawyer in the area of Workers' Compensation, 2011-2013

Memberships

The Florida Bar State Bar of Georgia Jacksonville Bar Association E. Robert Williams Inn of Court, Master DOL-Joint Bar Association

Education

J.D., University of Florida College of Law, Gainesville, FL, 1977 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, 1974