

Matthews & Hawkins Law Firm

OTHER THAN PROVIDING QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES, HOW IS MATTHEWS & HAWKINS INVOLVED IN THE EMERALD COAST COMMUNITY?

Dana: We're very involved personally and professionally in our community. I've coached little league baseball and softball here for the past 20 years, and I'm proud of the young men and women I have had the privilege to coach. As a firm and as individual lawyers, we provide pro bono legal services to economically disadvantaged clients. We strive to enhance public awareness of current legal issues and we support candidates and issues during election season. We also contribute financially to the local schools and charitable organizations. Through these efforts we are honored to give back to our community.

THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL DISASTER IS CHANGING OUR WAY OF LIFE ON THE EMERALD COAST. WHY SHOULD RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS AFFECTED BY THE SPILL RETAIN LOCAL COUNSEL?

John: Matthews & Hawkins made a commitment to the Emerald Coast years ago and we will be here long after the litigation ends. Our offices are easy to find, and our lawyers are readily accessible. This is our community, and our friends, family and neighbors are those affected by this tragic disaster. We represent oil spill claimants with the same zealous advocacy that we have represented our local clients since we first hung out our shingle. BP says they are going to make it right, and we'll do everything we can to make sure they do.



DANA C. MATTHEWS,
FOUNDER AND SENIOR
PARTNER (LEFT) AND
JOHN W. HAWKINS,
MANAGING PARTNER

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACING NORTHWEST FLORIDA?

Dana: Besides the economy, the oil spill is the biggest challenge. It's already disrupted many livelihoods and is damaging our entire ecosystem. Fortunately the people of Northwest Florida are resilient, and I'm confident we'll come out of this stronger and better than we were before.

HOW HAS THE GLOBAL RECESSION IMPACTED FLORIDA COURTS?

John: The credit crisis restricts the pool of qualified purchasers to cash buyers, contributing to a foreclosure rate which is at historic levels and is placing an incredible burden on our judicial system. In many cases foreclosure can be avoided through loan modifications, a deed in lieu process or a short sale of the property. Our short sale facilitation group makes sure our clients understand the ins and outs of the current regulations governing lender relationships, and mitigate the consequences of a failed loan.

MATTHEWS & HAWKINS, P.A.

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