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# ATTORNEY<sup>(S)</sup> AT LAW

MAGAZINE

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**MIA FRIEDER**







# Hilley & Frieder

## A COUPLE OF LAWYERS FIGHTING FOR YOU

By Jan Jaben-Eilon, Photographer Jeremy Adamo

**F**or Mia Frieder, her practice is all about family. She works with her husband, Ron Hilley, and together, at Hilley & Frieder Attorneys at Law, they focus on helping families who have been devastated by others' negligence. Unlike some attorneys who have started on the defense and migrated to the plaintiff's bar, Frieder has always represented people in catastrophic personal injury cases, focusing on medical malpractice.

In fact, Frieder chose law because helping people is important to her. She was drawn to medical malpractice because the issues are challenging and always unique. Moreover, some lawyers shy away from this type of practice because the cases are expensive and time consuming. With more and more emphasis on the economics of law, this leaves some people who have been victims of malpractice without an experienced attorney to represent them. "We take serious cases; these are not just about a doctor with bad bedside manners. But we also try and handle some non-catastrophic cases, when the patient is clearly suffering with lifelong consequences from the administrations of sub-standard, negligent health care."

The emphasis on people is evident the moment you walk into the Hilley & Frieder law suite. The walls are hung with original oil paintings that depict construction workers swinging from a wrecking ball and the iconic American cowboy. Their consecutive client satisfaction awards, starting from 2016, are displayed prominently alongside their Million Dollar and Multi-Million Dollar membership certificates. In fact, the office itself operates like an extended family. Their staff are integral members of their law firm and their lives. Case in point, her legal assistant, Vanessa

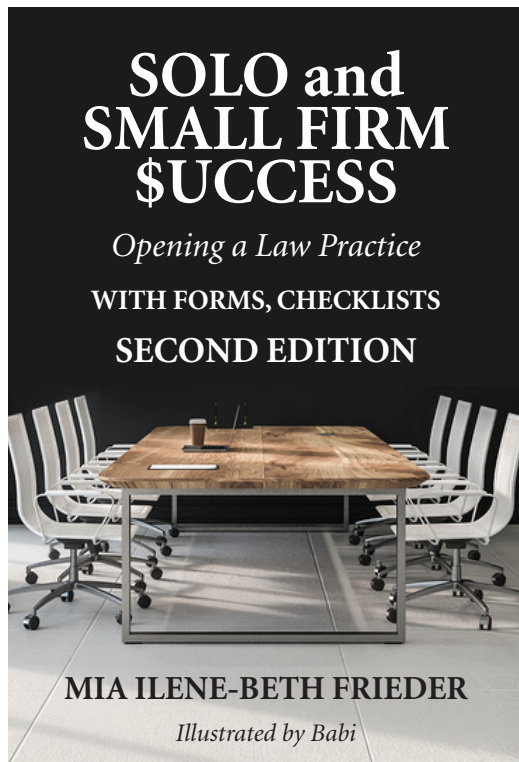
We take serious cases;...But we also try to handle some non-catastrophic cases, when the patient is clearly suffering with life long consequences from the administrations of negligent health care.

Spalding, is fluent in several languages, and is often the main point of communication with the firm's Spanish speaking clients. "We don't get hung up on hierarchies," says Frieder. "Our main goal is to help the client, and we are united on that front."

The attorneys have had several million-dollar-plus outcomes in personal injury and wrongful death cases, many of them are referrals from other attorneys. Frieder and Hilley point to a wrongful death case in Union County that resulted in an "over seven-figure" settlement – a record for that county, although not a record for them – which came to them from an attorney in Ocala, Florida.

In the Union County case, there was "gross negligence" because the doctor was in the emergency room. This was an egregious case where the defendant doctor was addicted to drugs while treating their clients' father, a retired police officer, who died as the result of alleged misdiagnosis and treatment of angio-edema, a fatal swelling of the throat which eventually closes the airway. According to the attorneys, the entire environment in the hospital had become toxic; the defendant doctor obtained opiate prescriptions from his colleagues, and he sent his subordinates to fill opiate prescriptions. In addition to the malpractice claim against the treating doctor, the attorneys brought a claim for negligent credentialing against the hospital, and Frieder authored an article on the subject which appears in this month's TRIAL magazine published by the American Association of Justice. [Click here to view article.](#)

Frieder has written extensively on medical malpractice and personal injury topics, including several articles for TRIAL on







# Married Partners

Mia Frieder and Ron Hilley



Handling a Failure to Diagnose Breast Cancer Case and has just completed serving as Editor in Chief of *The Verdict*, published by the Georgia Trial Lawyers, where she still serves on the Editorial Board.

Hilley, whose father was a law professor at Emory Law School, was naturally drawn to the profession. He spent the majority of his career focusing solely on workers' compensation and is recognized as a Super Lawyer and one of the top 1% of injured workers' attorneys in the country. However, for the past decade, Hilley has expanded his practice with Frieder to include catastrophic personal injury.

Their enthusiasm for their clients is apparent as the two attorneys talk about their work, some of which can overlap at times. "We're in a good position," says Frieder. "A client comes in with a comp case, and we find a liability case. Ron has an extensive background in work-related injuries, so we can evaluate cases quickly and can handle subrogation issues."

In fact, the attorneys often receive potential cases from other lawyers and welcome referrals. Frieder says they review the cases quickly and are very responsive. "We consider a referral from another attorney a compliment, and we try to get back with them as soon as we can, without letting the case sit."

Hilley and Frieder have two children together. Their son, Blake, is a sophomore at The Juilliard School in New York where he is studying double bass performance. An accomplished musician, Blake performs regularly at Lincoln Center, and has worked with world renown conductors like David Robertson, Joel Sachs and Itzak Perlman. Blake was recently selected to debut an original solo piece for double bass, and has written a song which will be released this fall. Blake's music can be heard on Spotify, iTunes, and on his website, [blakehilleybass.com](http://blakehilleybass.com). Their daughter, Ilana, is starting her junior year at The Galloway School, and has just completed a summer at the prestigious Brevard Music Festival where she performed as assistant principal cellist. Blake and Ilana often perform together at outreach concerts and have been invited to perform together across the Southeast.

There aren't many attorneys – or for that matter, many professionals in any line of work – who can say that their spouse has been their biggest mentor. But that's exactly what Frieder exclaims about Hilley. She says that the two of them live and breathe their work, talking about it at both lunch and dinner. "We complement each other. We work 24/7. We're all in."

## Firm Name:

Hilley & Frieder  
5855 Sandy Springs Circle, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328  
Phone 404.233.6200  
Email: [miafrieder@hilleylaw.com](mailto:miafrieder@hilleylaw.com), [ronhilley@hilleylaw.com](mailto:ronhilley@hilleylaw.com)  
[www.hilleylaw.com](http://www.hilleylaw.com)

## Founder:

Ronald Hilley, 1976

## Firm Composition

- Partners: Ronald Hilley and Mia Frieder
- Senior Support Staff: Vanessa Spalding, Senior Paralegal and Spanish Case Manager

## Practice Areas:

Medical Malpractice, Wrongful Death, Catastrophic Personal Injury and Workers Compensation

## Community/Civic Involvement:

Both Mia and Ron are strong supporters of the arts. Hilley and Frieder is a Patron of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and Mia is a Founding Member of the Advisory Board for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

## Bar Activities/Scholarly Lectures:

- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association (GTLA), Co-Chairperson, Damages, at GTLA Annual Convention, Editor-In-Chief, *Verdict* magazine, 2018-19, Member of the Editorial Board of *Verdict* since 2013, Past Chairperson, Women's Trial Lawyer Caucus, Served on GTLA's Executive Committee,
- Mia and Ron have presented at Continuing Legal Education Seminars, including GTLA Annual Convention and Holiday Convention, the American Association of Justice Annual Convention, and Emory Law Day

## Published Peer Review Articles, Law Reviews, and Books:

- *An Obligation to Vet*, *TRIAL Magazine*
- *Handling a Failure to Diagnose Breast Cancer Case*, *TRIAL Magazine*
- *When Time is Running Out, Misdiagnosed Breast Cancer*, *TRIAL Magazine*
- *The Good Samaritan Defense*, *TRIAL Magazine*
- *Recognizing and Handling Third Party Claims*, *Verdict Magazine*
- *Remanding Your Civil Case*, *Verdict Magazine*
- *Powerpoint of Persuasion – Mediation Presentations*, *Verdict Magazine*
- *Selecting and Presenting a Failure to Diagnose Breast Cancer Case*, *American Journal of Trial Advocacy*, *Cumberland School of Law*
- *Solo and Small Firm Success*, *The Harrison Company Publishers*

## Awards:

Mia and Ron have numerous awards including Super Lawyers, Million Dollar and Multi- Million Dollar Advocates, Rated 5.0 out of 5.0 Martindale Hubbell, Rated 10 out of 10 Avvo, National Trial Lawyers Top 25 Medical Malpractice Attorneys, National Academy of Personal Injury Lawyers Top 10, Top 1% of Injured Workers Attorneys from the Workers' Injury Law Group, but the most meaningful award is their Client Satisfaction Awards for three consecutive years.