



**40** under  
F O R T Y 2011

**H**amilton Hill seems to be able to do anything. At 35, he's a partner at Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott. And his record proves he can handle a multi-million dollar claim for a plaintiff and turn around to tackle a multi-million – and even multi-billion dollar – action for a defendant.

A nominator – the General Counsel of a publicly-traded manufacturing firm – hired Hill in 2010 to defend a challenging personal injury action. The case involved a catastrophic injury, sympathetic plaintiffs, voluminous documents, numerous experts, experienced opposing counsel, complicated third party issues, and the possibility of punitive damages. The nominator needed lead counsel who was quick, tough, strategic, diplomatic, and a superb day-to-day practitioner. Hill showed he had all those qualities when, after his performance at an all-day mediation shortly before trial, the case settled for a fraction of the plaintiff's original demand. The nominator called Hill's work "A+ quality" and said that he fulfilled all of the necessary roles with "exceptional skill."

"Speaking to a room crowded with several attorneys, plaintiffs, insurance representatives, third parties, etc., Hamilton delivered a concise, on-target presentation that laid out powerful arguments for our defense. Most importantly, he did it in a style that did not alienate plaintiffs or their attorneys and, we believe, demonstrated to everyone his ability to connect with a jury at trial," said the nominator.

The nominator added that Hill also "demonstrated an interpersonal style in client relations that made it a pleasure to deal with him, even as we tackled thorny issues. It is rare to find a litigator like Hamilton who has the mettle to handle tough issues in difficult circumstances and do it in a way that does not alienate people."

In Hill's most recent case, he was part of the team that successfully defended United Technologies (UTC) against Rolls-Royce's \$3.7 billion patent infringement claim. Rolls-Royce alleged UTC infringed its patent with technology UTC uses in more than a dozen of its jet engines, including those on the Airbus A380, the world's largest airplane. Hill led UTC's defense on damages issues. UTC argued that Rolls-Royce's expert's damages report – and Rolls-Royce's entire \$3.7 billion damages claim – should be thrown out. The court agreed, stating that Rolls-Royce's damages claim "is based on misstatements of the law, a lack of sound evidence, and unsupported economic assumptions .... [Rolls-Royce's expert's] report reads more like a lawyer's brief advocating for the highest conceivable damages award rather than an expert trying to assist the trier of fact reach a reasonable damages figure. Because of this extensive overreaching, the entire report is undermined." The Court also granted UTC summary judgment of non-infringement.

Hill has also successfully represented plaintiffs at trial. In *Krippelz v. Ford Motor Company*, he represented the plaintiff in a patent infringement action involving automotive exterior mirror lighting systems. At trial, Ford's damages expert testified that the proper damages were under \$1 million. Hill attacked the expert's credibility during cross-examination, and the jury ultimately awarded his client \$23 million. The court increased the total award to \$56 million after finding willful infringement and including prejudgment interest. That case is currently on appeal.

Hill attributes his success to learning from the great attorneys at his firm, including legendary trial lawyers Phil Beck and Fred Bartlit. In 2006 he assisted Beck representing Merck in two of the first federal trials regarding its Vioxx pain reliever. And in 2004 he spent nearly five months on trial with Bartlit, successfully defending Forstmann Little from a billion-dollar claim brought by the State of Connecticut, and UTC in a suit brought by the Department of Justice. According to Bartlit "Hamilton is already a star – a true leader with the rare sense of what it takes to be a real trial lawyer in a world of litigators."

Hill did his undergraduate work at the University of Kansas. At KU he maintained a 4.0 GPA and was a quarterback on the football team. He earned his J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School, where he graduated with Honors and was a member of the *University of Chicago Law Review*.



## HAMILTON H. HILL

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