



D. Bradley Hester, Attorney
Real Estate Transactions,
Development and
Finance/Commercial
Lending/Agri-business
Frank A. Hamner, P.A.
1011 N. Wymore Road
Winter Park, Florida 32789

D. Bradley Hester, Attorney

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> Few attorneys are fortunate enough to bring to their law practice a background as diverse and intriguing as Winter Park attorney, Brad Hester. After obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Architectural Design in 1987, then an M.B.A. in 1990, both from the University of Florida, Brad and his wife, Sloane, managed their family-owned dairy farm in Okeechobee, Florida, for seven years, no small feat considering that the operation involved about 1500 dairy cows, 1000 acres of land, over 30 employees and produced about 7,500 gallons of milk every day. During his time on the farm, Brad became heavily involved in the Florida agriculture industry, actively participating in numerous industry organizations and graduating from the prestigious Wedgworth Leadership Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources, a state-wide leadership program associated with the Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences (IFAS) at UF. The internationally-renowned leadership program, focusing on local, state, national and international policymaking, required 50 days of travel and education over a two-year period and included trips throughout Florida and to Washington, D.C., Texas, Mexico, Poland, Germany and Norway. The life-changing experience inspired Brad to pursue a law degree, so at age 33 and with Sloane, their two kids, a dog and a cat all in tow, he enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997, earning his Juris Doctor degree in 2000.

Now practicing with Frank A. Hamner, P.A., in the areas of commercial and residential real estate transactions, develop-

ment and finance, commercial lending, secured transactions, agri-business and agricultural financing, Brad is able to apply the creative and practical aspects of his design, business and agricultural education to the benefit of his clients, who are typically institutional lenders and borrowers, commercial real estate developers and commercial and agricultural landowners. In particular, Brad represents Farm Credit of Central Florida, a large Central Florida agricultural credit cooperative, as to its secured transactions and other corporate and cooperative law matters, where his ag background allows him to relate directly to the complex issues faced by agricultural producers and borrowers. Brad's law partner, Frank Hamner, is also able to take advantage of Brad's unique insight whenever real property and corporate issues arise in connection with his own very successful commercial litigation and construction law practice.

Brad remains heavily involved in (and enjoys promoting) the Florida agriculture industry and, in addition to his continued work with the Wedgworth program, is a member of the Orange County Ag-Advisory Board and is Chairman of the Farmworker Community Support Foundation. He is also an active Board Member of the Winter Park YMCA and a graduate of Leadership Winter Park. Brad and Sloane are avid Gator fans and are very involved in numerous local charitable organizations, in particular those fostering autism awareness and other special needs.<

Photo By: Sloane Hester