

JAMES R. ABESHAUS, Esq.

jabeshaus@gmail.com

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/james-abeshaus>

With over 17 years' legal experience through corporations, law firms, government and the military, I offer expertise in litigation, external relations, management and leadership. I have led offices of over 30 staff, managed multinational and multicultural personnel on three continents, provided legal and business advice to CEOs, Ambassadors and Generals as well as presented to audiences of over 1,000 attendees. I speak French and German. With my proven skills, experience and enthusiasm I will lead your company to continuous success.

Expertise

Leadership external relations Management Litigation Negotiation Product Liability Class Action eDiscovery French German Presenting Diplomacy Immigration Automotive Government Compliance Ethics Advising Employment

Admissions: Florida Bar: September 2004, Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces: 2008, German Bar (in-house counsel): 2017, International Association of Defense Counsel: 2018 **Top Secret Security Clearance:** Inactive

Professional Career Highlights

Daimler AG Corporate Counsel, Manager (2017-Currently)

- Managed the successful U.S. Litigation defense of eight Class Action and 250 Products Liability cases for Mercedes Benz USA, Mercedes Benz Canada and Daimler AG by aggressively fighting billions of dollars of risk exposure.
- Settled \$10 million dollar fuel tank class action for \$66,500
- Retained and directed 50 outside law firms, approves, audits and controls their budgets.
- Negotiated a 10% reduction in billable hours fees expected to save the company over \$750,000 yearly.
- Manages eDiscovery, company witness preparation, depositions, mediations and trials of major cases.
- Ensured success by bringing the engineering and legal departments at parent and international subsidiary companies together for case defense strategy by initiating monthly case defense meetings.

U.S. Army Medical Command Medical Evaluation Board Counsel (2016-2017)

- Attained over ten million dollars in benefits for over 125 disabled veterans through appeals, negotiations, research, arguments and the collection and analysis of medical evidence.

LF Investors Chief Compliance Officer (2015-2016)

- Created a compliance program and advised the CEO of a startup company on federal laws and regulations.
- Assisted over 20 international investors and entrepreneurs to create businesses, obtain visas and immigrate to the United States.

U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer/Diplomat (2011-2015)

- Vice Consul who supervised 25 Indian local staff and 6 Foreign Service Officers. Interviewed and adjudicated over 35,000 visa applicant cases, including at least 5,000 business visas while ensuring labor law compliance.

- Led a group of U.S. and French government officials to plan and execute successful summits, visits and briefings for the President of the United States, Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Congressional Delegations with various world leaders.
- Created and led a multinational eight-member team to draft the annual Labor, Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons Reports for France.

U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) (2004-2010 Active Duty)

- Deputy Officer-in-Charge of the Army's NATO legal office supervising an international staff of 7 lawyers and 6 paralegals.
- Prosecuted, Defended, advised and represented Soldiers in over 20 Felony Courts-Martial cases and 200 non-judicial actions, separation boards and administrative proceedings in Korea, Japan, Germany, Belgium and the United States.
- Authored over 200 labor, ethics, FOIA, Merit Systems Protection Board, equal employment opportunity and congressional inquiry legal reviews and advisory opinions.
- Principal legal advisor to the Commander and Brigade of over 2,600 personnel. Represented the U.S. government and senior staff before boards and hearings.
- Successfully represented 377 military and civilian clients by drafting contracts, wills, trusts and negotiating settlements while supervising a staff of 3 attorneys, 3 paralegals and 5 Korean staff members.

Education

Florida Coastal School of Law Jacksonville, Florida (05/2004)

- **Juris Doctor** Top 13% of Class
- **President**, Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity

Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana (05/2000)

- **Bachelor of Arts Double Major** Political Science and French
- **GPA 3.6 (Major)**