

Why You Need an Aquatic Attorneys at The Haggard Law Firm for Your Water-Related Injury Case

Water is supposed to be a place of fun and relaxation. But when something goes wrong, the consequences can be devastating. Whether it is a pool drowning, spa drowning, or a boating accident, the aftermath is often filled with grief, confusion, and overwhelming medical bills. Families need guidance, and they need it fast. That is where experienced legal counsel becomes essential.

I have spent years working with families who have suffered aquatic injuries. The most common mistake I see is waiting too long to get the right help. People assume that insurance will cover everything, or that the property owner will step up and do the right thing. Unfortunately, that is rarely the case. The law is complex, especially when water is involved, and the rules differ depending on whether the incident happened in a pool, a lake, a cruise ship, or a private backyard. That is why having a team like the Aquatic Attorneys at The Haggard Law Firm can make a real difference.

Understanding Aquatic Injuries

Aquatic injuries cover a wide range of incidents. Drowning is the most obvious, but there are also cases involving suction entrapment, where a child or adult becomes trapped against a drain due to the powerful pull of a pool pump. These incidents often leave victims with permanent brain damage or worse. Then there are spa drownings, which happen more often than people think, especially in hot tubs where the heat and jets can mask distress. Negligent security is another area: a hotel or apartment complex that fails to secure its pool area, or a cruise line that does not have enough lifeguards on duty, can be held responsible when tragedy strikes.

Boating accidents are a different beast. They involve federal maritime law, state regulations, and often multiple parties such as the boat captain, the rental company, or the manufacturer of a faulty life jacket. Cruise drowning cases are even more complicated because they may fall under the Safety Act and the Jones Act, which limit liability in ways that surprise most families. In every one of these situations, the victim's family needs someone who knows the specific laws that apply. The [Aquatic Attorneys at The Haggard Law Firm](#) focus precisely on these areas.

The Role of Prevention and Accountability

Drowning prevention is not just about teaching kids to swim. It is about holding people accountable when they fail to follow safety standards. The CPSC has issued clear guidelines for pool and spa owners, including the Virginia Graeme Baker Act, which requires anti-entrapment drain covers on all public pools and spas. Yet many property owners ignore these rules. I have seen cases where a resort installed an old-style drain cover that could not stop suction entrapment. The result was a child trapped underwater for minutes. The family had no idea that such a simple piece of equipment could have prevented the entire tragedy.

Lifeguards are another critical piece. A well-trained lifeguard with proper rescue equipment can prevent drownings that happen in seconds. But when a hotel or water park cuts corners by hiring untrained teenagers or not providing enough rescue equipment, they are gambling with human lives. If that gamble fails, the injured party deserves compensation for medical costs, pain and suffering, and lost quality of life. The same goes for boat captains who operate under the influence or fail to provide life jackets for passengers.

Why Legal Expertise Matters

Aquatic injury law is not something a general practice lawyer can handle well. The rules are too specific. For example, in a cruise drowning case, the ticket contract often includes a clause that limits the time to file a claim to one year or less. Miss that deadline, and the case is lost forever. Similarly, in a boating accident, the statute of limitations can vary by state and by the type of waterway. A lawyer who does not know these nuances can cost a family everything.

That is why I always advise people to look for a firm that has a dedicated practice for these cases. The Aquatic Attorneys at The Haggard Law Firm, based in Coral Gables, Florida, have built their entire practice around aquatic injury and drowning cases. They handle everything from pool drowning to negligent security, suction entrapment to cruise drowning, boating accidents to wrongful death. Their experience covers the full spectrum, which means they know the tricks insurance companies use to avoid paying fair compensation.

What to Expect When You Work with an Aquatic Attorney

If you call a firm like this, the first thing they will do is listen. They will ask about every detail: the type of water, the equipment involved, who was present, what safety measures were in place. They will want to know if there were any warning signs, such as a missing anti-entrapment drain cover or a broken gate lock. They will also ask about the people involved: was there a lifeguard on duty? Was the boat captain experienced? Did anyone check that life jackets were available and in good condition?

From there, they will gather evidence. This might include inspecting the scene, interviewing witnesses, reviewing maintenance logs, and consulting with experts such as engineers or

medical professionals. They will also handle all communication with insurance companies so that the family can focus on healing. This is a huge relief. I have seen families try to handle claims on their own, and they quickly become overwhelmed by the paperwork, the legal jargon, and the pressure from adjusters who want to settle for pennies on the dollar.

The Emotional and Financial Toll

Aquatic injuries do not just cause physical harm. They upend entire lives. A child who survives a drowning may need years of therapy, special education, and constant care. A spouse who loses a partner in a boating accident may face a sudden loss of income and the burden of raising children alone. Wrongful death cases are among the most painful to handle, because the loss is permanent and the family is left to pick up the pieces.

Compensation in these cases is meant to cover more than just medical bills. It addresses lost earning potential, pain and suffering, and the cost of future care. It also holds the responsible party accountable, which can prevent future tragedies. A hotel that pays a settlement for a pool drowning is more likely to install proper fencing, hire trained lifeguards, and maintain its rescue equipment. A cruise line that faces a lawsuit for a drowning will think twice before skimping on safety.

Practical Steps for Families

If you or someone you love has been involved in an aquatic injury, here are a few steps to take right away:

- Seek medical attention immediately, even if the person seems fine. Drowning victims can show symptoms hours later.
- Document everything: take photos of the scene, the equipment, the surroundings. Get names and contact information of witnesses.
- Preserve any physical evidence, such as a broken drain cover or a life jacket that did not work properly.
- Do not sign any documents from an insurance company without legal advice. They often ask for a recorded statement that can be used against you.
- Contact an attorney who specializes in aquatic injury cases as soon as possible. Time limits are strict.

These steps can make or break a case. I have seen families lose out because they waited too long or because they threw away a faulty piece of equipment that turned out to be the key piece of evidence.

Final Thoughts

Water should bring joy, not tragedy. But when the worst happens, families deserve a legal team that understands the specific challenges of aquatic injuries. The Haggard Law Firm, based in Coral Gables, Florida, has a long history of representing families in these exact situations. Their dedicated aquatic practice exists because these cases require focus, experience, and a deep knowledge of the law. Whether it is a pool drowning, spa drowning, suction entrapment, negligent security, cruise drowning, boating accident, or wrongful death, the right legal help can change the outcome for a family.

If you find yourself in this situation, do not try to navigate it alone. Reach out to a firm that has been doing this work since 1972. The difference between a fair settlement and a lifetime of struggle often comes down to the quality of the legal team you choose.