

**HOW TO AVOID  
CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS, AND  
WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM  
IF THEY OCCUR**

*by*

*Michael V. Griffin, P.E.  
Senior Vice President*



**Hill International, Inc.**

One Levitt Parkway  
Willingboro, New Jersey 08046

Tel: 609-871-5800  
Fax: 609-871-5714

---

# HOW TO AVOID CONSTRUCTION CLAIMS, AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM IF THEY OCCUR

---

by  
*Michael V. Griffin, P.E., Senior Vice President  
Hill International, Inc.*

Thank you for attending this session of the National Association of County Engineers Annual Meeting and allowing me to present my thoughts to you on the subject of construction contract disputes and claims: how to avoid them, and what to do about them if they occur.

Before I begin, I would like to tell you a little bit about myself and the firm I work for, Hill International. Let me start with the firm. Founded in 1976 as a construction claims consultant, Hill International, Inc. is a multi-disciplined management consulting firm which has developed a national reputation for its innovative approach to resolving and preventing construction cost and schedule overruns, and for the successful management of construction and environmental projects from preconstruction services to construction management, litigation support, and expert witness testimony.

In addition to Claims Analysis and Claims Resolution services, Hill also provides Claims Avoidance training, Bid Document reviews, Program and Project Management services, Construction Management services and Project Management Oversight services.

Hill's staff includes engineers, architects, attorneys, construction schedulers, accountants, cost engineers, contract administrators, inspectors, and construction management specialists. Hill's main office is in Willingboro, New Jersey, with other full service offices in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, California, and Abu Dhabi, UAE.

I have been with the firm slightly over 11 years. My background is as a Civil Engineer, with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil Engineering from Villanova University. I also have an MBA and I am a licensed Professional Engineer in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Previous to my employment with Hill International, I worked for 7 years as a Resident Engineer on field construction projects for the City of Philadelphia. I am currently a Senior Vice President of Hill, responsible for all of the firm's projects in the Transportation Sector. I have spoken frequently on the subjects of claims avoidance and claims resolution, both in seminars offered to the general public as well as internal sessions for some of Hill's major clients, such as General Electric, Asea Brown Boveri, the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, and the City of Philadelphia.

I hope that this brief introduction gives you a better idea as to who I am and who Hill International is, so that you can better understand the perspective from which I present my ideas and tips on preventing and resolving construction claims.