

EDITOR'S NOTE

Local lawyers command law on the high seas

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In the past year cruise lines have certainly captured the headlines — but not in a way they like. Reports of missing persons, especially the high-profile case of George Smith — a Connecticut honeymooner who disappeared while on a Mediterranean cruise last summer, have become fodder for the 24-hour news channels.

Because so many cruise lines are headquartered in

South Florida, this area has become a hotbed for cruise line litigation. (Cruise lines require passengers who sue them to file in the state or federal court near their headquarters.)

In today's cover story, "Law on the High Seas" (page 26), reporter Amy Martinez takes a look at the small group of local lawyers who make their living representing injured cruise passengers, crew members or their relatives. Among them is Brett Rivkind, shown below.



LYNNE BLACKY/AP FILE PHOTO

HIGH-PROFILE CASE: In December, George Smith, left, spoke at a news conference regarding the disappearance of his son, George Allen Smith IV. Also pictured are attorney Brett Rivkind, Smith's sister Bree and mother, Maureen.