



James Hart

Co-Managing Partner

Hillmont Partners

### **BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:**

James is the Co-Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Hillmont Partners, one of Ukraine's leading law firms ranked internationally by Legal 500, World Tax, IFLR1000, Benchmark Litigation and Yuridicheskaya Praktika. It was also the winner of Yuridicheskaya Praktika's Law Firm of the Year for Government Relations 2020 and a finalist in the category of cross-border litigation.

James has worked in Ukraine since 2010 having left Standard Bank PLC's London office, and has managed billions of dollars of complex litigation as a turnaround and crisis manager. In 2016 he established Hillmont Partners with two leading Ukrainian lawyers with a view to providing high quality legal services to investors and businesses operating or looking to operate in Ukraine.

Since co-founding Hillmont Partners in 2016 James has advised Ukrainian private clients and international NPL funds on asset recovery strategies in multiple jurisdictions. His clients include companies listed on stock exchanges in London, Paris, Singapore, New York and Toronto.

James has been an advisor to the former Prime Minister of Ukraine and former First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine – Minister of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine. He has provided advice on matters of reform, trade and investment to Ukraine’s government.

James is also a Senior Advisor at Quintel Intelligence, a London-based specialist legal intelligence provider and sits on the board of Retainagroup Limited, a UK market leader in vehicle security. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Alliance for Public Health, one of Ukraine’s largest charities and is a Trustee of the Mangalakara Foundation, a charity that funds a top-tier education to nearly 2,000 children and young adults in rural India.

Why do you think membership in the American Chamber of Commerce is important for business operating in Ukraine?

The ACC is the most prominent and credible voice for businesses in Ukraine thanks to its superlative list of members. It has successfully raised the challenges faced by businesses at the highest level of government and has an unparalleled insight into doing business in Ukraine. It also regularly organizes opportunities to engage directly with public stakeholders and other ACC members and discuss matters that are vital to a company’s operations. These focused discussions undoubtedly contribute positively to the business decisions made by the managers of the ACC’s members and allow representatives of government to hear first-hand how businesses are operating and what they need to thrive.

What motivates you to be a Chamber Board Member?

I believe firmly that judicial and legislative reform are the most important drivers of long-term economic growth in Ukraine. I want to add my experience to the ACC team to help deliver changes to Ukraine’s legislation that will unlock economic growth. For example, the passage of the draft on state support of investment projects with considerable investments and its subsequent implementation must involve a substantive dialogue with business to ensure it indeed addresses the concerns of investors. Furthermore, while legislation continues to provide legal loopholes to fraudsters and while judges continue to render nonsensical judgments, most international investors will simply invest elsewhere.

Why do you feel you are qualified to serve on the Chamber Board? What skills would you bring to the Board?

As a founder of one of Ukraine's leading law firms and one of the leading government relations practices in Ukraine I believe I can provide substantial insight to the Board that will help prioritize support for legislative initiatives. My experience advising the Prime Minister of Ukraine has taught me the enormity of the challenge of implementing reform in Ukraine and deep knowledge of the forces that oppose it. I am fortunate to be able to draw on the expertise of Ukraine's leading government relations practice, which has, in aggregate, decades of experience in drafting legislative acts and supporting their passage into law.

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How have you been active in the Chamber over the course of the last two years?

I have ensured greater engagement by the whole Hillmont team across a number of committees and worked with the ACC to communicate the concerns of major international businesses operating or considering operating in Ukraine. Hillmont regularly provide comments on draft laws that are being analysed by the Chamber and produces content regarding key legal developments that affect the commercial activities of Chamber member companies in Ukraine.

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What activity or Committee would you participate in and be responsible for?

I would actively advise on the ACC's legislative proposals and assist the work of the Legal Committee and new Sustainability Committee.

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