

Couhig Partners LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS SOQ 23-030
FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR
JEFFERSON PARISH
RESOLUTION NO. 142921

Submitted by:

BLAIR C. CONSTANT, Of Counsel

COUHIG PARTNERS, L.L.C.
1100 Poydras St.,
Suite 3250 New
Orleans, Louisiana
70163 (504) 588-
1288

October 25, 2023

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire Instructions

- The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire shall be used for outside legal services.
- **The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire should be completely filled out. Complete and attach ALL sections. Insert "N/A" or "None" if a section does not apply or if there is no information to provide.**
- Questionnaire must be signed by an authorized representative of the Firm. Failure to sign the questionnaire shall result in disqualification of proposer pursuant to J.P. Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-928.
- All subcontractors must be listed in the appropriate section of the Questionnaire. Each subcontractor must provide a complete copy of the Professional Legal Services Questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement. Failure to provide the subcontractors' complete questionnaire(s), applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement shall result in disqualification of proposer pursuant to J.P. Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-928.
- If additional pages are needed, attach them to the questionnaire and include all applicable information that is required by the questionnaire.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

A. Person or Firm Name & Principal Address:

Couhig Partners, L.L.C.
1100 Poydras Street
Suite 3250
New Orleans, LA 70163

B. Name, Title, & contact information of Firm Representative, as defined in Section 2-926 of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, who is licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana with a minimum of five (5) years' experience:

Blair C. Constant
Of-Counsel
work: (504) 599-5786
email: bconstant@couhigpartners.com

C. Location of the principal:

1100 Poydras Street
Suite 3250
New Orleans, LA 70163

D. Please check the legal field or fields in which Firm is qualified to perform services for Jefferson Parish and include the number of years of experience in that particular field.

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bond Services (Years: <u> </u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology Law (Years: <u> </u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elections (Years: <u>16</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State & Local Government Law (Years: <u>8</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Regulatory (Years: <u>22</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation (Years: <u> </u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antitrust Law (Years: <u>47</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tort Trial & Insurance Practices (Years: <u>47</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Law (Years: <u>47</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complex Litigation (including asbestos litigation) (Years: <u>47</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice (Years: <u>12</u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities (Years: <u> </u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispute Resolution (Years: <u>21</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethics Law (Years: <u>23</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental, Energy & Resources (Years: <u> </u>) | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Matters (Years: <u> </u>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Law (Years: <u> </u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights & the Constitution (Years: <u>23</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property (Years: <u>23</u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Representation (including liability & intergovernmental conflicts) (Years: <u>9</u>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> International Law (Years: <u> </u>) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement Matters (Years: <u>52</u>) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment Law (Years: <u>23</u>) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Contract Law (Years: <u>23</u>) | |

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Law (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property (Years: <u>52</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust & Estate Law (Years: <u>52</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Other/specific project as required by the advertisement (Years: _____) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil Spill Litigation (Years: <u>11</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Finance (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use, Planning & Zoning Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Law (Years: <u>52</u>) |
|---|---|

E. List all subcontractors anticipated for this Project. Please note that all subcontractors must submit a fully completed copy of this questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement. See Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-928(a)(3). Please attach additional pages if necessary.

| Name & Address: | Specialty: | Worked with Firm Before (Yes or No): |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

F. Professional Training and experience in relation to the type of work required for the outside legal services.

As set forth more fully in Sections G(ii) and J, Couhig Partners, LLC has significant experience in each of the legal fields selected above. Our partners have experience ranging in over 50 years of litigation practice for our most senior partner to 12 years for our most junior partner.

The firm has extensive experience representing and advising government entities and other public bodies, including the State of Louisiana, St. Bernard Parish, the City of Bogalusa, the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Examiners for the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Steamboat Pilots Association, the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, as well as multiple appointments as special masters in both federal and state courts. Finally, several members of our firm are certified mediators.

G. Size of Firm and capacity for timely completion of newly assigned work considering the number of professional and support personnel required to perform the type of outside legal services tasks and the Firm's current unfinished workload.

Couhig Partners, LLC has 11 lawyers and 4 staff members, all of whom have the present ability to accept newly assigned work. Blair Constant, Jason Cavignac, and Rob Couhig, III would be the primary lawyers working on and directing work for Jefferson Parish matters, with assistance from other lawyers in cases which their specific experience or expertise is needed. The firm has the ability to handle large, complex matters in addition to its current unfinished workload.

Further, the firm has a history of being able to quickly handle unscheduled emergency matters, including temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and mandamus proceedings, while at the same time maintaining its normal caseload. The fact that the firm is 100% digital and paperless in practice also allows us to quickly respond to any matter or engage in any matter at any time or location.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

| i. Please specify the total number of support staff that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above: <u>4</u> | | |
|---|---------------------|--|
| ii. List any attorneys that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above. If necessary, please attach additional documentation that demonstrates the employment history and experience of the Firm's attorneys that may assist in the completion of this Project (i.e. resume). Please attach additional pages if necessary. | | |
| Name: | Legal Field: | Years of Experience in Legal Field: |
| 1. Please see attached Sheet G(ii) | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| 4. | | |
| 5. | | |

ATTACHMENT - RESPONSE TO SECTION G(II)

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

**PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR LEGAL SERVICES
FOR JEFFERSON PARISH
SOQ 23-030
RESOLUTION No. 142921**

Attachment – Section G(ii)

| List any attorneys that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above. If necessary, please attach additional documentation that demonstrates the employment history and experience of the Firm's attorneys that may assist in the completion of this Project (i.e. resume). Please attach additional pages if necessary. | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| Name: | Legal Field: | Years of Experience in Legal Field: |
| 1. Blair C. Constant | Criminal Justice Business Law Elections Dispute Resolution Complex Litigation Property Code Enforcement Administrative and Regulatory State and Local Government Law Tort Trial and Insurance Practices Municipal Representation | 12 |
| 2. Robert E. Couhig Jr. | Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation | 42 |
| 3. Gary Rouse | Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Property Trusts & Estate Law Construction Law | 52 |
| 4. Don Massey | Administrative & Regulatory Antitrust Law Business Law Dispute Resolution Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation | 32 |
| 5. Ralph Wall | Administrative & Regulatory Antitrust Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation | 22 |
| 6. Jason Cavignac | Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Oil Spill Litigation Construction Law | 21 |

| | | |
|--------------------|--|----|
| 7. Rob Couhig III | Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Property Oil Spill Litigation Construction Law | 17 |
| 8. Jonathan Lemann | Antitrust Law Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation | 24 |
| 9. Claire Pontier | Business Law Dispute Resolution Trusts & Estates Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Construction Law | 12 |
| 10. Jeff Pastorek | Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Construction Law | 14 |

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

H. Past performance by person or Firm on Parish contracts. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Currently, the firm is engaged in two matters on behalf of the Parish.

1. We've been engaged to assist the Parish, and Councilman Bonano specifically, with the Hope Haven property being leased by the Parish from the Archdiocese of New Orleans.
2. We've been engaged to represent the Parish in the matter: Hammerman & Gainer v. Parish of Jefferson, Case No. 838-622, Div. "A" of the 24th J.D.C.

I. Adversarial legal proceedings between the Parish and the person or Firm performing professional services, in which the Parish prevailed, and excluding those instances or cases where the person or Firm was added as an indispensable party, or where the person or Firm participated in or assisted the public entity in prosecution of its claim. In the event that the person or Firm fails to provide accurate and detailed information regarding legal proceedings with the Parish, including the absence of legal proceedings, the person or firm shall be deemed unresponsive with regard to this category, and zero (0) points shall be awarded. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

In 2008, our firm represented Beverly Construction, LLC in a dispute with Jefferson Parish over the interpretation of a public bid package submitted by Beverly and disqualified by the Parish. The district court ruled in favor of the Parish in a matter submitted on briefs, and the Fifth Circuit affirmed the ruling in favor of Jefferson Parish.

In 2010, the firm represented Rathborne Properties, LLC in the resolution of several Code Enforcement citations. While most citations were resolved after meeting with the agents who issued the citations, a small number of the citations were resolved during or after a hearing with a Code Enforcement hearing officer.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

J. Prior successful completion of projects of the type and nature of legal services, as defined, for which Firm has provided verifiable references. (List no more than 10 projects.)

1.

Please see attached Sheets J and J-1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

ATTACHMENT – RESPONSE TO SECTION J

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

**PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO
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Section J

1. *Represent and Advise City of Bogalusa*

Couhig Partners served as Special Counsel to the City of Bogalusa and helped successfully resolve a complex, decades-long dispute between the City and Washington Parish regarding their joint ownership of the Choctaw Landfill.

2. *St. Bernard Parish and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District v. United States*, United States Court of Federal Claims, Nos. 15-103C and 15-518C

Couhig Partners represented St. Bernard Parish and the Lake Borgne Levee District in successfully recovering more than \$4.4 million in a breach of contract suit against the federal government. The judgments compensated St. Bernard and the Levee District for the federal government's failure to indemnify them for judgments awarded to landowners in state court for property taken by the federal government through the local entities to repair levees after Hurricane Katrina.

3. *Olivier Plantation, L.L.C. v. Parish of St. Bernard*, 34th JDC for the Parish of St. Bernard, No. 109-272, Division "B"

Before the firm was hired by St. Bernard Parish to pursue the above-cited case, Couhig Partners represented a landowner in a suit against the St. Bernard Parish in this takings case. The landowner was awarded \$2,449,930 for borrow material taken from its property after Hurricane Katrina, plus interest and attorney's fees. The matter was affirmed by the Louisiana Fourth Circuit in *Olivier Plantation, L.L.C. v. St. Bernard*, 2013-0497 (La. App. 4 Cir. 10/30/2014); 151 So.3d 965. St. Bernard Parish subsequently hired Couhig Partners to recover the amounts awarded to Olivier Plantation from the federal government.

4. *Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District, et al. v. BFS Diversified Products, LLC, et al.*, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, No. 2006-8927

In this construction case, the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District sought more than \$150 million in damages for the destruction of the Superdome roof during Hurricane Katrina. Couhig Partners represented the surety that bonded roof contractor who installed the roof. The firm originally secured the surety's dismissal by summary judgment, but the dismissal was reversed by the Fourth Circuit. We were later able to successfully negotiate a settlement that protected both the surety and its principal from the possibility of a runaway damage award at a jury trial.

5. *Moore v. Tangipahoa Parish School Board*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 65-15556, Section B(1)

In 2014, Don Massey was appointed as Court Compliance Officer in this matter, which is one of America's longest-running desegregation suits and possibly the oldest continuous litigation existing in the State of Louisiana. With Don's help, the parties presented a proposed resolution to the Court in late 2019, and after Covid-related delays, the Court issued a ruling on March 30, 2021 that paves the way for resolution of this matter that has been pending since 1965.

6. *HG New Orleans Retailers Joint Venture v. The City of New Orleans*, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, No. 2017-6263, Section 10.

In this Public Bid challenge case, Couhig Partners intervened on behalf of the winning bidder in a lawsuit by another bidder against the City of New Orleans for a contract award for construction at the North Terminal of the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The firm successfully argued that plaintiff was not entitled to an injunction as the bid had been validly and impartially awarded by the City.

7. *Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. v. Amclyde Engineered Products Company, Inc.*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 99-3623, Section B(5)

At the same time the Superdome litigation was going on, Couhig Partners was also in the middle of this matter, known as the Petronius Case. In the case, the firm successfully represented a crane manufacturer in a complex offshore products liability claim involving economic loss claims for hundreds of millions of dollars.

8. *St. Bernard Parish Government v. CDM Smith, Inc.*, 34th JDC for the Parish of St. Bernard, No. 2017-0454 and *CDM Smith, Inc. v. St. Bernard Parish Government*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 18-5392

In these companion cases, Couhig Partners represented CDM Smith, Inc., an international engineering firm, in multiple multi-party disputes arising from wastewater utility work in St. Bernard Parish. The firm was able to secure a dismissal of claims against its client in state court while at the same time recovering amounts owed to the client in federal court, which amounts had been withheld for years.

9. *University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc. v. JPI Apartment Development, L.P., et al.*, 4th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Ouachita, No. 2011-3340, Judge Sharp

In this Private Works Act case, Couhig Partners successfully defended Continental Casualty Company, the performance bond surety, against an untimely bond claim. Jason Cavignac argued the case before the District Court and the Louisiana Second Circuit, which affirmed the dismissal in *University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc. v. JPI Apartment Development, L.P.*, 49,148 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/8/14); 151 So.3d 126.

10. *Frady Excavating & Transport, LLC v. Coordination Specialists, LLC*, 24th JDC for the Parish of Jefferson, No. 663-513, Division "J"

Couhig Partners represented the main defendant and one of the company's owners in a claim for amounts allegedly due to plaintiff for work on post-Katrina debris hauling contracts. The matter proceeded to a jury trial before the Hon. Stephen Grefer, who granted the firm's directed verdict in favor of the individual defendant. Plaintiff then reached a settlement with the company at the conclusion of the trial.

J-1
References

Guy McInnis
Parish President, St. Bernard
8201 W. Judge Perez
Chalmette, LA 70043
(504) 278-4200

Albert J. "Joey" Richard III
Fiscal Administrator, City of Bogalusa
3421 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 403
Metairie, LA 70002
(504) 289-8125

Brian Morgan
Senior Legal Counsel
CDM Smith, Inc.
75 State Street, Suite 701
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 452-6182

Lewis S. Frank
Olivier Plantation, L.L.C.
Park Investments, Ltd.
3421 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 802
Metairie, LA 70002
(504) 832-3556

Laurence Jortner
CNA Surety
Claims Director
151 N. Franklin St., 17th Floor
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 822-5045

Louis J. Faust
Southern Insurance Agency, LLC
Coordination Specialists, LLC
725 Magazine Street, Suite E
New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 528-9242

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

K. Use this space to provide any additional information or description of resources supporting Firm's qualifications for the proposed project.

Couhig Partners, LLC has significant experience in all the legal fields included in this application. The firm also has a demonstrated history of effectively and efficiently representing and advising state and local government entities.

Additionally, members of the firm have had significant involvement in Jefferson Parish over the years. Prior to starting the firm, Rob Couhig, Jr. worked closely with Jefferson Parish Government to bring minor league baseball to the Parish. Blair Constant previously worked for over 10 years in the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, and he served as a member of the most recent Jefferson Parish Charter Advisory Board. Currently, both Blair Constant and Don Massey are two of the three court-appointed Special Masters for the 24th Judicial District Court over all Hurricane Ida-related property damage claims. Finally, Blair Constant defended the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office that recently settled in a favorable manner for the J.P.S.O.

L. To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is an accurate statement of facts.

Signature: Blair C. Constant Digitally signed by Blair C. Constant
Date: 2023.10.25 09:24:24 -05'00' Print Name: Blair C. Constant

Title: Of-Counsel Date: October 25, 2023

ATTACHMENT - ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

**PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST
FOR QUALIFICATIONS SOQ 23-030
FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR
JEFFERSON PARISH
RESOLUTION 142921**



Jason A. Cavignac



Practice Areas

- Business Practice
- Commercial & General Litigation
- Construction & Surety Law
- Insurance Law



jacavignac@couhigpartners.com



Jason A. Cavignac joined the firm in 2006. He is primarily engaged in a litigation practice, with an emphasis on business representation, construction and surety law, and personal injury representation. Jason is also an NFLPA Certified Contract Advisor and the owner of the Cavignac Sports Agency. Jason advises and counsels clients in the formation of business entities, drafts contracts, and represents businesses in court and before administrative agencies. Jason also has appellate litigation experience in both federal and Louisiana state courts.

Jason has experience in all aspects of construction law, on both public and private projects. He has represented owners, contractors, subcontractors, and sureties in a variety of construction cases, including cases under the Louisiana Public Works Act, the Louisiana Private Works Act, the federal Miller Act, and the Contract Disputes Act in the United States Court of Federal Claims. Jason has also filed and defended bid protests under the Louisiana Public Bid Law and has appeared before the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors to assist contractors with licensing issues. Additionally, Jason and Rob Couhig III have held seminars on lien law for the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans.

Additionally, Jason advises and counsels clients in the formation of business entities, drafts contracts, and represents businesses in court and before administrative agencies. He also represents and advises individuals who have been injured by the fault of others. Jason also has appellate litigation experience in both federal and Louisiana state courts.

Jason graduated Cum Laude from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications / Broadcasting. While in college, he was an intern in the newsroom at the ABC affiliate in Lafayette, Louisiana. Upon graduation, Jason was hired to produce the morning news show. While still a producer, he began writing and shooting feature news stories and subsequently became a full-time news reporter and fill-in anchor. Jason covered general news stories ranging from city council meetings and live breaking news events around Acadiana to traveling to Central America to report on the Louisiana military's role in rebuilding Honduras after Hurricane Mitch.

After spending two years in broadcast journalism, Jason enrolled in the Tulane University School of Law,



New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation

Memberships / Affiliations

Jason is a former President of the Jefferson Bar Association, a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association, the United States Court of Claims Federal Bar Association, and the Bar Association of the Federal Fifth Circuit. He formerly served on the Board of Archbishop Philip M. Hannan High School and is a member of the St. Edward Association of Men.

OUR FIRM | PRACTICE AREAS | OUR TEAM | CONTACT

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Blair C. Constant



Practice Areas

- Commercial and General Litigation

Contact Information

Phone: 504.599.5786

Email: bconstant@couhigpartners.com



the clients on how to navigate the levels of state and local government on a variety of issues.

Prior to joining Couhig Partners, LLC, Blair worked fourteen years for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office, with the last ten years an Assistant District Attorney. Blair practiced in violent crime prosecution with the Felony Trials Unit, including homicides, armed robberies, and child sex abuse cases. Before leaving the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, Blair was the Deputy Chief of their Juvenile Unit and managed juvenile prosecution, Families in Need of Services cases, Child In Need of Care cases, IV D Child Support Cases, created the Assistant District Attorney Training Program, and handled other administrative duties. Blair was also a member of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association and contributed to legislative agendas before and while briefly serving as the Legislative Liaison for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office.

Blair graduated from Louisiana State University in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications / Political Communication. While working full-time, Blair enrolled in the night program at Loyola University New Orleans, School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate. In 2013, Blair became a Graduate Fellow for the Loyola University Institute of Politics.

Blair is the 2023 President of the Jefferson Bar Association. Blair is also a member of the Louisiana Bar Association; Board Member for the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce; a member of the Board of Managers for LCMC/West Jefferson Medical Center; and member of the National Academy of Court-Appointed Special Masters; and former appointed representative for the Jefferson Parish Charter Advisory Board. Blair is an elected member of the Jefferson Parish Executive Republican Committee, District 1.

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Robert E. Couhig, Jr.



Practice Areas

- Business Practice
- Commercial & General Litigation
- Insurance Law

Contact Information



During his career, Mr. Couhig has been the responsible attorney on thousands of contested matters in 20 states. He has served as trial counsel in over 200 trials, including 100 jury trials. He is a member of the Louisiana, Texas, Colorado, and District of Columbia Bars and has also been admitted to Federal Courts to handle matters in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and California.

Mr. Couhig has extensive appellate experience. He has argued in every Louisiana appellate court, four United States Court of Appeals, and both the Louisiana Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. He has served as national counsel in commercial interests and as lead counsel in commercial class actions in five states. Mr. Couhig has also been responsible for setting the law in several areas through judicial decisions. Although Mr. Couhig is a true generalist, he has a great deal of experience handling personal injuries, commercial disputes, class actions, products liability cases, maritime law and contested property matters. In addition, Mr. Couhig has served pro bono on several capital cases.

Rob Couhig graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Economic Affairs from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1971. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University in 1975. He began his legal career with Adams and Reese in 1975. At that time, the firm had 18 lawyers and concentrated its practice on insurance related matters. When he left, the firm had grown to a full-service law firm with more than 200 lawyers in six cities. In addition to growing his own law practice, Rob served as the firm's first marketing partner, as a section leader, and on the firm's management committee.

In September 2003, he left the firm and founded Couhig Partners with one other lawyer. The firm has grown to sixteen attorneys with a primary focus on business development and litigation. The firm has been honored with the trust of many other lawyers and law firms in representing those lawyers, their firms, and jointly representing referring counsels' clients in significant legal matters.

Mr. Couhig has testified as an expert on legal issues in state and federal court, as well as Bermuda, on insurance policy interpretation. He has consulted with members of the state legislature, members of Congress, and members of Parliament on various issues important to their constituents.

In addition to his 45 years in the legal practice, Rob is an experienced businessman and entrepreneur. In 1988, he bought out his partners in a small pest control company located in Metairie, Louisiana. When he sold Couhig Environmental Services of New Orleans in 2001, it was one of Louisiana's largest private pest control companies.

In 1993, he was responsible for moving baseball's Triple A Zephyrs to New Orleans. In 1995, he led a group of local investors in the acquisition of the team from its Denver-based owner and created the public-private partnership that built the new baseball park. From the time of the opening of the ballpark until Rob sold the controlling interest in 2002, the organization was one of the most successful in baseball. He



He has successfully invested in the production of local theater including "Lone Long in Margate", "The Sons", and a reading of "Confederacy of Dunces". He was also the owner of City Art, a privately financed art studio housing nearly 20 commercially viable artists between 2003 and 2005.

He and his wife own a successful bookstore (www.conundrumbooks.com) in St. Francisville, La.

He has successful investments in oil and gas production in Louisiana and Texas.

With his law partners, he has also successfully invested in and advised startup companies in diverse fields that include real estate, film, disaster recovery, logistics, and pharmaceuticals. Some of the current investments include:

- Happy (www.happythemovement.com) – a digital company that provides a frictionless, proactive approach to better mental health.
- Poydras Logistics Group, LLC (www.poydraslogistics.com) - a non-asset based carrier providing efficient, economical logistics services. The company schedules shipments throughout the continental United States and uses state of the art transportation software, to connect customers with more than 750 flatbed trucks, plus vans and any type of specialty equipment needed.
- Movn (movin.bid)– a "name your price" moving and freight company.

Most recently, Rob and his partners purchased the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club (www.wycombewanderers.co.uk) which plays in League One of the English Football League. In 2020, it was promoted to the Championship. Rob is the Chairman of the Board and CEO.

Rob has been honored to be selected as a Role Model by the Young Leadership Counsel of New Orleans and appeared as the cover story in both "New Orleans Magazine" and "Biz New Orleans". "New Orleans Magazine" selected him as one of the People to Watch in 1997, and in 1998, he was selected as New Orleanian of the Year by "Gambit Magazine".

Rob has extensive experience in Louisiana politics having served as the campaign manager for successful congressional campaigns, state representative campaigns, and mayoral campaigns. He has also been a candidate for Congress and Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

Over the years, his work as a lawyer, businessman, and in civic activities has been featured in numerous other newspaper and magazine articles and several books.



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Robert E. Couhig, III



Practice Areas

- Business Practice
- Commercial & General Litigation
- Construction & Surety Law
- Insurance Law
- Land Use & Real Estate



Robert E. Couhig, III

Email: rcouhig@couhigpartners.com

Rob is a business lawyer and litigator with extensive experience representing small and start-up companies. With over 15 years of experience, he has built a reputation as a knowledgeable and practical counselor to his clients.

His litigation experience includes commercial disputes, employment contracts, landlord and tenant disputes, land and real estate issues, property damage claims, products liability claims, and general tort claims. He also acts as local counsel for several global law firms when issues arise in Louisiana.

Over the last decade and a half, Rob and his partners have created and invested in several start-up companies in the real estate, logistics, energy and medical fields.

He is a graduate of Georgetown University's Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service and after working on several political campaigns in both Louisiana and around the country he attended LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center where he received his Juris Doctorate / Bachelor of Civil Law in 2005.

Rob is admitted to practice in all Louisiana State Courts, the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

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Jonathan P. Lemann



Practice Areas

- Business Practice
- Commercial & General Litigation

Contact Information

Phone: 504.588.9153



Jonathan P. Lemann is a life long New Orleanian who received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University, and his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School both with honors. Jonathan was a member of the Loyola Law Review and saw his comment, "Big Brother and Gambling Company: The Federal Regulation of Louisiana's Gaming Industry Under the Mail Fraud Statute" published in the Winter edition of 1999. He was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1999 and the Texas Bar in 2006.

Jonathan is a general litigator with a focus on commercial disputes. He has practiced extensively in the commercial litigation area. He has experience representing parties in cases involving breach of contract, directors' and officers' liability, fiduciary duty, insurance coverage issues, intellectual property, business torts, partner, membership and shareholder disputes, employer liability and employment discrimination claims, construction claims, complex commercial class actions, corporate and partnership law, creditor's rights, and professional malpractice. He is experienced in trying cases in both federal and state court and has appeared in many arbitrations. Jonathan also serves as the firm's ethics and professional responsibility counsel.

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Donald C. Massey



Practice Areas

- Class Action
- Complex Litigation
- Energy Sector Transactions
- Generalist



donmassey@couhigpartners.com

Don has practiced law since 1984, and he has a true generalist's perspective. As trial counsel in well over 100 trials (mostly jury trials), Don understands litigation. He has served as lead lawyer, liaison counsel, special master and an expert witness in class action and complex litigation matters. Don frequently is asked to lecture on ethics, professionalism, corporate law and litigation topics. He is presently serving a third six year commitment as a hearing committee chair person for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board. Don serves as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel of Delta SubSea, LLC. In addition, Don serves as an arbitrator of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA).

He continues his rich history of representing clients in a broad range of matters, including litigation, oil and gas transactions, and general advices as Of Counsel with Couhig Partners. Don also serves as inside general counsel for two diverse oilfield service companies and provides similar outside counsel services to several others. This work has included non-public mergers and acquisition, major capital acquisition and divesture projects, contract review and negotiation, oversight of litigation in multiple jurisdictions, and general advices.

"I'm thrilled to be working with old friends and new ones at Couhig Partners, where we have a great mix of youth and experience. We focus on partnering with our clients, including flexible and creative alternative fee arrangements, mutually constructed to tie value to efficiency, performance, and results." -Don Massey

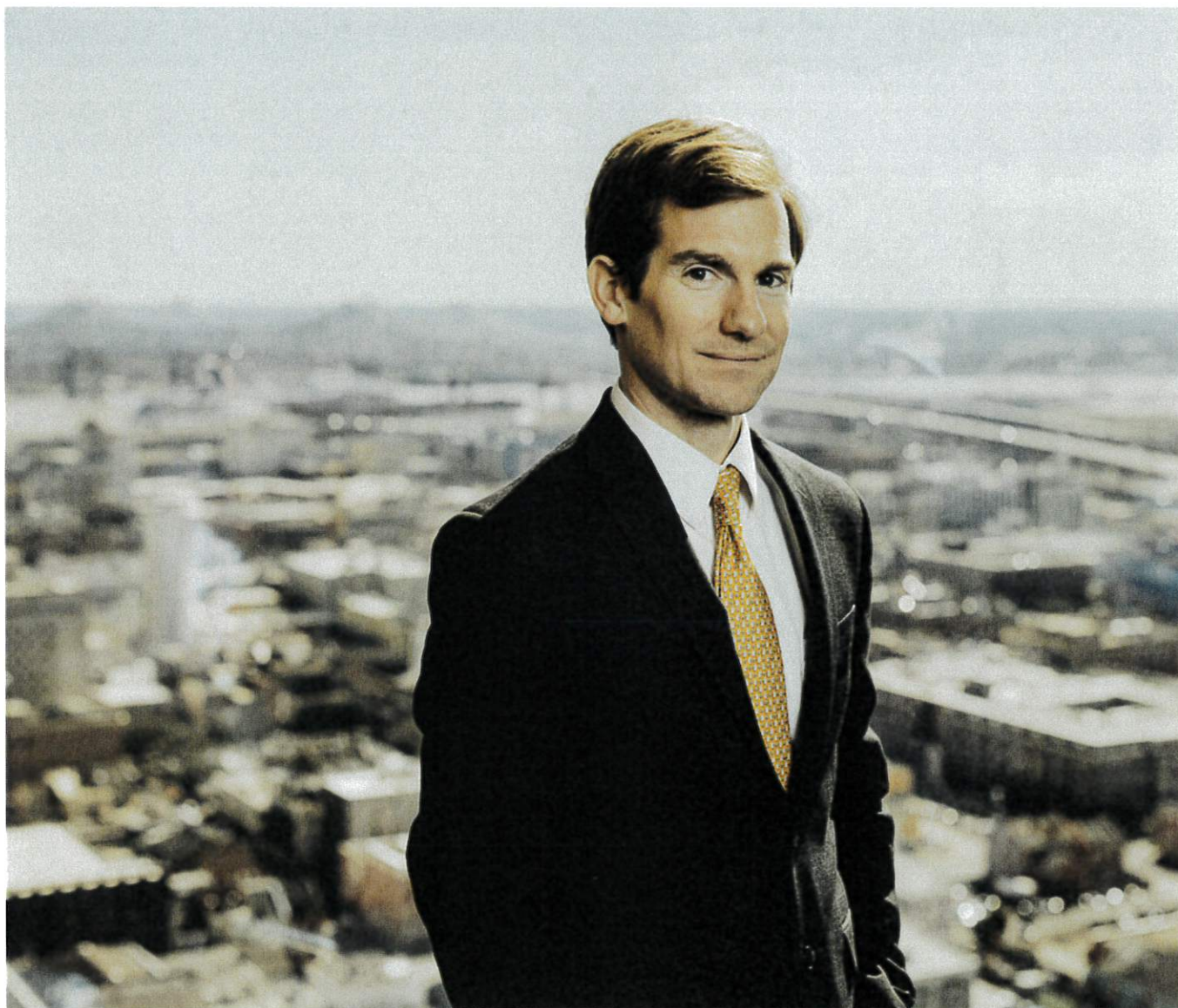
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Jeff Pastorek



Practice Areas

- Construction
- Commercial/Business
- Admiralty/Maritime

Contact Information



Jeff Pastorek joined Couhig Partners in 2015. He earned his J.D. cum laude from Tulane University Law School in 2010. While in law school, he externed for Chief Justice Catherine Kimball of the Louisiana Supreme Court and won Tulane's 2010 Bell, Ryniker & Letourneau admiralty writing competition. Mr. Pastorek is admitted to practice in all Louisiana State and Federal Courts, as well as the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and the New Orleans Bar Association. Mr. Pastorek's practice has been primarily focused on Construction Law, Admiralty/Maritime Law, and Education Law.

Mr. Pastorek was selected to the Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Stars List for 2015 through 2020. He co-authored, "Analysis of Alexander v. Norfolk Southern Corporation," Westlaw Journal, Vol. 30, Issue 9, June 2012.

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Claire Easterling Pontier



Practice Areas

- Estate Planning & Succession
- Business Practice
- Commercial & General Litigation
- Construction & Surety Law
- Insurance Law

**Contact information**

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Claire is a partner at Couhig Partners, LLC, and has worked with the firm for fifteen years. Rob Couhig, the firm's founder, always encourages Claire to develop her skills as both a litigator and a business owner. Together with her law partners, Claire has participated in a variety of business ventures, from transportation logistics and technology to real estate development. Claire's involvement in these enterprises has given her a unique perspective and skill set in business organization, planning, and disputes.

In addition to her work with existing and burgeoning businesses, Claire has an established estate planning and succession practice. Claire's father is a financial advisor in Alexandria, Louisiana. After years of working around his office, estate planning and succession work came easily to her. She enjoys getting to know each family, their history, and creating a plan for future generations.

Claire also maintains a diverse book of commercial litigation cases. She has successfully litigated matters throughout the Gulf Coast and Colorado, including business disputes, employment contract disputes, land and real estate disputes, property damage claims, public and private construction project disputes, products liability claims, and general tort claims. Claire is a trained mediator, and believes ADR can be an efficient and inexpensive option for resolving disputes for clients and parties.

Claire is a member of the Louisiana and Texas State Bar Associations, and she has been admitted pro hac vice to state and federal courts in Mississippi and Colorado. Claire's professional achievements have earned praise from her peers, who have selected her as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for five consecutive years. She is also a member of DRI, and was appointed to the planning committee for the 2023 Business and Intellectual Property Super Conference.

Claire earned her Juris Doctor with certificates in Civil Law and International Law from Loyola University College of Law. During law school, Claire externed for Judge Dee Drell of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. She was also actively involved in the Saint Thomas More Society and Loyola's inaugural Mediation Clinic.

Claire and her husband live in New Orleans with their two boys and dog, Indiana Jones. Her family is actively involved in their church and school. Claire is a board member and the incoming president of the parents' association at her children's school. Claire is also a member of the Krewe of Iris, New Orleans's largest and longest-running female Mardi Gras krewe. Claire recently joined the board of Target Health Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to empowering those less fortunate and removing social barriers to quality healthcare for all.



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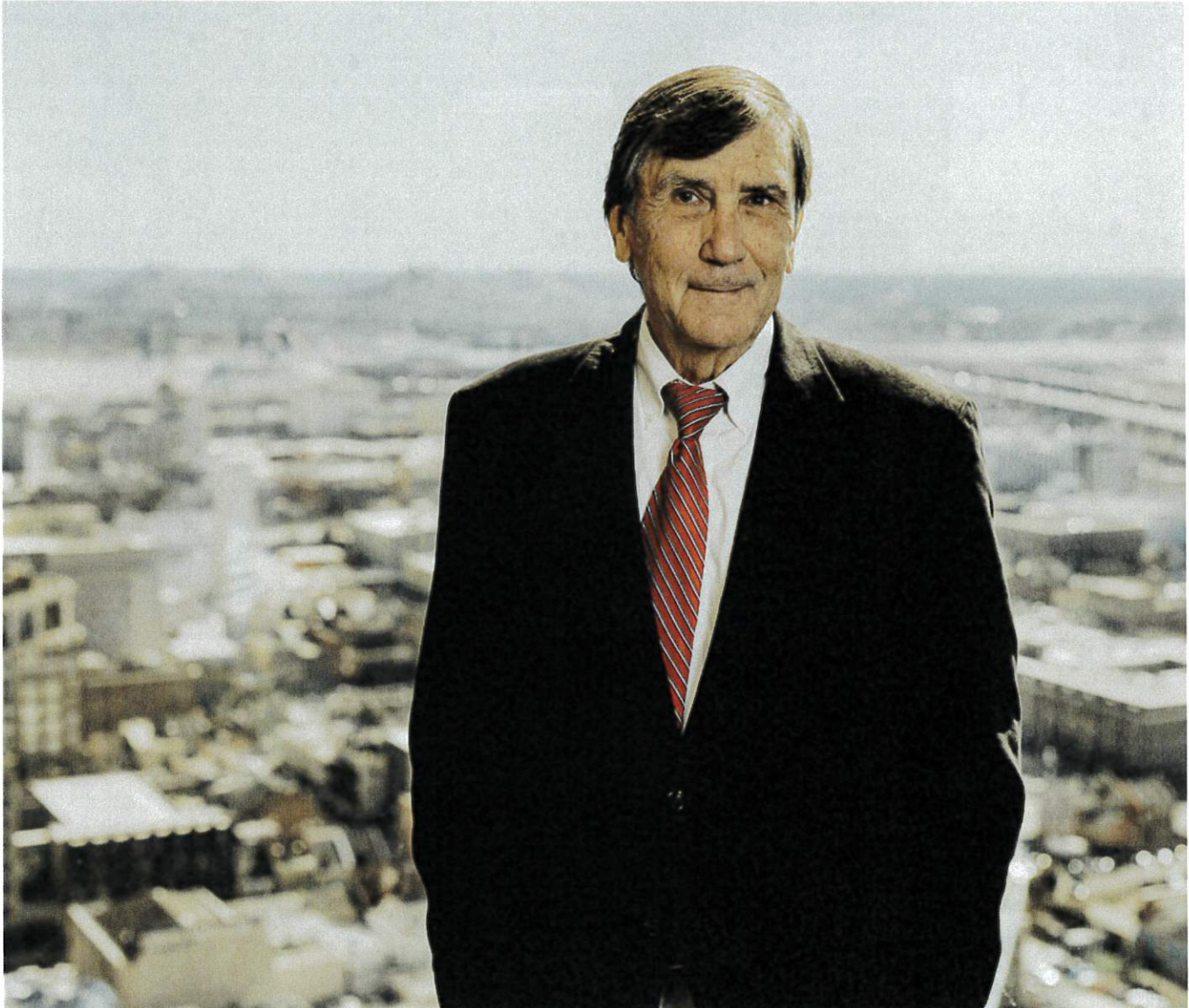
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Gary J. Rouse



Practice Areas

- Construction & Surety Law
- Commercial & General Litigation
- Business Practice
- Insurance Law
- Land Use & Real Estate



Email: grouse@couhigpartners.com

Gary J. Rouse received his legal education at Louisiana State University, graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1970. Subsequent to graduating, Mr. Rouse served as Senior Law Clerk to Honorable Nauman F. Scott, United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana. Mr. Rouse has focused his professional efforts in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Fidelity and Surety Defense, Director and Officer Liability Defense, Real Estate Development, and Appellate Practice.

In his nearly 50 years of practicing commercial and construction related law, he has represented owners, developers, contractors, subcontractors, surety companies, banks, savings and loan institutions, and various insurance companies. He has prepared documentation for real estate development and construction projects, including financing packages, and other project related documents for real estate development projects having a cumulative value of well in excess of \$200 million.

Mr. Rouse has handled construction documentation issues and/or litigation in Louisiana, Nevada, Texas, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Georgia. He has extensive experience in handling matters under the Federal Miller Act, the Louisiana Private Works Statutes, and the Louisiana Public Works Act. He has litigated many different aspects of construction related problems, covering asphalt paving projects for airport runways, commercial parking facilities, foundation subsidence issues, high rise curtainwall installation, glass and glazing issues involving water intrusion, wastewater treatment plant construction, drinking water delivery systems, and window and wall system failures with related moisture and mold issues. His experience in construction matters covers a wide range of offsite and onsite improvements for a wide range of public and private construction projects.

Mr. Rouse has also practiced extensively in the area of director and officer liability and financial institution and fidelity bond coverage. He is the author of "Emerging Theories of Lender Liability, The Decision to Defend and Payment of Defense Costs Under the 1986 Form 24 Financial Institution Bond," American Bar Association. He is the contributing author of "Annotated Financial Institution Bond, Second Supplement" and "Bond Default Manual, Extra-Contractual Damage Considerations," American Bar Association.

Memberships / Affiliations

Mr. Rouse is admitted to practice in all state courts of Louisiana, the United States District Courts for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of the State of Louisiana, and the United States Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit. He is a member of the New Orleans, Louisiana State, United States Fifth Circuit, and American Bar Associations. He holds membership in the Professionals, Officers, and Directors Liability Law Committee and has served as a Vice-Chairman of the Fidelity and Surety Law Committee of the American Bar Association, Section on Tort and Insurance Practice. He is also a member of the American Bar Association Section on Business Law. He is presently listed in the "Best Lawyers in America" for



Over the past 30 years, he has served on numerous committees for the local YMCA and has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Greater New Orleans YMCA. He presently serves the Greater New Orleans YMCA in the capacity as a Trustee.

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Ralph H. Wall



Practice Areas

- Litigation
- Insurance Law
- Administrative Law

Contact Information



For more than 30 years, Ralph has maintained a diverse and evolving practice, but he has never deviated from the core mission of providing excellent service to his clients in a professional and respectful manner. Primarily, Ralph has served as a litigator. Much of his career has involved representing parties in cases as wide ranging as automobiles accidents, toxic torts, commercial litigation, medical malpractice, nursing home liability, products liability, premises liability, and general casualty matters. He has also litigated matters involving insurance coverage disputes, construction disputes, breach of contract, and detrimental reliance claims. His insurance coverage experience includes first party coverage disputes, first party and third party commercial general liability disputes and fiduciary institutional coverage disputes. Ralph also has experience in class action litigation involving an array of cases including, antitrust, wage and benefit disputes, and toxic exposures. For many years now, Ralph has had a concentration in representing state agencies in administrative law issues. He also advises a trade association on antitrust issues. Ralph has also assisted in the insurance industry in creating new insurance products by participating in the creation of various policy forms used in the oil and gas insurance market, as well as interfacing with state regulators on insurance policy issues.

A 1993 graduate of Loyola University School of Law, Ralph served on the Moot Court Board. Ralph worked his way through law school attending night courses while working full time for State Farm Insurance Company. While at Tulane University, Ralph was a three-year letterman in football, graduating from the A. B. Freeman School of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Management in 1987. Ralph is married to Thea Crosley Wall and has three children. Ralph focuses his community service efforts on children, and after graduating from the Jefferson Leadership program, served as a Board Member of JCFA, an alternative charter high school that serves children that face challenges in a traditional school setting. While on the JCFA Board Ralph served in several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Board for many years. When not working in the community or representing clients, Ralph likes to do woodworking, whitewater rafting, fishing, and he plays an occasional round of golf.

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