

Louisiana State Bar Association
ADR Directory
2025



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Louisiana State Bar Association ADR Directory 2025

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LSBA ADR 2025



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Harold J. Adkins is a mediator and arbitrator with Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. (maps). He is a partner in the Baton Rouge law firm of Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah and Perkins LLP, in the areas of mediation, casualty, automobile liability, premises liability, personal injury and governmental liability. Mr. Adkins received his BA degree in 1981 and JD degree in 1984 from Louisiana State University. He obtained his mediation certification from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He is admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court and in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and all Louisiana state courts. Mr. Adkins is a frequent lecturer in mediation, litigation, trial tactics, ethics and professionalism in numerous programs and settings including the Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Southern University Law Center and maps. Since 2019, Mr. Adkins has served on the faculty for the Trial Ad Program at the LSU Paul M. Herbert Law Center as an instructor and section leader.

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M. Nan Alessandra

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M. Nan Alessandra, a partner in Phelps Dunbar, LLP, practices in labor and employment litigation, alternative dispute resolution, workplace training and counseling. She also practices in civil rights, business and constitutional law litigation. She graduated from Loyola University Law School, *cum laude*, in 1985 (Loyola Law Review). After graduating, she served as a law clerk to the late Hon. A.J. McNamara, U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. She is a member of the American Arbitration Association's Panel of Neutrals for employment-related matters in arbitration and mediation and is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Texas. She has participated as an advocate in mediations and arbitrations and conducted mediations and arbitrations as a mediator/arbitrator in a wide range of employment and labor-related disputes. She is an AV-rated attorney and is listed in the 2003-2025 editions of *Best Lawyers in America*, in *Chambers USA* and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.

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Kristen D. Amond

Kristen Amond LLC

Kristen Amond is a mediator and litigator who resolves complex, high-stakes business disputes—the same types of cases that she actively litigates, including shareholder and LLC conflicts, fiduciary-duty and fraud claims, bankruptcy and receivership matters, insurance coverage disputes, and securities cases. As a member of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana's Hurricane Ida Mediation Panel, she has also mediated first-party property damage cases. Her ongoing work as outside general counsel gives her a practical view of risk, budgets, and decision-making pressures. In mediation she serves as an ally to both sides, distilling complex issues to the few drivers of resolution and helping parties evaluate realistic best and worst-case outcomes. Known for an approachable style, Kristen builds trust quickly, keeps negotiations focused, and ensures all participants are heard and respected. She conducts mediations statewide and by Zoom and partners closely with counsel to reach efficient, durable settlements.

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Hon. Glenn B. Ansardi (Ret.)

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Hon. Glenn Ansardi (Ret.) brings to the mediation table a wealth of knowledge from over 45 years as a lawyer, negotiator, legislator and judge. He was admitted to the Bar in 1976 and was privileged to serve as a judge in the 24th JDC for 12 years, including a term as the Court's Chief Judge. Prior to being elected to the court, he served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives for 22 years. During his time in the Legislature, he served as chair of the Civil Law and Procedure Committee from 2004-08 and as a member of the Insurance and House and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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Ray Areaux is a sought-after mediator for high-stakes software, technology and Intellectual Property disputes. Whether leading IP litigation teams, driving tech business deals, counseling tech clients or serving as a mediator or arbitrator, Ray's over 40 years of industry and legal experience in the technology and IP arena provide Ray with a wealth of experience and tools to successfully mediate these large and complex disputes. Recently, Ray served as a mediator in a long simmering trademark infringement, contract and technology dispute pending in Federal Court in Missouri. *"What a wonderful experience having Ray masterfully and with great finesse corral some difficult and strong-willed clients come together in this high-stakes litigated matter ... - wow, Ray, great job!"* (Plaintiff's counsel LinkedIn post; and, noting that Plaintiff's counsel is a certified mediator). Ray founded and continues to chair the firm's IP practice group and is a Registered Patent Attorney with the USPTO. He has also counseled clients in information privacy issues as well as franchise disputes. Ray has served as an arbitrator with the AAA since 1994. He is an AV-rated attorney, also listed in *Best Lawyers in America* and was the Lawyer of the Year in Litigation-Intellectual Property in the New Orleans area in 2021, 2024 and 2026. He has been recognized by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* and *Chambers USA*.

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Don Armand is a veteran mediator and litigator who mediates cases and represents clients throughout Louisiana in all areas of civil litigation, including general casualty, personal injury, products liability, insurance coverage, construction, construction defect, commercial and any general civil litigation. Don was named Lawyer of the Year in Litigation-Defendants for the Shreveport area in 2025 and 2023 by *U.S. News Best Lawyers in America*. He has been recognized for years in *Best Lawyers in America* in Litigation/Defendants and Construction and in *Super Lawyers Louisiana*. He was 2022 President of the Shreveport Bar Association and is founder of the Shreveport Bar Association Trial Academy. He has served on the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel Board of Directors and is a frequent CLE presenter. He previously served on the adjunct faculty of Centenary College as an

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Raymond P. Augustin, Jr. has more than 40 years of litigation experience, which has included trucking, transportation and automobile liability defense, premises liability defense, general casualty and insurance defense and workers' compensation defense. He has represented national commercial and personal lines insurers and their insureds, including individuals, motor carriers, transportation companies and national retail outlets in Courts throughout the State of Louisiana.

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Ellen Badeaux is a Qualified Civil and Domestic Mediator and practices family, personal injury, juvenile law and criminal defense. She opened a firm in 1994 in Metairie, after first working as an associate for Daniel Claitor. Her firm relocated to New Orleans Mid-City, then following Hurricane Katrina, to Covington, one block from the courthouse. She has practiced in Amite, Baton Rouge, Chalmette, Covington, Denham Springs, Franklinton, Gonzales, Greensburg, Gretna, Hammond, Kenner, Livingston, Mandeville, Metairie, New Orleans and Slidell for 30 years and Qualified Mediator for 17 years. She mediates at her Covington office, by appointment in Slidell, the office of the litigators' choice in the listed cities or any public library. The office has two paralegals and a bookkeeper to support clients. She earned her BA degree in 1988 from Tulane University and her JD degree in 1992 from Loyola University College of Law (member of Moot Court).

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Dan Balhoff is a partner in the Baton Rouge law firm of Perry, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, L.L.C. He holds chemical engineering and law degrees from Louisiana State University, where he was managing editor of the *Louisiana Law Review*. He clerked for Hon. Frank J. Polozola (U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana) and Hon. Daniel A. Manion (U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals). He has served by court appointment in cases at all levels – including several multi-district litigation cases – as a special master, as a mediator, as a claims administrator, and as a neutral. He has also served as an arbitrator.

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Glenda Barkate has been a member of the maps panel since 1991 and has conducted more than 3500 mediations. She is admitted to practice in Louisiana and federal courts. She was an associate in the firm of Gordon, Arata, McCollam & Duplantis, practicing in commercial and civil litigation. Next, she worked as a contract lawyer for various firms in the New Orleans area in the fields of personal injury, road hazard, mass tort, workers' compensation and commercial litigation, from both the defense and plaintiff perspectives. She was also of counsel with a firm appointed by the State of LA to represent State medical providers' interests and lien rights in tort suits. She served on the four-member Council for the ADR Section of the LSBA and taught a mediation skills course at Loyola Law School for seven years. "Mediating is my career, but also my passion."

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Robert (Bob) Barton is the managing partner of Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips, LLP, and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. He received mediation training through the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. He completed the U.S. Army War College's National Security Seminar. AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell; recognized by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* and *Best Lawyers* in business litigation. In 30 years of practicing law, he has represented plaintiffs and defendants in lawsuits, transactions, arbitrations and mediations in areas including casualty and insurance litigation, commercial and business litigation, medical malpractice, employment disputes, product liability, premises liability, pharmaceutical and health care litigation, and disputes arising on and within high school and college campuses and athletic programs. A graduate of LSU; JD, *cum laude*, University of Georgia Law School; MBA, Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia. He has taught as an adjunct faculty member at LSU Law Center.

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Ashley Bass is a Hammond native who joined the firm of Cashe, Coudrain & Bass in 1997. She served on the Board of the Hammond Chamber of Commerce as the co-chair of the Education Committee and the Steering Committee for the accelerated learning program. She was also in the development of the Magnet School Pilot Program. She is currently on the Board of Trustees for the LSU Law Center and is a past board member of the Tangipahoa Chapter of the American Cancer Society. Her areas of practice include personal injury, construction, insurance coverage, legal malpractice, medical malpractice, premises liability and property damage.

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Robert Baudouin has been a mediator and litigator for over 35 years. His mediations have primarily involved medical malpractice disputes, premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, boundary disputes, and various other personal injury and property damage disputes. His litigation practice has been extremely diverse with a focus on healthcare law including physician and hospital negligence, physician contracts, class action and multi-district litigation, commercial litigation, and complex construction litigation involving the professional liability of engineers and architects as well as workmanship claims against contractors. He has represented both defendants and plaintiffs throughout his career. He served as Chair of the Medical Malpractice Section of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel for several years. He has lectured at continuing education seminars on issues regarding medical malpractice. He served as law clerk to Chief Justice John A. Dixon of the Louisiana Supreme Court and was a contributing writer to the Louisiana Political Review.

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Ashley L. Belleau

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A practicing attorney focused on commercial litigation, Ashley L. Belleau is a certified mediator and arbitrator, adept at resolving numerous complex commercial disputes. Renowned for her composed yet persuasive demeanor, she prioritizes attentive listening to both parties' needs. Her negotiation approach involves validating arguments and meticulously unraveling facts with presented evidence to steer parties towards common ground, facilitating plausible resolutions. She serves on various arbitration and mediation panels, including AAA Commercial, and FINRA Panels. Notably, she was appointed to serve on the EDLA Mediation Panel and the 24th JDC Mediation Panel for Hurricane Ida disputes. After Hurricane Katrina, she was a member of the Panel of Mediators for the Louisiana Department of Insurance Hurricane Mediation Program administered by American Arbitration Association (AAA), mediating over 350 hurricane wind damage disputes between homeowners and insurance companies.

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After thirty years of litigation, Jack C. Benjamin, Jr. founded Jack Benjamin, LLC to focus on mediation and alternative dispute resolutions. He received training at the Mediation Institute and the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University, is a Qualified and Registered Civil Mediator and has been a court-appointed neutral/mediator, as well as an arbitrator for the LSBA Attorney Fee Dispute Resolution Program. He has presented CLE seminars to over 1,200 lawyers on alternative dispute resolutions and served on the faculty for Tulane Law School's Negotiation and Mediation Advocacy Program. His litigation experience includes general liability claims, transportation accidents, personal injury and wrongful death cases and various commercial and insurance coverage disputes, which provide a broad foundation for developing creative and efficient resolutions during mediation. He earned his JD/MBA (1994) from Tulane University and is a former federal judicial law clerk. Throughout his practice, he has maintained an "AV Preeminent Rating from Martindale Hubbell and has been recognized by Louisiana *Super Lawyers*, Top Lawyers of New Orleans and Best Lawyers in America.

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David F. Bienvenu brings over forty years of experience in representing clients in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana to his work as a mediator. Mr. Bienvenu has conducted successful mediations in general liability, casualty, insurance and commercial litigation since that time, in addition to maintaining an active litigation practice. He also served as a court appointed neutral/mediator for the Hurricane Ida Claims in the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson. He completed formal mediation training at the Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law in 2013, which has been recognized as one of the top Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programs in the country.

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Brandon Black is a CPA (inactive) and a partner in the Litigation Practice Group at Jones Walker, where he advises clients on a range of complex commercial disputes. Brandon represents clients in litigation in state and federal court and in arbitrations involving business and commercial transactions, the federal False Claims Act, defamation, RICO, consumer banking litigation, construction matters, bankruptcy, foreclosures, creditors' rights, family business disputes, disputes between shareholders/members, business valuation disputes, succession disputes, Public Bid Law, state and local tax issues, as well as all aspects of insurance coverage disputes. He also has handled a broad spectrum of state and local administrative matters before various boards, commissions, and administrative agencies, such as the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board, Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors, Louisiana Liquefied Petroleum Gas Commission, and Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board.

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Trained at Pepperdine University's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Kelly joined the PDDS team in 2022. She has mediated hundreds of cases, settling the vast majority, priding herself on always being prepared and working tenaciously to achieve resolution where possible. Kelly served on the panel of neutrals appointed by the judges of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana to mediate Hurricane Ida claims. Kelly practiced at Duplass, APLC, for over thirty years after completing a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable A.J. McNamara. She now focuses her time mediating cases. Her litigation practice areas included construction defect litigation, first party property and insurance disputes, medical device products liability, and agent liability although she has broad-based general casualty experience. She is a 1994 graduate of Loyola University School of Law, having graduated first in her class, and Tulane University, where she obtained a B.A.

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**Kelly Cambre
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**Hon. Paul A.
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Michael E. Botnick

Hon. Paul A. Bonin (Ret.)

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Hon. Paul A. Bonin (ret.) served over 23 years as a judge. His earliest service, an appointment, was in 1990 in Civil District Court as Commissioner and Judge ad hoc. In 1997, he was elected as judge of the New Orleans Traffic Court. In 2008, he was elected without opposition to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. While on the Fourth Circuit, he authored a considerable number of opinions. In 2017, he began service on the Criminal District Court. During the three years of jury trials (pre-pandemic), he presided over more jury trials than any other district judge in Louisiana, affording him yet more vast first-hand experience in understanding the complexities associated with jury trial outcomes. Admitted in 1976, he actively practiced personal injury law (three of his cases resulted in important and clarifying legal outcomes in the Louisiana Supreme Court), handled numerous contested successions and business organization matters.

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Michael E. Botnick

Gordon Arata

Michael Botnick is a member of Gordon Arata and has more than 40 years of experience in commercial transactions, litigation, real estate, and construction matters. A certified mediator, he is admitted to the American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators and has conducted mediations and arbitrations on a variety of issues, including multi-party construction, environmental toxic tort, boundary disputes, and personal injury matters. He is an appointed mediator under the Hurricane Ida Case Management Order. He served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans negotiating and preparing contracts for the city and as designated Administrative Officer for 15 years for all public bid and competitively selected contract disputes ranging from \$50,000 to more than \$10 million. Michael is ranked by the prestigious *Chambers USA* for Construction Law and Real Estate Law, as well as *The Best Lawyers in America Lawdragon*, and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.

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Monica (Vicky) Bowers is the founding partner of Bowers Law Firm, LLC, a multi-jurisdictional boutique law practice concentrating in employment law, family law and government law. She is co-founder of the Bowers Mediation Group, offering the unique service of co-mediation with a mental health professional. She graduated from Vanderbilt University School of Law (chief justice, Moot Court Board) and Mount Holyoke College. She was a law clerk for Hon. Irvin Kilcrease, Jr., Chancery Court, Nashville, Tenn. Admitted to practice in Tennessee and Louisiana, she counsels businesses and government agencies with conflict resolution in employment-related matters, including internal investigations, policy and procedure development and harassment training. She has completed more than 80 hours of mediation training with the Mediation Institution in Family and Divorce Mediation and Louisiana Civil, Commercial and Employment Mediation and is a Louisiana registered mediator. She is an EEOC mediator and presents seminars on Human Resource Law-related matters.

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T. Peter (Pete) Breslin

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

T. Peter (Pete) Breslin was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1975 and subsequently admitted to the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, United States Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Upon graduation he began his career as an assistant district attorney in Orleans Parish. Subsequently he went into civil practice focusing on litigation in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, insurance claims, property damage claims, and product liability. He has been a mediator for over 10 years.

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**Patrick J. Briney
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Pat Briney graduated from LSU Law School in 1976 and, after working as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Louisiana and Assistant District Attorney in the East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney's Office, moved to Lafayette, Louisiana. He is a founding partner of the firm now known as Briney Foret Corry (originally founded in 1981) and has maintained an active litigation practice since then. Mr. Briney has tried and handled all manner of claims and cases involving personal injury, property damage, wrongful death, insurance coverage disputes, commercial disputes, toxic torts, redhibition, products liability, medical and professional malpractice, construction litigation, admiralty and maritime cases. Over the past forty-nine years, Mr. Briney has handled and tried numerous cases, primarily from a defense standpoint, but as a plaintiff as well. He has served as a mediator since 2011.

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Robert J. Burns, Jr.

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Robert J. Burns, Jr., is the managing partner of Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and is also a partner in the Baton Rouge law firm of Perry, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, L.L.C. He has served as a mediator since 2001 and has facilitated settlements in a wide array of claims. In 2005, he was nominated to the LSBA Leadership Program. In 2009, he completed coursework at the Harvard Negotiation Institute, which is widely accepted as one of the nation's finest mediation training courses. In 2015, Mr. Burns served as President of the Baton Rouge Bar Association and in addition served two terms on the Louisiana State Bar Association House of Delegates. He is an active member of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and maintains a diverse, full time mediation practice.

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Hon. Robert J. Burns, Sr. (Ret.)

Hon. Robert J. Burns, Sr. (Ret.)

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Hon. Burns served as a District Court Judge for eighteen years in Jefferson Parish. On three separate occasions, he was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as *pro tempore* Judge in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeal. The Supreme Court has assigned Judge Burns to hear complex litigation (including class actions) in various parishes in South Louisiana. Since judicial retirement in 1997, he has conducted numerous mediations and arbitrations. Judge Burns' success rate is outstanding. Judge Burns received his B.B.A. from Loyola University in 1966 and his JD from Loyola in 1969. He served as a member of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, appointed by the Louisiana Chief Justice for eight years. He was later named the Board's Chair by the Governor. Judge Burns has also served as Board Chairman, Brother Martin High School in New Orleans.

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Hon. Charlotte A.L. Bushnell (Ret.)

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Charlotte Bushnell has been a member of the Perry Dampf panel since 2021. She was appointed by United States District Judge James Cain to serve on a panel of neutrals to mediate cases arising from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. In that capacity, she mediated over 450 hurricane cases which allows her to bring valuable practical experience to the table to effectively mediate hurricane claims, as well as first party claims. Prior to joining Perry Dampf, Bushnell served as a Louisiana Workers' Compensation District Court Judge where she worked for twenty-seven (27) years conducting judicial hearings at the District 3, Lake Charles Office. As judge, she held approximately 1,500 trials, hearings and exceptions, and she handled over 4,000 settlement conferences. She recently attended the University of Houston Law Center, A.A., White Dispute Resolution 40 hours of basic mediation training. Judge Bushnell is currently an at-large member of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association - Workers' Compensation Section, Executive Board, and Women's Section. She is also a fellow with the College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers since 2017.

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Hon. Charlotte A.L. Bushnell (Ret.)



David L. Carrigee

David L. Carrigee

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David Carrigee is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. He received his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University in New Orleans and a Juris Doctorate from Loyola University College of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana. Practice is primarily focused on Maritime Law, representing vessel owners, oil companies, and offshore service companies, as well as their insurers. Practice also extends to representation and defense of insurers and insureds on insurance coverage issues.

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Hon. Marilyn C. Castle (Ret.)

The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC

Marilyn Castle served as a District Court judge in the 15th Judicial District for 25 years, retiring in December, 2023. Prior to her service on the bench, she was engaged in a litigation practice for 22 years. Having experienced litigation from the perspective of both a judge and practitioner, she has a wealth of insight into the factors which affect the outcome of a trial and a practical approach to reaching pretrial resolution of cases. Her ability to work with others to craft consensus is demonstrated by her experience as Chief Judge of her court, President of the Louisiana District Judges Association, President of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association and service on the Louisiana Law Institute and Lafayette Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. She received her BA and JD degrees from LSU and was admitted to the Bar in 1976. She resides in Lafayette and is available to accept assignments throughout Louisiana.

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Hon. Marilyn C. Castle (Ret.)



**James R. (Sonny)
Chastain, Jr.**



Albert Dale Clary



David C. Clement



**Hon. Martin E.
Coady (Ret.)**

**James R. (Sonny) Chastain, Jr.
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Sonny Chastain is a partner in the Kean Miller office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was admitted to practice law in 1989 and began his career as a law clerk to Judge Frank J. Polozola of the United States District Court in Baton Rouge. He has been in private practice since 1990 handling federal and state trials and appellate litigation. His primary practice areas are business litigation and intellectual property. Sonny has addressed various matters including personal injury, contracts, banking, unfair trade practices, consumer finance, antitrust, employment/non-compete agreements, software licenses, and investment suitability. He routinely advises clients regarding copyright, trademark, trade secret protection. Sonny has represented individuals, large corporations and small businesses as plaintiff/defendant. He brings over 35 years of experience into any mediation or arbitration. He is a member of Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association and serves on the executive committee of the Wax S. Malone, American Inns of Court.

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Albert Dale Clary

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Albert Dale Clary is of counsel with Long Law Firm, LLP, based in Baton Rouge and has been practicing law since 1979. His career has primarily been devoted to design and construction disputes and his clients have included architects, engineers, developers, construction firms, owners and public agencies. He has broad experience in technical matters and in document-intensive construction cases. He is experienced in early mediation and other early alternative dispute resolution.

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**David C. Clement
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David C. Clement is a founding member of the New Orleans law firm Clement & Associates, L.L.C. David handles mediations, arbitrations, and umpire claims. David earned his degree in Architecture in 1990. After practicing architecture, he attended law school and obtained his degree in 1995. David has extensive experience with real estate, construction, and property damage insurance claims and coverage matters. In 2013, he completed coursework at the Harvard Negotiation Institute, which is widely accepted as one of the nation's finest mediation training courses. David teaches Mediation and Arbitration as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. David joined the Perry Dampf panel in 2014. Recently, David was appointed by the Insurance Commissioner to serve as an approved mediator for the Hurricane Ida Voluntary Mediation Program and by Magistrate Judge North to the Eastern District of Louisiana's Hurricane Ida Panel of Mediators.

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Hon. Martin E. Coady (Ret.)

The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC

Hon. Martin E. (Marty) Coady (Ret.) graduated from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1971 and Tulane Law School in 1974. He practiced law in Slidell until his election to the bench. He was an assistant city prosecutor in Slidell City Court and an assistant city attorney for the City of Slidell. He was elected as a judge in the 22nd Judicial District Court and served as chief judge. On the bench for more than 29 years, he retired in 2019. As a district judge, he presided over more than 300 jury trials, and many non-jury trials, criminal and civil. He served on the committee established by the St. Tammany Parish Government to evaluate the need, construction and presentation to public vote for a parish courthouse. He served on the Supreme Court Committee to evaluate the Judicial Canons. He offers mediation and arbitration services on the Northshore and throughout Louisiana.

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Jeffrey M. Cole

Jeffrey M. Cole

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Before retiring from his firm in 2016, Jeffrey M. Cole was a partner at Plauché, Smith & Nieset, L.L.C. who practiced primarily in insurance defense and workers' compensation defense litigation. He joined the firm in March of 1980 and participated in a wide variety of litigation, including products liability, trucking accidents, premises liability, automobile accident cases and business litigation. His principal areas of practice included personal injury defense and workers' compensation defense matters. Mr. Cole is experienced in all types of litigation and its attendant discovery issues and motion practice. He served by appointment of the Supreme Court on the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee, and in the past served on the Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to study the finances of the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, also both appointments by the Louisiana Supreme Court. Mr. Cole received the Louisiana State Bar Association 2016 Pro Bono Publico Award.

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Brigid E. Collins

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Brigid Collins is a seasoned legal professional with extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution, having successfully conducted over 200 mediations across a broad spectrum of civil matters. She served as a Magistrate Commissioner for seven years and currently acts as a court-appointed neutral and mediator for Hurricane Ida Claims in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, and the Orleans Civil District Court. As a full-time mediator, Ms. Collins is available to facilitate mediations throughout the State of Louisiana and brings deep expertise in resolving complex disputes with fairness and efficiency. A graduate of Loyola University College of Law, Ms. Collins began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Orleans Parish and later served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Appellate Division of the Florida Attorney General's office. Her background also includes extensive litigation experience focused on insurance, personal injury, family law and general casualty matters. Ms. Collins is admitted to practice law in all Federal and State Courts in Louisiana and Florida.

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Brigid E. Collins



J. Gregg Collins

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Gregg Collins Mediation Arbitration

Gregg Collins Mediation Arbitration opened in 2016 with a great boss and wonderful employee, but, since COVID, has focused on online mediation using Zoom and Webex. More than 210 online mediations, including large, multi-party cases (only eleven have not settled). Of course, in-person mediation is still an option. 33 years as a full-time mediator, having mediated more than 2,920 matters ranging from two-party automobile cases to multi-party, multi-million-dollar settlements involving successions, business disputes, contract cases, medical product liability, trucking, Jones Act, complex product liability, complicated insurance coverage cases and toxic tort matters. AV-rated; Best Lawyers in America, 2012-25, Mediation; Top Lawyers, Louisiana and America; Best New Orleans Attorneys, Mediation. Umpired cases involving appraisal clauses. Arbitrator in business, construction and insurance matters. Past small business owner of franchises and independent businesses involving historic tax credits and historic real estate development. Former adjunct professor, Tulane Law School. President (Prime Minister), The Churchill Society of New Orleans. Publications: Law Firm Practice Management, Chapter 6, Numbers: Scary or Storytelling? DRI Defense Library Series (2014).

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Blair C. Constant

SMS Dispute Resolution

Blair Constant practices in both commercial and general litigation, as well as consulting his clients on navigating the levels of state and local government on a variety of issues. He has mediated over 1,000 cases, and he has experience resolving complex litigation, mass tort, commercial/corporate, insurance, premise liability and personal injury. Prior to his civil litigation, he prosecuted major felonies in Jefferson Parish and gained substantial jury trial experience. He has a proactive and collaborative approach to civil litigation and dispute resolution that has yielded positive results for his clients and high success rates. He has served as a liquidator and currently serves as a special master for the 24th JDC for all property damage cases related to Hurricane Ida, where he and his colleagues at SMS Dispute Resolution have closed over 3,000 cases with a 97% success rate.

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Blair C. Constant



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David S. Cook

Lafayette attorney David Cook handled his first Mediation in 1993, some 32 years ago, and has since served as Mediator in over 2,500 disputes throughout the State of Louisiana. Cook is a 1976 graduate of Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center and received early Mediation training with the American Arbitration Association, the Attorney Mediators Institute, and the Conflict Management Group. He has lectured on Mediation in various professional environments, and, in 2023, was appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana to the Panel of Mediators charged with mediating the large number of suits arising out of Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Cook is rated “AV” by Martindale-Hubbell and is a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He does not charge for travel anywhere within the State of Louisiana, and his available dates may be checked and reserved online.

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Ronald E. Corkern, Jr.

Upstate Mediation Group

Ronald E. Corkern, Jr. brings more than 44 years of litigation experience to his mediation practice. He is admitted to practice law at all levels in the state courts of Louisiana and U.S. District Courts (Western, Eastern and Middle Districts) and the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. He formed Upstate Mediation Group in July 2015. Admitted to the Bar in 1975, his law practice has included many areas of law with emphasis on insurance defense and plaintiff work. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers.

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René Chabert Crasto

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René Chabert Crasto trained at The Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, completing the Harvard Mediation Intensive program. She received her certification in 2023. She serves as a court appointed mediator for the Hurricane Ida Claims in the United States District Court for the Eastern District and Middle District of Louisiana. René Crasto has over seventeen years of experience in the legal field. She currently practices at Walters, Thomas, Cullens where her practice focuses on large and complex wrongful death and catastrophic burn cases, as well as other personal injury cases. Ms. Crasto has extensive experience in all areas of personal injury law including products liability, catastrophic 18-wheeler, and other highway and interstate death and serious injury cases, as well as petrochemical and other industrial cases involving fires, explosions, electrocutions, burns, asbestos exposure and mesothelioma.

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Steven D. Crews

Upstate Mediation Group

Steven D. Crews has a Martindale Hubbell AV Preeminent Rating. He brings more than 40 years of litigation experience to his mediation practice. He helped form Upstate Mediation Group in July 2015 and has been mediating since 2001. He received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern State University and his JD degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Admitted to the Bar in 1983, his law practice has included many areas of law with emphasis on insurance defense, workers' compensation, public entity liability and plaintiff work. He is admitted to practice in state and federal court and before the U.S. Supreme Court. He enjoys mediation work so much that he has now devoted 100% of his practice to mediation and arbitration.

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Justice Scott J. Crichton (Ret.)

**Justice Scott J. Crichton (Ret.)
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Bringing unmatched experience as a retired Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court (2015-2024), district court judge (1991-2014), and litigator (1981-1990), Scott Crichton joined Perry Dampf on January 1, 2025. Known for his diligence, integrity, and professionalism as well as his outgoing and approachable manner, Scott offers these qualities to the mediation and arbitration process. He is able to analyze complex issues through the lenses of both a trial and appellate jurist. During his tenure on the Supreme Court, he presided over thousands of cases and authored hundreds of opinions, concurrences and dissents. He presided over more than 25,000 cases during his 24 years as a judge with the First Judicial District Court (Shreveport/Caddo Parish). Prior to service in the judiciary, he maintained an intense litigation practice in both civil and criminal courts.

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**Robert S. Dampf
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Robert Dampf is a founding principal in the mediation firm, Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and was a member in the Lake Charles law firm of Stockwell, Sievert, Viccellio, Clements & Shaddock, LLP for 38 years. Mr. Dampf has an expanded mediation practice having conducted over 5,000 mediations, primarily in Louisiana and Texas, but also in Virginia, Kentucky, Utah and Mississippi. He has been recognized as a premier mediator and an authority on alternative dispute resolution for over thirty (30) years. Mr. Dampf is a frequent seminar speaker on mediation and negotiation having conducted continuing education programs for lawyers and business groups in Louisiana, Missouri, Florida, California, Arizona, New York and Ireland. Mr. Dampf is a member of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators. He has served as a member of the LSU Board of Supervisors from 2018-2024 and Chairman of the University in 2020-2021.

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**Robert J. David, Jr.
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Robert J. David, Jr. devotes his full time to mediated solutions as a preferred alternative to protracted conflict in complex civil matters. He has served in the role of special master and court-appointed neutral. Prior to becoming a mediator, he handled arbitrations, mediations, administrative trials, and/or litigation in over 25 states. He has tried cases to verdict on behalf of plaintiffs and defendants. Areas of practice include commercial, property, casualty, insurance coverage, employment, wage and hour, professional liability, and construction disputes. He serves on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee for the Louisiana State Law Institute. He is "AV" rated with Martindale-Hubbell and has been named to Best Lawyers in America for personal injury litigation and employment law. He received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1989 and his law degree from Louisiana State University in 1992.

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**Leonard A. Davis
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Leonard Davis has over 40 years of practice in areas including commercial litigation, products liability/personal injury litigation, complex business litigation, railroad litigation, multi-district litigation, mass torts and class actions. He is licensed to practice in all state and federal courts in Louisiana. Prior to joining Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul, LLC, he was affiliated with Herman, Herman & Katz. He graduated from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas, and Tulane Law School and is currently an adjunct associate professor of law at Tulane Law School. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Federal Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and serves on or has served on several boards including the New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana Children's Museum, University Medical Center Chancellor's Advisory Council, the Anti-Defamation League, and other charitable and non-profit organizations.

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Tiffany Delery Davis



Julie N. deGeneres



Mickey S. deLaup



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Tiffany Delery Davis

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Tiffany Davis is a litigator and a qualified civil and family mediator. Tiffany has experience representing both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal court. She focuses her litigation practice on matters concerning personal injury, insurance, maritime and oilfield torts and contracts, toxic torts, environmental cleanup, property damage, and coastal erosion. She also has experience handling e-discovery and regulatory and transactional matters. Tiffany is active in several professional and community organizations. She has spoken on topics including Louisiana environmental litigation, insurance, indemnity, electronic discovery, the Medicare Secondary Payor Act, offshore drilling, and DE&I. AV-rated, Martindale-Hubbell. Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, *New Orleans CityBusiness* "Leadership in Law," *New Orleans Magazine* "Top Lawyers," The National Black Lawyers "Top 100." Tulane Law School, JD, 2005.

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Julie N. deGeneres

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Julie deGeneres is an attorney in the Baton Rouge area with over 34 years of experience. After graduating from LSU's Paul M. Hebert School of Law in 1991, she initially worked in private practice representing both plaintiffs and defendants and handling a variety of cases including but not limited to personal injury, insurance defense, worker's compensation, anti-trust, and employment law. In 1995, Julie embarked on a long career as house counsel for State Farm gaining extensive knowledge and experience concerning liability issues (i.e. auto, homeowner, premises, and commercial liability), causation issues, coverage issues and innumerable ancillary issues. Julie also participated in countless bench and jury trials until retiring from the practice of law in September 2024. Julie remains a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and she looks forward to the opportunity to serve as your mediator.

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Mickey S. deLaup

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Mickey deLaup has practiced law in the Greater New Orleans area and throughout the state of Louisiana since 1981. Having retired in April 2023 from the active practice of law and closed her office, she now focuses primarily on mediation. When practicing law, she handled a variety of legal matters for major insurers and corporations including cases involving product liability, public entity litigation, construction litigation, toxic tort, premises liability, medical malpractice, bad faith, breach of contract, defamation, civil rights violations, property damages and personal injury matters. She has also handled plaintiff cases to trial. She has been recognized by Martindale Hubbell as one of a few select Pre-eminent Women Attorneys, and has been listed as a Top Lawyer/Super Lawyer for over a decade. She has served on the House of Delegates and the Board of Governors of the Louisiana Bar Association and as a member of a hearing panel of the Louisiana Disciplinary Board. She was selected as a Leader in Law by New Orleans City Business (2014) and is rated AV by Martindale Hubbell by both peers and judges.

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S. Guy deLaup

The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC

Admitted to the Bar in 1981, Guy deLaup is a sole practitioner of S. Guy deLaup, APLC, in Metairie. He was an Assistant District Attorney in Jefferson Parish for seven years and is a former partner of Connick, Wimberly & deLaup. He has practiced extensively in family law and has represented clients in business, insurance, franchise, medical malpractice and road hazard litigation. Mediation training: Pepperdine Law School and the Mediation Institute of Oklahoma. Martindale-Hubbell rating: AV preeminent; nominated as a "Top Lawyer" by his peers. He is a 1978 graduate of Louisiana State University and received his JD degree from the LSU Law Center in 1981. He serves on the LSU Law Center Board of Trustees. He served as LSBA president in 2007-08. Former chair, Louisiana Supreme Court's Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee. Former chair and active volunteer, New Orleans Pro Bono Project. Recipient, LSBA's Pro Bono Publico Award in 2002 and President's Award in 2011.
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Albert J. Derbes IV

Albert J. Derbes IV
Derbes Law Firm, LLC

Al Derbes both litigates and negotiates business law. In this hybrid practice, he handles most types of intracompany and intercompany contracts, including the sale and acquisition of businesses, as well as business breakups and closures. Industry familiarity ranges from the professions (such as law or accounting) to the oil patch. Venues for his commercial litigation practice include Louisiana, Federal and Bankruptcy Courts. In connection with insolvent companies, he represents debtors, creditors and bankruptcy trustees. He also litigates large or complex succession and trust matters. He is AV-rated and a Super Lawyer in commercial bankruptcy, being licensed to practice in Louisiana and Texas. He has practiced law for over 30 years, after having obtained his BA from Rice University and his JD from Tulane Law School. Co-founding the 11-attorney Derbes Law Firm, LLC, over 30 years ago, he has negotiated innumerable settlements, laying the foundation for his mediation practice.

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Isidro René DeRojas
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

René DeRojas is a bilingual Hispanic-American with extensive experience in litigating personal injury disputes in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana. Since 1991, he has been with the firm of McCranie, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch where he maintains a diversified insurance defense practice that includes personal injury, premises liability, automobile liability, pharmacy malpractice, products liability, homeowners and workers' compensation. Prior to joining the current firm, he maintained a general practice. Mr. DeRojas has received Martindale Hubbell's highest rating of "AV". He received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans in 1984, his JD degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1987, and he attended the College of Trial Advocacy at Hastings College of the Law in 1988. He completed Civil, Commercial & Employment Mediation Training with the Mediation Institute in 2013. He is the Immediate Past Chair of the ADR Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association. In 2022 he was appointed to the USDC Eastern District of Louisiana Hurricane Ida CMO Panel of Mediators.

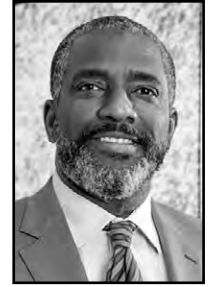
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Patrick D. (Pat) DeRouen
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Pat DeRouen is a neutral who has over 30 years of experience in the legal field. During that time, he has mediated as well as handled a wide variety of cases representing both plaintiffs and defendants in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana. Mr. DeRouen's practice includes personal lines, commercial lines, insurance disputes, trucking and transportation cases, coverage cases, bad-faith litigation, and premises liability. Pat completed mediator training at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University. He is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Louisiana and at the United States Supreme Court. Mr. DeRouen has authored several publications on insurance coverage and trucking and transportation law and has made numerous presentations on these topics. He has been a member of the American Bar Association TIPS Commercial Transportation Committee, Transportation Lawyers Association, Trucking Industry Defense Association, and the DRI Transportation/Trucking Law Subcommittee.

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Pride Doran is a partner at Doran and Cawthorne PLLC with offices in Opelousas, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and Houston, Texas. He brings over 26 years of trial and appellate experience in state and federal courts to his mediation practice. Mr. Doran's versatile and varied practice background has helped him develop a keen sense of "what people need". Pride is a creative problem solver and experienced litigator whose skills and experiences will be of value to his ADR clientele. Mr. Doran serves as a court appointed mediator in the Hurricane Ida Claims Settlement Program in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

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Charles J. (Chip) Duhe, Jr.



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With over thirty years of litigation and trial experience, Gerard Dragna has developed a deep understanding of complex legal issues and the ability to mediate disputes between parties with diverse needs. He is able to navigate intricate legal matters and brings a balanced and informed perspective allowing him to resolve complex disputes, particularly in high-pressure or high-value cases. Mr. Dragna focuses his practice on personal injury, transportation, trucking, automobile, and insurance litigation. As supported by the peer honors he has received, including Louisiana Super Lawyers, Best Lawyers and *New Orleans Magazine* Top Lawyers, Mr. Dragna has developed a reputation as one of the top litigators in the state. Mr. Dragna has trained through Harvard's Mediation Intensive Program, a five-day, 40-hour intensive in-person program which delves into mediation principles and processes through interactive presentations and hands-on exercises.

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Attorney Richard Ducote, a Registered Child Custody Mediator, and Civil Mediator. 47 years of litigation experience. LA Bar 1978; PA Bar 2009; JD Loyola N.O.; LL.M., Child & Family Law, Loyola Chicago; Admitted to U.S. Supreme Court; 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th Circuits; Eastern, Middle, Western LA Districts; PA Eastern, Western Districts; TX Northern, Eastern Districts; Admitted *pro hac vice* in 45 other states. Litigation experience includes: Complex divorce & custody; Maritime PI; Auto accidents; Medical malpractice; Legal malpractice; Clergy abuse; Child abuse; Domestic violence; Products liability; Police misconduct; Probate; Engineering negligence; Wrongful death; Malicious prosecution; Contracts; Road design & maintenance; Sexual harassment; Premises liability; Insurance; Vicarious liability; Animal owner liability; Employment; Intentional torts; School liability; Defamation. Tried cases in over 50 LA courts. Plaintiff & defense experience. Martindale-Hubbell A-V Preeminent Rating for 35 years. Convenient Covington location. Flexible hours; comfortable, private dedicated mediation & arbitration center; delicious meals always served.

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Charles (Chip) Duhe focuses in labor and employment law, and his practice includes transportation, workers' compensation, professional liability, and general litigation. He represents a variety of self-insured companies on workers' compensation, general litigation matters, and self-retention issues, as well as various insurance companies on casualty litigation issues. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from Louisiana State University. As a member of the Louisiana Law Review at Paul M. Hebert Law Center, he authored "Retroactive Application of the Louisiana Products Liability Act: A Civilian Analysis," 49 La. Law Review 939 (1989). In addition, he was a staff member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and served as administrative assistant to a Louisiana State Representative. He has been a maps mediator since 2009.

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Ronald L. Faia, Jr.

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Ronald Faia, Jr. has been a litigation attorney for over 35 years concentrating on general casualty litigation, including automobile liability, premises liability, insurance coverage, property, first party hurricane claims and bad faith litigation. Immediately upon graduating from law school, he spent two years as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Patrick M. Schott, then Chief Judge of the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Ron has practiced in Louisiana state and federal courts, representing both insurance carriers and injured parties, and has tried hundreds of bench and jury trials. He has also argued cases before the Louisiana 4th and 5th Circuit Courts of Appeal. Since leaving practice with a major insurance company in 2021, Ron has maintained a general practice as well as a mediation practice.

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Bradford H. Felder

**Bradford H. Felder
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Bradford H. Felder is an AV-rated attorney recognized in *Louisiana Super Lawyers* for family law each year since 2012. He is a family law specialist, certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. He is a mediator for all types of family law conflicts and has space available for use when he conducts mediations. He is a member of the Association of Attorney-Mediators, the LSBA ADR Section and a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar Foundation. He served on the board of directors for the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel and on the Louisiana Leadership Council for the National Federation of Independent Business. He received his JD degree from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where he served as articles editor for the *Louisiana Law Review* and graduated as a member of the Order of the Coif and Phi Kappa Phi.

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**Hon. W. Ross Foote (Ret.)
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W. Ross Foote retired from the 9th Judicial District Court in 2004 after 13 years on the bench. He joined Smith Foote, LLP, as a partner dealing exclusively with national class action anti-trust cases. He served on the board for the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, conducted ADR training and participated in class action antitrust mediations. He taught courses at the National Judicial College and assisted in the formation of ADR groups. He served on the Louisiana District Judges Association's Executive Committee and the National Center for State Courts' Advisory Committee on Technology. He taught an ADR course as an adjunct for LSU Law Center's Summer School in Lyon, France, in 2016. He and his wife, Judge Elizabeth Foote, were jointly inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame in 2002. His focus with the Patterson Resolution Group is commercial arbitration and mediation. BA, Duke University; JD, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

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**Vincent P. (Vince)
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**Vincent P. (Vince) Fornias
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After over four decades as a casualty litigator and mediator (almost 4,000 mediations), Vince Fornias, a bilingual Cuban-American, now focuses on arbitrations and early neutral evaluations. He authored over 1,000 opinions as a member of the multi-state appeals panel in *In re Deepwater Horizon Economic Settlement*, the largest environmental disaster in American history. He graduated, *magna cum laude*, from LSU and from its Law Center in 1977, attaining Order of the Coif and elected to its Hall of Fame. He was chosen repeatedly by his peers to Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers in the field of ADR and is a frequent speaker at law school and Bar-related settings. He has written humor pieces for decades in the *Baton Rouge* and *Louisiana Bar Journals* and recently published his third book, *Advocacy in Mediation: Don't Look Down, Look Around*.

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**Tom Foutz
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After 23 years as president of ADR inc., Tom Foutz founded TomFoutzADR, a dispute resolution consulting firm offering a variety of ADR services. A full-time neutral since 1993, Foutz has mediated and arbitrated more than 3,000 matters, including personal injury, commercial, construction, employment and hurricane claims. He has served as a court-appointed special master, has umpired insurance disputes and has consulted with counsel on mediation preparation and settlement evaluation. Foutz has also offered expert testimony in the areas of mediation and settlement. Foutz also served as a Deepwater Horizon claims Appeals Panelist, one of several administrative appeal judges appointed by the Federal Court to hear appeals arising from the BP oil spill. Foutz authored over 1,000 opinions. Litigation experience includes representing defendants and plaintiffs, first at Jones Walker, then later with Jack Martzell and Wendell Gauthier. Former adjunct professor, Loyola University College of Law (Mediation/Arbitration) and Tulane Law School (Trial Advocacy). Past chair, LSBA ADR Section and the New Orleans Bar Association's ADR Committee. Tulane Law Review. AV-rated. Best Lawyers (ADR).

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Kelsey Kornick Funes

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Kelsey Funes is a construction lawyer and Partner at Phelps Dunbar LLP in the Baton Rouge office. She is the practice coordinator of the Baton Rouge Litigation practice. Kelsey serves as an arbitrator on the American Arbitration Association's Construction Panel and received mediator training at Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. She is a 1997 graduate of LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where she was President of the Student Bar Association and a member of the Order of the Coif. Kelsey's practice spans almost 30 years, representing general contractors, subcontractors, and owners in commercial, civil, and industrial projects, as well as public works. Kelsey assists clients in drafting and negotiating various types of construction agreements including AIA form contracts, design/build, and EPC agreements. She supports clients in managing disputes through the construction process and has experience trying and arbitrating construction cases in state and federal courts throughout the Southeast and before American Arbitration Association arbitrators. She also has experience handling and litigating public bid protests and licensing issues. As a mediator, Kelsey leverages her extensive experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in complex cases to help parties find a path to resolution.

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Susan W. (Susie) Furr

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Susie Furr handles and mediates a wide array of workplace disputes involving complex wage and hour issues, discrimination, harassment, and retaliation allegations, leave issues, and non-competition disputes, among others. She is adept at helping parties find the right solutions at mediation. She has practical experience handling hard-fought litigation in state and federal courts. In addition to employment law, she has litigated and mediated business and insurance disputes. Her extensive courtroom experience allows her to anticipate how judges or juries will perceive a situation and to adjust strategies accordingly. She brings 35 years of experience to any mediation. She is AV rated with Martindale-Hubbell and is listed in numerous editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Chambers USA*, and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*. A partner at Phelps, she leads the Baton Rouge employment law practice group and is a member of the firm's Policy and Planning Committee.

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Admitted to the Bar in 1979, Phelps Gay is a Certified Neutral with the American Arbitration Association. He has arbitrated disputes under the AAA Commercial, Employment, Healthcare Payor Provider, International Dispute Resolution, and Consumer Rules. He also serves on the Louisiana State Law Institute Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. Phelps completed his Basic Mediation Training in 2002 and subsequently received a Certificate in Mediating Litigated Cases from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University. He is a past president of the Louisiana State Bar Association (2000-2001) and currently serves as Board Chairman of the Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society. Phelps received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 1975 and his J.D. from Tulane University in 1979.

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Dominic Gianna's vast trial experience from both sides of the courtroom encompasses a unique, enormous variety of areas. From simple two-party personal injury cases, complex construction/engineering litigation, toxic tort class actions, product liability and employment disputes, to nationally significant pension plan/securities fraud cases (the Petrobras pension case), Dom has litigated them all. Dom is also recognized as one of America's master teachers of persuasion science/advocacy. He uses his talents to keep the mediation process going forward, to teach the positives and negatives of a case to the parties and to motivate the parties to achieve success. His experience as a Special Master, trial judge pro tem and as creator of hundreds of focus groups/mock trials, provides him with the insight necessary to resolve every mediation successfully. Dom's Northwestern University formal mediation training/certification is complimented by his continuing search for insight into the mediation process.

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James H. (Jim) Gibson

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Jim Gibson has been engaged in the practice of law for 40 years, primarily focusing on both plaintiff and defense work in the areas encompassing commercial litigation, professional liability, probate litigation, complex tort litigation, general civil litigation and public entity litigation. He is a founding partner of Gibson Law Partners. Jim has tried over 60 jury trials to verdict and 200 bench/trials/exception hearings. Because of his extensive trial and appellate experience, Jim has been named as a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers as well as a Fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Jim received his Mediation Certification from the Northwestern/Chicago School of Professional Studies in Mediation Skills and handled hundreds of mediations.

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Ernie Gieger has over 45 years of experience trying cases before Federal and State court juries and judges in Louisiana, Texas and throughout the United States. He has been selected hundreds of times to “parachute” into ongoing litigation to quickly review and resolve matters prior to trial. His areas of practice include products liability, class actions, complex litigation, insurance, and toxic tort. Although he continues to try select cases, his plan as a mediator is to quickly review and resolve matters in litigation through mediation. Ernie’s experience includes representing diverse national and international companies involving product defect, catastrophic fire casualties, oilfield disasters, toxic exposure, toxic waste as well as environmental litigation. Ernie has served as national lead trial team counsel as well as regional counsel in litigation involving mass tort, multidistrict and class action litigation, including FEMA temporary housing, pain pumps, latex gloves, catheters, pedicle screws, surgical mesh products, pharmaceuticals and generic herbal supplements. Ernie is one of the founding partners of Gieger, Laborde and Laperouse. Ernie is admitted to practice in both Louisiana and Texas.

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Gary Giepert

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Gary Giepert has been involved in construction litigation, hurricane damage litigation, new home warranty act litigation, commercial litigation, successions, real estate agent errors and omissions and insurance coverage. He has practiced in front of all levels of court in the federal system including an appearance in front of the US Supreme Court and in front of all state and local courts, arguing twice in front of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is a native of New Orleans where he graduated as valedictorian from Brother Martin High School. Gary went to LSU from which he obtained a degree in accounting in 1984 and then attended the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, graduating in December 1987. Gary Giepert is an arbitrator for the AAA Construction and Commercial Sections and has practiced as a litigant in construction and commercial arbitrations and mediations. He is a proud member of the New Orleans Rugby Club and was recently voted into the New Orleans Rugby Club’s initial Hall of Fame class. He is also a volunteer rugby coach at his alma mater, Brother Martin High School. Gary mediated cases privately for five years prior to joining maps.

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Hon. Carolyn Gill-Jefferson (Ret.)
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Carolyn Gill-Jefferson is a retired judge for Orleans Parish Civil District Court. During her tenure on the court, she served as chief judge. Subsequent to her service on the bench, she served as a visiting professor of civil law at the Mississippi College School of Law. She remains a member of the adjunct faculty. She is also a member of the Trial Advocacy faculty at Tulane University. She has been appointed Special Master by the Civil District court to make allocations of settlements of more than \$30 million. Currently, she practices in the areas of administrative, domestic and succession law. She also engages in mediation and arbitration handling personal injury, contracts, medical malpractice, premises liability, property damage, class action and successions.

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Harvey Godofsky, a St. Tammany Parish resident, graduated from Loyola University in the top 2.5% of his class and with honors. He was a partner with Mang, Batiza, Gaudin, Godofsky & Penzato from 1988 - 2018. He had defended malpractice claims against physicians and hospitals since 1985 and had represented Louisiana Medical Mutual Insurance Co. and its insureds since 1988. He served as a speaker on various medical malpractice topics. His practice areas are automobile, legal malpractice, medical malpractice, personal injury, premises liability and product liability. He is the author of "Corporation's Liability for Intentional Torts of its President - A Change in Scope," *Loyola Law Review*, Vol.24, No. 1 and "A Quantum Study of Pain and Suffering Awards in the Louisiana Appellate Courts," *Loyola Law Review*, Vol.25, No. 1.

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Nicholas C. (Nick) Gristina

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Nick Gristina's mission is to build meaningful, lasting relationships with his mediation clients. Nick understands the importance of diligent preparation, responsiveness and professionalism. As lead counsel, Nick has successfully represented clients in thousands of civil cases involving premises liability, casualty, bad faith and automobile personal injury tort claims throughout Louisiana's State and Federal Courts. Successful practices are best identified through peer recognition. Nick is honored to have been appointed to the expedited jury trial committee of the Louisiana Law Institute and recognized by his peers and Super Lawyers Magazine as a Louisiana Rising Star every year from 2012-2017 and as a Super Lawyer in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Additionally, Nick is a frequent speaker/presenter on a variety of legal topics at conferences and seminars throughout the nation.

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Joseph B. Guilbeau

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For 39 years, Joe Guilbeau practiced personal injury defense under all coverages provided by the standard NCCI Workers Compensation/Employers Liability policy, typically endorsed for Longshore and Maritime risks. He achieved the AV-Preeminent highest rating by Martindale-Hubbell and was admitted as a Fellow in the College of Worker's Compensation Lawyers in 2018. Retired from the practice of law, he has actively mediated cases since May 2022. He completed the Harvard Negotiation and Dispute Resolution Program. He is an enthusiastic and proactive mediator who will listen, observe, share experiences, and suggest creative methods to move the parties to closure, without being pushy or desperate. His primary focus is Louisiana state and federal LHWCA claims, with proficiency handling interventions in "combination" Liability/Worker's Compensation claims and those involving a Medicare interest. He is engaging in the process he found most rewarding in law practice: facilitating fair settlements among parties, bringing resolution, closure and peace.

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J. Chris Guillet has practiced law since 1999, focusing on litigation in state and federal courts, as well as corporate transactions and real estate. In 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana appointed him to serve as a mediator for the Hurricane Laura and Delta cases pending in Lake Charles. He has mediated commercial and personal injury cases throughout the state since 2015. He received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

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**Hon. Richard T.
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Hon. Richard T. (Dick) Haik, Sr. (Ret.)

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After more than three decades on the state and federal bench and after serving as chief judge for the 16th Judicial District Court and for the US District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in Lafayette, Judge “Dick” Haik retired from the bench. He returned to private practice focusing on mediation services and court appointments as special master and arbitration matters. Judge Haik is Of Counsel with Morrow, Morrow, Ryan, Bassett & Haik, where he has the pleasure of practicing law with his son. He served as trial court judge in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, served on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals by designation and is an AAA approved arbitrator. Haik is uniquely qualified to serve as a mediator in all matters. He’s knowledgeable of the law and understanding of human nature, which make him a very effective neutral. In his mediation work, he employs his judicial expertise to help parties achieve settlements in complex cases requiring delicate negotiation or in matters where settlement seems unlikely. Judge Haik was named the 2022 Distinguished Jurist by the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

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Bobby M. Harges mediates and arbitrates with Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. (maps) in Louisiana and Mississippi. He has been a neutral since 1990 in the capacities of special master, mediator, arbitrator, umpire, appraiser, and complaint hearing officer for energy regulatory matters. His primary experience as a neutral includes the mediation and arbitration of personal injury, insurance, securities, construction, commercial, labor and employment matters, and civil rights cases. He has substantial experience handling complex cases and class actions. He is the Chair of the LSBA ADR Section, a past chair of the Mississippi Bar ADR Section, and he has taught mediation and arbitration, evidence torts, sports law, DWI law, insurance law, and criminal law and procedure at Loyola New Orleans College of Law and the University of Mississippi School of Law.

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**Timothy W.
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Timothy W. Hassinger

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Tim Hassinger has successfully negotiated settlements for over 25 years. As a practicing attorney, he has litigated, tried, and mediated cases in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana and Texas, and is the Managing Director of Galloway’s New Orleans and Mandeville offices. He has extensive experience in personal injury, mass torts, multi-party, construction defect, and insurance coverage litigation. He has served as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School and is the author of Louisiana Civil Procedure published by LexisNexis. He teaches seminars in trial practice, negotiations, writing, and litigation in Louisiana and throughout the country as well.

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**Lambert J. (Joe)
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Lambert J. (Joe) Hassinger, Jr.

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Joe Hassinger settles cases. In Joe you have a committed and energetic mediator who never quits; a mediator who respects your interests and needs, and a set of trustworthy and objective fresh eyes. Joe litigated, mediated and tried cases in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana for thirty years. He brings in-the-trenches experience to the mediation and arbitration of bodily injury, professional liability, insurance coverage, contract disputes, construction defect and multi-party litigation. Joe serves as an adjunct professor at Tulane Law School teaching negotiation and mediation advocacy. Joe earned his Master of Laws Degree (LLM) in Dispute Resolution from The Strauss Institute at Pepperdine Law School and has completed advanced mediator and negotiation training through maps, the Harvard Program on Negotiation and the American Bar Association.

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Trippe Hawthorne, a partner in the firm of Kean Miller, L.L.P., frequently handles construction disputes of all types, industrial, commercial, residential, public, and private, procurement matters, construction project planning and contracting, and commercial litigation. Trippe is a member of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers and is the Chair of ACREL's Construction Law Committee. He is member of the Louisiana Law Institute Council, serves on the ADR Committee, and was a special advisor to the Law Institute's Security Devices Committee for the recent update to the Private Works Act. Mr. Hawthorne is a graduate of the Mediation Program at Harvard Law School where he gained exposure to several alternative dispute resolution techniques, including mediation, arbitration, mini-trials, settlement counsel, collaborative law, early neutral evaluation and co-mediation services. Mr. Hawthorne is licensed to practice law in Louisiana and Texas.

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Thomas M. Hayes III

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Before retirement from civil litigation in 2023, Tom practiced 45 years at Hayes, Harkey, Smith & Cascio, LLP, in Monroe, representing parties in civil actions in state and federal courts on issues of professional liability, product liability, industrial accidents, commercial disputes, employment and civil rights, healthcare, medical malpractice, insurance, transportation, construction, real estate, successions and trusts. Special master by appointment of the 4th JDC and 8th JDC, he was trained as a mediator at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (Pepperdine Law School). Attorney council member and Past President of the Louisiana State Law Institute. Fellow and former Regent of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and Fellow of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Louisiana Bar Foundation Distinguished Attorney, 2016. LSU Law Center Distinguished Achievement Honoree, 2018. Louisiana Bar Foundation's Curtis Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award Recipient, 2025. Louisiana Super Lawyers, civil litigation, 2007-23. BA, with honors, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, 1974; JD, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, 1977.

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Michael G. Helm

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As founder of Helm Law Firm, Mr. Helm maintains a solo practice in Covington. Prior to his 16 years with a maritime firm, he worked offshore in wireline operations and thereafter, sold boat landing systems to oil companies for offshore platforms. Admitted into the Louisiana Bar in 1988 and Texas in 1994, Helm has represented claimants and defendants in litigation in Louisiana and Texas over the past 37 years. He has experience in resolving disputes embraced within insurance, personal injury, wrongful death, Jones Act, longshore, medical malpractice, property damage and contractual actions. Through his affiliation with Perry Dampf and AAA, he has mediated over 600 claims. His direct approach in mediating and willingness to stay involved post mediation has resulted in a 90% success rate. Helm received his undergraduate degree from Georgia Tech and JD in 1988 from Loyola University and is a trained mediator, having completed the Learn From The Masters Mediation Training Seminar with Sid Stahl, Dallas, Texas.

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William C. Helm

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William Helm is a partner at Taylor, Wellons, Politz & Duhe. He brings over thirty years of legal experience to his mediation clients. With a general civil practice, Mr. Helm has handled trials and appeals in all state and federal courts in Louisiana and Mississippi. His areas of concentration are Personal and Commercial Automobile Liability, Insurance, Negligence, Contracts, and Collections.

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Fred L. Herman

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Fred Herman is a trial attorney and legal counsel, representing individuals, their families and businesses for 50 years. He has more than 35 years' experience as a mediator, arbitrator and hearing officer. His focus is personal injury, business transactions and litigation, healthcare, construction and commercial litigation and class actions. He is a member of the LSBA Fee Dispute Resolution Panel, the American Arbitration Association and the American Healthcare Lawyers Association's panel of mediators and arbitrators. He independently provides mediation services (in person or via video conferencing). He is a member of the Academy of Court Appointed Neutrals, the Louisiana Bank Counsel and the Louisiana and American Associations for Justice. He has been recognized by Best Lawyers in America for commercial and personal injury litigation, selected for Louisiana Super Lawyers from 2009 2024 and is a preeminent AV rated attorney with Martindale Hubbell.

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Brian A. Homza

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Brian Homza has been serving as a mediator since 2003 and, since that time, has successfully mediated over 400 cases involving both complex legal issues and coverage issues. His litigation practice spans over forty-five years of experience including, but not limited to: complex multiparty litigation incorporating all aspects of insurance coverage and assessment of damages in personal injury claims, complex property damage, and business loss claims. He has tried cases in every Louisiana Federal Court and numerous state courts. A Senior Partner of the Cook Yancey King and Galloway Law Firm in Shreveport, Brian is also a member of several professional organizations, a past speaker before the Louisiana State Bar Association, and a member of the Harry Booth Hank Politz Inns of Court. He holds an excellent reputation within the industry and legal circles, and he is a requested speaker and instructor for many organizations. He is AV rated in Martindale Hubble and is a 1979 graduate of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law School.

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Brian A. Homza



Thomas P. Hubert

Thomas P. Hubert

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Thomas Hubert is a partner in the Labor & Employment Practice Group at Jones Walker. With more than 35 years of experience, he serves as lead trial counsel in trade secret and non-compete litigation. His practice spans labor and employment law, business disputes, and commercial claims, with trial experience across the Southeast and before various administrative agencies. Tom has handled a wide range of complex matters, including class actions involving discrimination and wage-and-hour claims, trade secret misappropriation, and breach of fiduciary duty cases. He is also a trained mediator and has overseen numerous high-stakes disputes in Louisiana, Texas, and Florida. In addition to his litigation work, Thomas is the founder and editor of the Trade Secret Insider, a legal blog focused on trade secrets and data protection. He earned his bachelor's degree from Trinity University and his Juris Doctor from Louisiana State University.

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Grady S. Hurley

Grady S. Hurley

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Grady Hurley has broad-ranging dispute resolution at the intersection of energy and maritime operations where Louisiana, Maritime and Federal laws collide. This includes Jones Act, LHWCA and platform personal injuries and related insurance claims. He serves as a vice chair of the American Bar Association Admiralty & Maritime Law Committee and as President of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. He is past president of the New Orleans Bar Association and Tulane Alumni Association. He presently serves as a member of the advisory council of Tulane's Admiralty Law Institute, the Tulane Maritime Law Journal Board and Marine Log. His experience includes all types of personal injury on land and water, property damage, product liability, worker's compensation, environmental, insurance and indemnity claims besides transactional/commercial disputes.

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Richard J. Hymel



Roger Javier



Robert A. Jenks



**Chief Justice
Bernette Joshua
Johnson (Ret.)**

Richard J. Hymel

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Richard Hymel has 34 years of legal experience. He represented Transocean in the litigation arising out of the BP Macondo well blowout – he served as trial counsel in the seven-week Coast Guard/MMS hearings and eight-week Multi-District Litigation trial. He holds an AV Preeminent peer review rating on Martindale Hubbell. He is also a member of the Texas State Bar and passed the Certified Public Accountant exam. He attended mediation training offered by Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law, then ranked as the #1 dispute resolution program in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. He also attended IADC WellCap Supervisor Well Control School. He has successfully mediated cases in the areas of admiralty and maritime, trucking and automobile accidents, premises liability, environmental contamination, insurance coverage, contractual indemnity, construction disputes, employment discrimination, sales tax, and workers' compensation. He has been a member of the Perry Dampf mediation panel since 2004.

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Roger Javier

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Roger Javier is a native of Miami, Florida but has made New Orleans his home since 1995. He is the managing partner of The Javier Law Firm, LLC focusing primarily in the representation of companies, corporations, and government entities but also practices on both sides of the "v." His practice is 95% devoted to litigation. He has tried cases throughout Louisiana and argued in every appellate court and the Supreme Court. He has also litigated cases in California. He has been lead counsel and successfully tried and settled cases, several of which have had multi-million dollar exposures. He has completed advanced mediation training at Harvard Law School and has successfully resolved 95% of his cases as a mediator. He has mediated over 1,000 cases and is a member of the Bar in Louisiana and Texas jurisdictions.

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Robert A. Jenks

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Robert Jenks was admitted to the Iowa Bar, 1972. Past experience in private practice of law and corporate counsel. A Founder of and past president of maps. Qualified as a mediator under the Louisiana Mediation Act. He has mediated more than 3,000 cases involving class actions, mass tort, bad faith, personal injury, wrongful death, construction, employment, multi-million dollar cases, commercial, product liability, medical malpractice, maritime, FELA and franchise law, including large complex multi-party disputes. He is an Adjunct Professor at Tulane University Law School for Negotiation Advocacy.

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Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson (Ret.)

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Retired Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson is one of the newer additions to the maps panel of professional Mediators. She retired in December 2020, after serving as the 25th Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Justice Johnson is a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at LSU, where her portrait was unveiled, and she was inducted into the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame in 1996. Before her election to the Supreme Court, Justice Johnson served as a civil trial Judge at Orleans Parish Civil District Court. During her ten years on the court, she tried hundreds of bench and jury trials in one of the busiest courts in the State. She has extensive experience in general tort claims, personal injury claims and Workers' Compensation claims. Over the years, Justice Johnson has been involved with numerous professional organizations to improve the profession, and our community.

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**Thomas R.
Juneau, Sr.**

Thomas R. Juneau, Sr.

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Thomas R. Juneau, Sr., managing partner of Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions, is a full-time mediator. He has served as mediator in over 2,500 disputes in various states, including Louisiana, California, Texas, and New York. He has mediated a wide array of cases, ranging from basic, two-party casualty matters to complex, multi-party class action lawsuits. The vast majority of his mediations result in a settlement, and he is tireless and creative in his approach to getting cases resolved. He is recognized as a leader in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution. Mr. Juneau has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the field of Mediation. He is an elected Fellow in the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and the Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals (ACAN). He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been repeatedly recognized as a *Louisiana Super Lawyer* by Law & Politics. He is based out of Perry Dampf's Lafayette Mediation Center but regularly conducts mediations throughout the state.

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William H. Justice

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William Justice has over 30 years of litigation experience including numerous bench and jury trials. He received his BA from Georgetown University in 1982 (during which time he served as an intern for U.S. Senator Russell B. Long), and his JD degree in 1985 from the Paul M. Hebert Law School. Since that time, Bill has practiced almost exclusively in the area of property and casualty litigation including 14 years as senior litigation attorney for State Farm staff counsel (Terry J. Butcher & Assoc.). Additionally, he has managed other lawyers (in staff counsel settings for a number of carriers including the Progressive Group of Insurance Companies). He is admitted to practice before the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana. He has been a lecturer in various areas including discovery, bad faith litigation, and legislative updates. He has also served as a volunteer mentor and judge for various Southern University Law School advocacy programs including the recent Moot Court Board Intra-School Competition.

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William H. Justice



Robert M. Kallam

Robert M. Kallam

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Robert Kallam is a partner in the Lafayette office of Kean Miller, LLP, practicing with the Offshore Energy and Maritime Litigation Group. His areas of practice include insurance (domestic and international), marine and energy litigation, premises liability, casualty litigation, Act 312 (Legacy Lawsuit) litigation, appellate advocacy, and the drafting and negotiating of Master Service Agreements. Currently immediate past-president of the Lafayette Bar Association, he is recognized by *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, 2008-2024, and was listed in the Top 50, 2018-2020. He is recognized in *Acadiana Profile's Top Lawyers*, 2014-2024, and *The Best Lawyers in America* in administrative/regulatory law and maritime law, 2020-2024. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He is the recipient of the 2019 Federal Bar Association Lafayette Acadiana Chapter Inaugural Professionalism Award and the 2022 St. Thomas More Catholic High School Inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award. He earned his JD from the LSU Law Center in 1990, serves as the current Chair of the LSU Law Center's Alumni Board of Trustees and is a member of the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame.

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Hon. Timothy E. (Tim) Kelley (Ret.)

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Tim Kelley is a former District Judge in the 19th Judicial District Court having served for over 26 years. He is also a Past Chairman of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission. Prior to being elected to the bench, Tim served as a Certified Mediator and Arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association for many years, handling major cases in different areas of the U.S. Tim is a graduate of Cornell University (Civil Engineering) and the Paul M. Hebert Law Center. Prior to being elected Judge, his practice included Construction Law, Commercial Law, Anti-Trust Law, and General Civil Law, Products Liability and Personal Injury. Tim is also a Licensed Professional Engineer (Ret.).

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Nat G. Kiefer, Jr. brings decades of experience in personal injury trial litigation to your mediation. Nat has handled over 10,000 cases representing both injured plaintiffs and defendants. In his 41 year career, Nat has successfully litigated over 200 jury and judge trials in state and federal courts. He has also argued dozens of appellate cases in state and federal courts, including the federal 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, en banc, and the Louisiana Supreme Court. During his practice, he mediated over 750 cases resulting in a settlement rate of over 95%. Born and raised in New Orleans, Nat graduated at the top of his class from Tulane University Law School where he served on the Moot Court Board and was a member of the Order of the Coif. Nat has been named one of the top lawyers in the New Orleans area by numerous publications. He has attained the highest AV rating in both legal ability and ethical standards by Martindale-Hubbel. He has taught trial advocacy programs at both Tulane and Loyola Law School, and he is a volunteer basketball coach in the local community.

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Hon. Daniel E. Knowles III (Ret.)

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Daniel E. Knowles III is a retired United States Magistrate Judge who brings more than 40 years of legal experience to his mediation clients. During his 22 years as a practicing attorney specializing in maritime law, he tried numerous cases in both state and federal courts. After ascending to the bench, he handled more than 7,500 settlement conferences involving virtually every area of litigation. Moreover, Judge Knowles presided over numerous jury and bench trials from 2003-2019. He received his mediation certification at the Attorney/Mediators Institute of Dallas, Texas and has served as a speaker at programs sponsored across the United States as well as in Europe. He has served as a member of the adjunct faculty at the LSU Law Center teaching trial advocacy since 2004. Since joining Perry Dampf in 2019, Judge Knowles has mediated over 500 cases with an impressive success rate.

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Andrew C. Kolb

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Andrew C. Kolb is a mediator on Perry Dampf's State and Local Tax (SALT) mediation panel. He is a seasoned legal professional with experience advocating for clients across diverse litigation arenas. Andrew leverages his experience to facilitate constructive resolutions via mediation. Specializing in state and local tax, real estate, business torts, contract disputes, and insurance coverage matters for over twenty years, Andrew demonstrates expertise in navigating complex legal landscapes. Andrew has represented both taxpayers and tax collectors and also advises clients on business formation, restructure, contracts, and employment matters, serving as outside general counsel. Andrew has focused his practice on aiding clients in solving problems with creative, thoughtful, and cost-effective solutions, including assisting clients resolve hundreds of disputes through mediation and settlement. Andrew's extensive previous experience in litigation, state and local tax, and business matters gives him the background to help parties minimize organizational cost with efficient resolution through mediation.

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Harold Koretzky

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Harold Koretzky joined maps as a mediator and arbitrator, focusing in labor and employment law matters on a nationwide basis. He is a founding partner of the Carver Darden Koretzky Tessier Finn Blossman & Areaux law firm. He received his B.S. degree from Louisiana State University and his JD degree from Loyola University College of Law. He served with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in New Orleans and Washington D.C., culminating in the position of deputy assistant general counsel. Since leaving the NLRB, he has represented clients in labor and employment law matters and has extensive experience in collective bargaining negotiations, arbitrations, litigation and mediations. He is a member and past chairman of the LSBA Labor Law Section, a member of the American Board Association (ABA) Labor and Employment Law Section and served for four years as the co-chair of the ABA's Committee on Practice and Procedure Under the NLRA. He has also been admitted to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers.

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A.J. Krouse

A.J. Krouse

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A.J. Krouse is a nationally recognized mediator, arbitrator and special master, specializing in complex commercial, health care, energy, employment, construction, environmental, securities and maritime. In 2015, Mr. Krouse was designated as a "Master Mediator" by the American Arbitration Association. He was inducted into the *City Business* "Leadership in Law" Hall of Fame in 2020. He is a Fellow of The College of Commercial Arbitrators in 2009. He is a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, International Mediation Institute, American College of Civil Trial Mediators, The American College of e-Neutrals and The Academy of Court Appointed Masters. He serves on the AAA Mediator Advisory Council and the AAA Arbitration Advisory Council. A.J. Krouse has been appointed by the Louisiana Law Institute to the ADR Committee for a revision of arbitration statutes in Louisiana. Mr. Krouse served on active duty as a Captain in the United States Army, Military Police Corps from 1977-1981. He served as a judicial law clerk to U.S. District Judge A. J. McNamara from 1984-1985.

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Peggy Landry, Esq., Architect

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Peggy Landry is an experienced mediator and project neutral who has served on the Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions panel since 2010. Her background as a lawyer in private practice focused on construction and design contracts. Peggy is also a licensed architect with a practice in South Texas. She has both subject matter expertise and broad experience in resolving disputes among all construction industry participants. These include public and private owners, contractors, subcontractors, specialty contractors, architects, engineers, sureties, and insurers. Peggy is creative in her approach and persistent with every matter, and as a result, the vast majority of her disputes result in settlement. She is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, and The Jefferson Society. Peggy serves as a mediator for the Hurricane Ida Claims in the USDC, Eastern District of Louisiana and the Hurricane Laura and Delta Claims in the 14th JDC, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana.

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**Peggy Landry,
Architect**



Douglas Lawrence

Douglas Lawrence

The Lawrence Law Firm, LLC

Douglas Lawrence is owner of The Lawrence Law Firm, LLC, in Monroe. His practice is concentrated in the areas of casualty defense, school law, hospital law, municipal law, business associations and contracts. He is general counsel to the Monroe City School District. He previously served as board counsel for Morehouse General Hospital and as city attorney for the City of Bastrop. He has a BA degree, cum laude, from Southeastern Louisiana University and his JD degree from Southern University Law Center (associate editor of the *Southern University Law Review*). He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana and National Councils of School Attorneys, and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. He completed training in civil, commercial and employment mediation from the Mediation Institute in 2014.

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John S. Lawrence, Jr.

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John Lawrence, Jr., managing partner of Lawrence, Curlin & Associates, obtained both his B.S. in Business (1986) and JD (1989) from Louisiana State University. His areas of practice and 35 years plus of experience include retail and restaurant liability defense; insurance defense; plaintiff and defendant bad faith claims; plaintiff and defendant construction law and construction defects litigation; preparation of construction contracts/ lien documents; workers' compensation defense; business litigation; business organization; plaintiff and defendant personal injury; plaintiff and defendant real estate and property law; plaintiff and defendant products liability; wills and estates; plaintiff and defendant employment discrimination. Mr. Lawrence was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1989, as well as the U.S. Districts Courts, Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of Louisiana; the Louisiana Supreme Court; and all courts of Louisiana in 1996, as well as to the bar of the State of Texas and to the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern District of Texas in 1996, and to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997. He is a member of the Louisiana and Texas State Bar, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association and the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM).

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Hon. John E. LeBlanc (Ret.)



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Hon. M. Lauren Lemmon (Ret.)

Hon. John E. LeBlanc (Ret.)

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Hon. John LeBlanc is a retired State District Judge from the 17th JDC, with more than 24 years of experience in all types of civil and criminal matters, from small claims to multi-million-dollar litigation involving complex legal issues. He served as the court's Chief Judge for over twelve years. Prior to taking the bench, he enjoyed the general practice of law with his father, as well as serving as an assistant indigent defender. Judge LeBlanc is a resident of Thibodaux, LA.

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Jennifer A. Lee

Chehardy Sherman Williams Recile & Hayes, LLP

Jennifer Lee, a partner with Chehardy, Sherman, Williams, Recile & Hayes, LLP, has practiced law for over 23 years, including as in-house counsel. Her work focuses on corporate law, employment law, intellectual property, estate planning, and successions. She brings years of experience and skills honed in resolving matters for companies to her mediation practice. She mediates employment, business, and commercial litigation matters, as well as succession-related disputes, primarily through virtual mediation. She recently served on the court-appointed panel of neutrals mediating Hurricane Ida claims and frequently mediates with the EEOC to resolve discrimination claims. She is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University (BA) and Louisiana State University (JD and MBA) and is a member of the Board of Supervisors for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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Richard K. Leefe

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Richard Leefe is a partner in the firm of Leefe Gibbs and has practiced civil litigation for more than 50 years. His practice has primarily focused on civil litigation of all types, other than domestic, in federal and state courts. He has handled matters in many states and countries. He is a graduate engineer from Louisiana State University and served as an engineer officer in the U.S. Army, completing a tour of service in Vietnam before returning and attending law school, graduating from Loyola University College of Law in 1974. He has an LLM in International Commercial Law from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, Scotland. He served as the 2013-14 president of the Louisiana State Bar Association. He has been involved in numerous mediations and is the author of the LexisNexis publications *Louisiana Code of Evidence Practice Guide* and *Louisiana Jury Instructions: Civil and Criminal*.

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Hon. M. Lauren Lemmon (Ret.)

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Hon. M. Lauren Lemmon is a retired judge and seasoned attorney with 35 years of legal experience. She specializes as a mediator, arbitrator and mindfulness instructor. Lauren combines her deep understanding of the law with a unique approach to conflict resolution that emphasizes clarity, empathy and creativity. Her expertise as a judge allows her to navigate complex legal disputes, while her mindfulness practice brings calm and focus to even the most challenging negotiations. Lauren's approach promotes respectful conversations with a commitment to mutual understanding and resolution, giving hope for positive outcomes. Lauren is certified in mediation from the National Judicial College, where she is also a faculty member teaching Mindfulness for Judges. She is certified in Compassion Cultivation Training.

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**James A.
Lochridge, Jr.**

James A. Lochridge, Jr.

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James Lochridge previously served as President of the Lafayette-based law firm Voorhies & Labbé before resigning to devote his practice exclusively to mediation. He has been practicing law for over 35 years. He has tried jury and bench trials in both State and Federal Court, as well as argued before numerous Appellate Courts. Mr. Lochridge's background includes insurance, professional liability casualty defense, premises liability, construction defects, industrial accidents, and civil rights claims. He has worked with public entities, trucking companies, oil refineries and major fast-food chains. Mr. Lochridge has taught Business Law as an adjunct professor at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now the University of Louisiana-Lafayette). His vast array of experience makes him a prime choice as your next mediator. Mr. Lochridge is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Lafayette Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel ("FDCC").

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Scott Loeb

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Scott Loeb is a founding partner of Loeb Law Firm. He brings over twenty-seven years of litigation and trial experience to his mediation clients. Having represented both plaintiff and defense clientele, Scott has participated in hundreds of mediations. He is an AV-rated commercial litigator with a heavy emphasis in business, construction, insurance and trucking litigation throughout Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Scott has repeatedly been selected by his peers for inclusion in the "The Best Lawyers in America" publication. He has published and lectured as an expert contributor on trucking, construction and insurance-related topics. Scott began his career in auditing and tax analysis for Ernst & Young, LLP and all aspects of his family-owned trucking company before going to law school.

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Scott Loeb



**C. Randall (Randy)
Loewen**

C. Randall (Randy) Loewen

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C. Randall Loewen began practicing law in 1978 and is experienced both as corporate attorney (In-house) and private practice, including manager/owner of Energy Law Firm and Partner at Milling Benson Woodward, LLP. Randy has 40 years of broad practices in the areas of oil and gas, real estate, contracts and transactional work, corporate law, acquisition and due diligence, construction contracts and dispute mediation, including among other things, operation of oil and gas wells, rendering title & division order opinions, regulatory practice before the Office of Conversation regarding unitization work and intrastate pipelines. Counsel for major and independent oil and gas companies, and major landowners such as St. Mary Land Company and the State of Louisiana. Randy's transactional work includes sales and acquisitions, due diligence, preparation of title opinions, division orders, mineral leases and development contracts (farmouts, participation agreements, operating agreements, etc.), litigation and management of complex litigation at trial and appellate levels. He worked as part of land and legal teams to develop prospects, including leasing, drilling, operating agreements (offshore and onshore), unitization and related contracts, along with purchase agreements and due diligence for acquisitions and divestitures.

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Glen Scott Love

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Scott Love has presided over more than 3,500 mediations in the past twenty years with Perry Dampf. Prior to devoting his practice exclusively to mediation, Scott was a litigator with an emphasis on personal injury and business disputes. He is a graduate of LSU, earning a B.S. in Accounting in 1980 and then a J.D. in 1984. He is also a CPA (inactive) and Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). In addition to his mediation certification from A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center at the University of Houston Law School, he has studied mediation at the renowned Pepperdine University School of Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and has over forty years of legal and financial experience to bring to his mediation clients. Scott has also traveled internationally negotiating difficult business transactions and is a member of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators.

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Lynn Luker



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Lynn Luker

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Lynn Luker is a seasoned trial lawyer, having tried Jones Act, maritime, toxic tort, employment discrimination, product liability, and commercial litigation cases, among others, during her 40 plus years of practice in state and federal courts all across Louisiana. Ms. Luker has served as Judge Pro Tempore twice: in 2014 for Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans and again for the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2022. Ms. Luker served as national counsel for clients in mass tort and multi-party litigation, giving her a unique understanding of the client's perspective in claims resolution. She served as Adjunct Professor at Tulane Law School for over 35 years and received the Tulane Distinguished Teaching Award and its Distinguished Environmental Law Alumna. Ms. Luker is the past Chair of the LSBA Civil Law & Litigation Section, past president of the Tulane Inn of Court, and former chair of the Louisiana Judiciary Commission. She holds a JD, LL.M. in Admiralty and an LL.M. in Energy and Environment from Tulane Law School and is a frequent CLE speaker.

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Daniel Lund III

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Daniel Lund III, a partner at Phelps Dunbar's New Orleans office, graduated from Tulane Law School in 1988, earned a Master of Theological Studies from Duke University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the University of New Orleans. He handles mediations and arbitrations nationwide, trained as an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and served on the NYSE's securities arbitration panel. His practice areas include commercial, construction, and surety litigation, intellectual property, telecommunications, land use planning, zoning, and church law. Dan frequently lectures on construction law, arbitration, mediation, legal ethics, telecommunications, and land use. He is licensed in all Louisiana courts, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Residing in New Orleans, he serves as a director on several non-profit boards. In 2023, 2024, and 2025, Dan was named by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* as one of the "Top 50" attorneys across all practice areas in the state.

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Dwayne Maricle is a trial-tested attorney with 34 years of litigation experience and a professionally trained mediator, having completed advanced mediation training at Pepperdine's nationally renowned Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution. He brings a calm demeanor, sharp legal insight, and a practical, results-driven approach to his mediation and arbitration practice. Dwayne has litigated, mediated, and tried cases in both state and federal courts across Louisiana. His background includes handling complex, multi-party litigation in areas such as personal injury, products liability, construction defect, design and professional liability, and contract disputes. A respected member of the legal community, Dwayne also serves on the Louisiana State Bar Association's Ethics Advisory Service Committee. His career has been shaped in the courtroom, and he now applies that trial experience to help parties resolve disputes with clarity and finality.

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C.A. "Hap" Martin III has practiced at Shotwell, Brown & Sperry, A PLC, in Monroe since being admitted to the Bar in 1980 and has a broad practice in civil litigation, commercial law, personal injury law, mineral law, and construction law. He was trained as a mediator by the Attorney-Mediators Institute of Dallas, Texas in 1996 and has received advanced mediator training from the Association of Attorney Mediators. He is also trained as an arbitrator and received his initial arbitrator training from Resolution Resources Corporation of Atlanta, Georgia in 2002, with subsequent arbitrator training from the American Arbitration Association in 2008 and is a member of the AAA Commercial Panel and Construction Industry Panel. He has arbitrated cases as a single arbitrator and as a member of a panel (including as panel chair) on matters ranging from consumer cases to large, complex commercial disputes and large construction project disputes. He received a BS degree in civil engineering in 1977 from Louisiana Tech University and his JD degree in 1980 from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

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John Martin is a LSU alumnus (BA in political science and MBA); JD, Southern University Law Center; MS in conflict management, Kennesaw State University; certifications in conflict management and advanced mediation from Harvard Law School and Cornell University. Founder of J.F. Martin Mediation, LLC, and J.F. Martin Law Firm, LLC. Family and business law attorney with 26+ years of private practice; seasoned mediator with 14+ years of experience; and co-author of *Star Wars and Conflict Resolution II: My Negotiations Will Not Fail*. John is a course facilitator at Cornell University teaching Complex Negotiation and Business Law; an adjunct professor of Business Law and Conflict Management at Johnson University teaching MBA and undergraduate students; and the lead trainer of family mediation at the Kennesaw State University Center for Conflict Management. Registered civil mediator, arbitrator and conflict coach through the LSBA and Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Extensive experience mediating family law, employment, probate, personal injury, landlord tenant, business law, juvenile issues, and disputes concerning the commercial leasing and lending. Certified CASA in Georgia; board of directors and President-Elect for the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. (678)543-5596 • email: jfmartin@jfmartinlaw.com website: www.jfmmmediation.com

Joseph Maselli, Jr.

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Joseph Maselli, Jr. is a full-time mediator, having retired in 2022 as a partner from the law firm he co-founded, Plauché Maselli Parker-son LLP. His law practice was devoted to the litigation of casualty claims in virtually all judicial districts of the state of Louisiana, including premises liability, transportation liability, product liability, and a wide variety of general and business liability claims. While the majority of his work was defense-oriented, he has represented numerous plaintiffs over the years in a wide variety of cases. Joe has served as a delegate to the LSBA as well as a director of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and has lectured on trial practice at conferences by the LSBA and the LADC. He has also served as an adjunct faculty member of Tulane Law School, teaching Trial Advocacy. Joe mediated hundreds of cases for his clients as an attorney and has now mediated hundreds of cases in his mediation practice.

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Don Massey is an accomplished alternative dispute practitioner, having vast experience as a mediator, arbitrator, and special master. His decades of experience as an expert litigator in complex civil cases, mass torts, and class actions, combined with his extensive complex transactional practice, inform Mr. Massey's approach to empowering parties to resolve seemingly intractable litigation. Mr. Massey has emerged as a recognized alternative dispute resolution innovator. As co-creator of SMS Dispute Resolution, Mr. Massey was a developer of the alternative dispute resolution system which produced a 97% success rate for over 4,000 first party insurance cases arising from natural disasters across Louisiana. Mr. Massey attributes his track record of success as mediator to assessing the unique character of every case and application of an approach that will efficiently and effectively lead to a satisfactory resolution for all parties.

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Sam Masur is a member of Gordon Arata whose practice focuses on energy litigation, oil and gas titles, exploration company and oil field service company acquisitions and divestitures, and general commercial litigation and business transactions. Sam has considerable experience in the energy sector in Louisiana and utilizes this expertise as a member of the American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators National Energy Panel and energy arbitrator for the Institute for Energy Law. Sam has litigated and arbitrated matters resulting in multi-million dollar awards and managed complex commercial transactions in the low nine figures. Sam has been ranked by *Chambers USA* for Energy & Natural Resources and General Commercial Litigation in Louisiana, was recently recognized by *Lawdragon* as a Leading Litigator, and has been selected to *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Louisiana Super Lawyers* lists since 2010. In 2022, Sam was named the 2022 Lafayette Lawyer of the Year – Natural Resources Law by *Best Lawyers*.

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Andy McGlathery, of counsel with Stockwell Sievert Law Firm, has practiced law for 43 years (Natchitoches, 1982-91; Lake Charles, 1991-2025). He is a full-time mediator having conducted more than 1,900 mediations with extensive experience in simple to complex, multi-party personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, road hazard, trucking, product liability, insurance, maritime, employment and legacy cases. He has conducted countless hurricane mediations. He has been selected as a Special Master and Umpire (hurricane litigation). Peer selections: Martindale-Hubbell AV rating; Best Lawyers in America; Top Lawyers in Acadiana; Best Attorneys in Louisiana; and National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He served as chair of a LSBA Disciplinary Board Hearing Committee and on a LSBA Bench Bar Liaison Committee. Member, Louisiana and American Bar Associations and the LADC. Fellow, Louisiana Bar Foundation. BA, Northwestern State. JD, LSU Law Center.

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Mike McKay is, of counsel, with the Long Law Firm, L.L.P. A trial lawyer since 1974, he has tried numerous judge and jury trials in state and federal courts, representing plaintiffs and defendants in intellectual property, community property, wills, trusts, antitrust, RICO, ERISA, class actions, derivative actions, product liability and professional liability cases. He also has mediated casualty and commercial disputes for more than 30 years and has been associated with ADR Inc., then MAPS, before joining the Patterson Resolution Group. He received a graduate Certificate in Dispute Resolution from the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Law School in 2016. He served on the governing boards of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel. He was the LSBA president in 2004-05. BA, 1971, Louisiana State University; JD, 1974, LSU Law School.

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Michael "Mike" McMahon is a shareholder in the law firm of Daigle Fisse & Kessenich with offices in Madisonville and Baton Rouge. He brings thirty years of legal experience to his mediation practice to include trying numerous cases in both Louisiana and Texas, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (inactive) and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and former member of the Louisiana State Board of CPAs. During his career he has successfully mediated hundreds of cases from slip and falls to wrongful death, to complex, multi-party major casualties involving millions of dollars at risk. Mike specializes in maritime personal injury, trucking transportation accidents, LHWCA claims, maritime collisions, insurance coverage litigation, contractual disputes, and property damage claims. With his diverse background, Mike brings a holistic approach to claims resolution.

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Charlotte Meade is a partner with Meade Young LLC. Recently, Charlotte transitioned to focusing solely on mediation and arbitration, joining Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions in January 2024. From 2006 through 2017, Charlotte was a partner at Deutsch Kerrigan LLC in the Professional Liability and Commercial Litigation department handling complex legal malpractice and CPA malpractice litigation, as well as commercial insurance defense claims. Prior to attending law school, Charlotte worked on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. for U.S. Representative Richard Baker (LA, 6th District), as well as for the lobbying office of Adams and Reese, LLP. In addition to her professional liability practice, for the last several years, Charlotte has volunteered as a legal fee dispute arbitrator for the Louisiana State Bar Association, and as a volunteer child advocate for the Pro Bono Project's Child in Need of Care program. In March 2023, Charlotte completed the Mediating the Litigated Case™ certification program at Pepperdine University School of Law's Straus Institute.

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Joe Messina is an AV-rated attorney and a partner with Lobman Carnahan. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Tulane University, and while in college worked in the sports department of The Times-Picayune. He graduated from LSU Law Center and began working in a litigation practice. He brings to his mediation practice over 40 years of experience trying numerous bench and jury trials in state and federal court. His primary areas of experience include personal injury, property damage, automobile liability, premises liability, first party hurricane claims, and bad faith litigation.

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Lori G. Mince

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Lori Mince is a practicing attorney focused on commercial litigation, real estate law, construction disputes, class actions and tax litigation. Mince is a certified American Arbitration Association arbitrator who brings 25+ years of experience litigating a variety of commercial disputes to her arbitration practice. Since 2007, Mince has been named a leading lawyer in commercial litigation by Chambers & Partners, which calls her a “bright, organized and meticulous” lawyer with a “superb practice.” She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, and the Litigation Counsel of America.

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Charles Minyard is presently engaged in the practice of law as a sole practitioner in Lafayette. He is a former partner with the law firm of Mangham, Hardy, Rolfs & Abadie and with Minyard & Brener. He practices general litigation, concentrating principally in complex commercial matters, oil and gas, banking, environmental, medical malpractice, gas pipeline construction and personal injury. He has served as arbitrator and mediator for maps since 1996 in areas of employment law, oil and gas, Jones Act, construction, contract disputes and personal injury. He is admitted to Louisiana and U.S. District Courts, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Chad J. Mollere

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Chad Mollere, a Loyola University alumnus, earned his Juris Doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1999. His distinguished tenure as Executive Senior Editor of the Louisiana Law Review set the stage for a prestigious legal career. Following his judicial clerkship with Associate Justice Jeffrey Victory of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Chad joined Liskow & Lewis, APLC, before co-founding Johnson Gray McNamara LLC in 2005, where he remains a pivotal figure. His expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of legal disciplines, including general casualty, toxic and mass torts, environmental law, and oil and gas litigation. Additionally, Chad's proficiency extends to insurance disputes, class action and complex litigation, and patent infringement. A respected member of the LSBA House of Delegates, Chad holds the AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell and is recognized by The Best Lawyers in America for his work in Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants and Environmental Law. His commitment to justice is further exemplified in his role as a court-appointed neutral/mediator, having mediated hundreds of disputes. Based in New Orleans, Chad's mediation services are sought after across Louisiana and are available virtually, reflecting his dedication to accessible legal resolution.

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Blaine worked as a prosecutor for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office in the Department of Children and Family Services, Juvenile Delinquency, Family Violence and Felony Trials Unit. Blaine graduated from the University of New Orleans in 2004 and Loyola University New Orleans, School of Law in 2008. In 2020, Blaine became a Graduate Fellow for the Loyola University Institute of Politics. Blaine is actively involved in her church and children's school, serving on various boards and committees. Blaine also volunteers for Girl Scouts Louisiana East, where she serves as a Service Unit Administrator in Jefferson Parish. Blaine currently serves as a deputy special master for the 24th JDC for all property damage cases related to Hurricane Ida, where she and her colleagues at SMS Dispute Resolution have closed over 3,000 cases with a 97% success rate.

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Michele R. Morel graduated from Louisiana State University, Loyola University College of Law and completed the General Jurisdiction Course at the National Judicial College. She began her legal career as a solo practitioner with a general civil and domestic practice while serving as an assistant district attorney handling civil and criminal matters. She was elected and served as district judge for the 29th Judicial District. She presided over various types of civil, probate and domestic issues, including personal injury, construction and contractual disputes, class action, toxic tort and product liability. Previously, the deputy chief operating officer and a deputy parish attorney for Jefferson Parish, she currently practices as a senior assistant parish attorney for Jefferson Parish and is qualified to be a civil and domestic law mediator.

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G. Kent Moroux

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Kent Moroux's strength as a Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions mediator stems from his extensive personal injury trial work. In addition to mediating with PDDS, Kent Moroux is a trial attorney with Chris Corzo Injury Attorneys. He has close to two decades of litigation practice ranging from working as staff counsel for a national insurance company, to retained panel counsel for several of the country's largest insurers and now handling plaintiff personal injury litigation. He has extensive first-chair trial experience having tried numerous jury cases to verdict, and he also successfully argued before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. From 2008-2018, he participated in the second-highest number of tort injury trials in East Baton Rouge Parish. His knowledge of judges, venues, and quantum is an asset to parties seeking resolution of disputes.

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William Morvant served as a state district court judge in the 19th Judicial District Court seated in East Baton Rouge Parish for the past 25 years (from 1997-2021). While on the bench, Judge Morvant presided over countless bench and jury trials covering all areas of civil law. In addition, Judge Morvant conducted hundreds of settlement conferences. Prior to being elected in 1996, Judge Morvant practiced primarily in the areas of commercial litigation, contracts, products liability and banking litigation. He is well versed in civil procedure and evidentiary matters.

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Melanie Mabile Mulcahy leverages her experience in commercial litigation and transactions across the business law spectrum to provide a persistent, creative, and highly engaged approach to mediation. She completed mediation training at maps and at the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the UT Austin Law Center. She is listed on the approved register of Civil Mediators maintained by the ADR Section of the LSBA. Her mediation practice encompasses all types of civil matters, with an emphasis on business break-ups, member/shareholder disputes, liquidations, breach of contract matters, construction law, employment law, intellectual property, and other commercial mediation matters. She received her BA degree from Tulane University's Newcomb College in 1994 and her JD degree from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1999. She began her legal career as Assistant General Counsel for a publicly traded company, then practiced for more than 17 years with a Metairie law firm, ultimately founding Mulcahy Law LLC in October of 2021. She has been recognized in the 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 editions of *New Orleans Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" and in the 2025 "Top Women in Law" list in *New Orleans Magazine*.

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Robert H. (Bob) Murphy

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Robert Murphy retired in 2022 from the law firm he co-founded over 30 years ago, Murphy, Rogers, Sloss, Gambel & Tompkins. He has over 45 years of litigation experience, primarily as an admiralty and maritime lawyer. In 2013, the New Orleans Bar Association presented him with its Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award. A significant portion of his maritime practice involved defending Jones Act, Longshoremen and other maritime personal injury cases, which required detailed evaluation of each plaintiff's unique damage claim. He also represented plaintiff and defense interests in commercial disputes, property damage claims, insurance coverage issues, and non-maritime personal injury claims, as well as in several class actions. He trained as a mediator at Harvard Law School's Negotiation Institute where he learned advanced techniques applied in alternative dispute resolution. That training sharpened his mediation skills acquired through representing clients in hundreds of mediations and settlement conferences.

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Adrian G. Nadeau

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A co-managing partner of Long Law Firm, LLP in Baton Rouge, Adrian Nadeau has over 20 years of litigation experience while also serving as a mediator. His primary areas of practice include construction litigation, professional liability, and commercial litigation. Adrian helps clients identify, prevent, and resolve disputes, minimize legal and financial exposure, and negotiate strong customer, supplier, and vendor contracts and transactional agreements. His practice has included dispute resolution in breaches of contract, leases, insurance defense, and defective design and construction claims. He provides forward-thinking risk management counsel to business owners and executives at every step of the transaction and contract lifecycle. His expertise in resolving disputes in federal and state courts, in mediation, arbitration, and settlements is now available through the Patterson Resolution Group.

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Rick leads Taylor Porter's office in Lake Charles. Since 1980, he has concentrated his practice in the areas of commercial litigation, employment, construction law and business transactions, and has served as both an arbitrator and a mediator resolving such disputes. He also regularly serves as Special Master in the 14th Judicial District Court resolving litigation involving business divorces. Rick received training as an American Arbitration Association (AAA) arbitrator and served on its arbitration panel. He also served on the panel of the Association of Professional Arbitrators and Mediators (APAAM). Rick is the co-author of Louisiana Employment and, for 37 years, was co-author of Louisiana Corporations. He is past President of the Louisiana State Law Institute. He served on the Law Institute committee that rewrote Louisiana's corporation law in 2015 and is serving on the committee currently rewriting Louisiana's limited liability law.

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Eric joined Perry Dampf after 25 years of advocating for families and businesses throughout Louisiana and the Gulf South. He is a founding partner of Harrell & Nowak – a boutique litigation firm devoted to complex cases that turn on difficult legal, scientific, and engineering issues. He is AV-rated and recognized as a *Best Lawyer* in commercial litigation, a *Super Lawyer*, and a *New Orleans Magazine* Top Personal Injury Lawyer. Eric trained to be a qualified Louisiana civil mediator, and multiple courts have appointed him to their hurricane mediation panels. He has strong roots in the Eastern District, serving as a Director of the Federal Bar Association for eight years and President of the Chapter in 2012. And recently, he completed a six-year appointment to the Lawyers Disciplinary Committee for the USDC EDLA. As a mediator, Eric's experience as both a plaintiff and defense lawyer helps resolve cases big and small.

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Marvin Olinde is a partner in Taylor Wellons Politz & Duhe working out of their Baton Rouge, Louisiana office but travels throughout the state for her practice. Prior to joining TWPD, she was the managing attorney for Liberty Mutual Staff Counsel office in Metairie, Louisiana. Her primary practice is general civil litigation and trucking law. Marvin has actively practiced civil litigation for over 40 years with numerous trials in state and federal court. She has participated in hundreds of mediations during her career and is a believer in the process.

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A 1990 graduate of Loyola Law School in New Orleans, Michele brings an attentive, yet practical, approach to mediation to achieve meaningful and purposeful closure for parties seeking to resolve their differences. She has successfully mediated highly sensitive, emotionally charged disputes, as well as a wide variety of insurance coverage and hurricane claims, commercial, regulatory and casualty matters. Michele uses the knowledge, skill and experience she acquired over thirty-five years representing clients and litigating cases throughout Louisiana and before the Louisiana's Public Service Commission, Workforce Commission, and Division of Administration to assist parties in the amicable resolution of their disputes. When Michele is not mediating cases, she counsels/advises clients and/or represents them, through Crosby Law Firm LLC, with issues involving family matters, estate planning, contract or policy interpretation, contractor and lien disputes, landlord/tenant and HOA disputes, traditional insurance and casualty matters, products liability, personal injury, property damage, and cargo loss/damage. Her knowledge of trucking regulations imposed by state and federal governments, as well as the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, the Warsaw and Montreal Conventions, Federal Aviation Administration Land Use and Zoning Regulation Issues and Regulatory Compliance Issues (including HIPAA, Medicare, and ERISA) serves her well as a mediator.

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Coleman Organ was admitted to practice law in 1977. His practice has focused on large exposure matters including property damage and personal injury. He has successfully handled cases under the Jones act and general maritime law as well as matters involving accidents on platforms, inland and offshore. Coleman has tried judge and jury cases in Louisiana state and federal courts and handled appeals before the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the Louisiana Supreme Court. Coleman's clients have included businesses, large and small, insurance companies, parish governments and the State of Louisiana. He has mediated over 300 cases as a professional mediator and completed the forty-hour mediator training at Pepperdine/Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. He is a member of the LSBA.

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Admitted to the Bar in 1974, Patrick Ottinger is of counsel to the firm Ottinger Hebert, L.L.C., in Lafayette. He practices in corporate and commercial law, with emphasis on mediation, arbitration, oil and gas, financial transactions, real estate, eminent domain, corporation and banking matters, and litigation in these areas. He is the City-Parish Attorney for Lafayette Consolidated Government. He has served as arbitrator and mediator in a range of cases, principally oil and gas. He completed mediation training with the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (Pepperdine University). Recipient, 2018 Louisiana Bar Foundation's Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Since 1996, adjunct law professor at LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, teaching mineral rights and an Oil and Gas Seminar. Course materials author, *A Course Book on Louisiana Mineral Rights* (12th Rev. Ed., August 2011). LSBA president, 1998-99. Past Chair, Louisiana Mineral Law Institute's Advisory Council. Reporter of the Mineral Law Committee of the Louisiana State Law Institute. Author, *Louisiana Mineral Leases: A Treatise* (Claitor's Law Books, June 2016). BS, University of Southwestern Louisiana; JD, Louisiana State University.

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Jason G. Ourso

Jason G. Ourso is a Louisiana registered civil mediator and serves as an arbitrator and mediator with numerous organizations involving tort, construction and various other issues. He was a charter mediator with the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation (OWC) for 10 years, conducting more than 10,000 mediations. He has served as an OWC judge since 2002. He has more than 400 hours of ADR training and was admitted to practice law in Louisiana in 1991. No workers' compensation or related cases are accepted.

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Thomas Owen, Jr. is a practicing attorney who joined Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul, LLC, in 2004 following a federal appellate clerkship with Hon. James L. Dennis. He graduated, *summa cum laude*, from Tulane Law School and served as editor-in-chief of the *Tulane Law Review*. His diverse practice involves representing business clients in litigation, mergers and acquisitions, contract negotiations, employment issues, real estate disputes, insurance coverage disputes, confidentiality and trade secret concerns. He also represents lawyers regarding legal malpractice claims, fee disputes, law firm departures, legal ethics issues, and law firm business issues. He also acts as an appellate counsel to preserve or challenge trial court decisions. He is a court-appointed mediator for Hurricane Ida claims in the Eastern District of Louisiana, the 24th Judicial District Court and Orleans Parish Civil District Court and is certified and available to conduct civil mediations throughout Louisiana.

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Cyd Sheree Page

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In addition to 41 years of litigation experience, Cyd Page has mediated cases since 1997 following her training with the Attorney-Mediators Institute in Houston, Texas. She received her BA degree in speech education from Northeast Louisiana University in 1980 and her JD degree from LSU in 1984, after teaching during the 1980-81 school year. That in-depth training, her years as a litigator, and her life experience as a wife, teacher, mom and grandmother have combined to give her the knowledge and skills required, and the care needed, to work with attorneys and their clients to resolve their cases/disputes. Being able to resolve issues for others through mediation is something she has found to be especially rewarding. As of June 2025, Cyd has elected to close out her litigation cases and focus primarily on the mediation portion of her practice. This has allowed her more time and flexibility for scheduling mediations. Cyd is available to mediate matters throughout the state, in person or via Zoom and welcomes the opportunity to do so.

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Admitted to the Bar in 1971, Michael Patterson is a partner with Long Law Firm, L.L.P., in its Baton Rouge office. His practice focuses on business litigation, professional liability and construction litigation. He has been mediating cases in virtually every area of the law for more than 30 years. He serves on the employment, construction, and commercial arbitration and mediation panels of the America Arbitration Association. He served as a discovery Special Master in the University Medical Center Consolidated Cases in Orleans Parish Civil District Court. He received his BA and JD degrees from Louisiana State University and a Certificate and LLM in Dispute Resolution from Pepperdine University. He is an adjunct professor of trial advocacy and evidence, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center. LSBA president, 2010-11.

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Jonathan C. Pedersen

SMS Dispute Resolution

Jonathan Pedersen, a SMS co-founder, is a seasoned litigator experienced in representing clients in a wide variety of subject areas and is an alternative dispute resolution innovator. He has served as lead counsel in several mass casualty and class action litigation and possesses extensive practice experience in areas of medical malpractice, insurance, aviation disasters and professional ethics. As a court-appointed special master, Mr. Pedersen developed and implemented an alternative dispute resolution system which successfully resolved over 4,000 individual first-party insurance property cases at a rate of 97%. In his mediation practice, Mr. Pedersen's experience guides efficient identification of the material facts and substantive legal issues that will likely determine the outcome of their case at trial at the onset of the engagement, and his direct communication skills and tenacious focus guides the parties through seemingly intractable impasses towards a mutually satisfactory agreement.

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Richard Perque

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Richard Perque began his legal career with his grandfather Risley "Pappy" Triche, and mother, Jane Triche-Milazzo. Following his grandfather's retirement and mother's election to the District Court in the 23rd Judicial District, and her subsequent appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, Richard opened his private practice to serve in the areas of family law, wills and estates, personal injury, civil rights, and general civil litigation. Richard has served on the Human Relations Commission for the City of New Orleans, and the Louisiana Commission on Human Rights, representing the 2nd District. In 2022, Richard was appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court as Judge Pro Tempore to the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. During his time on the bench, Richard presided over two divisions of court, as well as a domestic docket. In 2023, Richard co-founded DivorcePlus, a technology platform that provides individuals with on-demand direct access to a range of family law and divorce services, including online legal services and divorce coaching.

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John W. Perry, Jr.

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John Perry is a partner in Perry, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, LLC, and a founding principal of his mediation firm, Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions. He has presided over mediations for almost 30 years and is one of the most active mediators and arbitrators in the South, having conducted more than 5,000 mediations and arbitrations. His ADR experience has covered a wide array of multi-party, complex legal and commercial issues (including many class actions). He has served as a Special Master and Court-Appointed Mediator in federal and state court. The federal court in the Deepwater Horizon case chose him to recommend a plan to allocate a settlement totaling \$2.3 billion. Furthermore, the federal court appointed him as Special Master in the General Motors Ignition Switch Litigation. Mr. Perry also served as judge pro tempore for the 19th JDC by appointment of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He is a Fellow in both the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Civil Trial Mediators.

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Jonathon W. Perry III

Jonathon W. Perry III
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Jonathon Perry's civil litigation experience includes the representation of both plaintiffs and defendants for the last 15 years. He has served as a mediator or co-mediator in cases involving various issues, including personal injury, property damage, construction, etc. In recent years, Mr. Perry's practice has increasingly focused on his role as a neutral, allowing him to gain experience dealing with issues such as case management, allocating settlement funds to class and mass action claimants including development and implementation of methodology, reviewing reasonableness of attorneys' fees, and allocating attorneys' fees including resolution of common fund/benefit issues. Beginning in August 2021, Mr. Perry served as a court appointed neutral/mediator in the Hurricane Laura and Delta litigation for the 14th Judicial District Court in Calcasieu Parish. He conducted over 60 mediations through that appointment. More recently, he has continued mediating variety of cases including Hurricane Ida claims all over the State of Louisiana when requested by the parties.

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Kevin T. Phayer

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Kevin Phayer joined the maps panel after 35 years working as a complex case, insurance defense litigator for a national insurance carrier. He has tried hundreds of judge and jury trials in the federal and state district and appellate courts in Southeast Louisiana. He has also mediated over 100 cases as a party participant. His primary specialty areas are automobile and trucking, personal injury, premises liability, product liability, bad faith and insurance coverage disputes, and workers compensation liability. Recognized during his law practice as an honest, above-board, & skilled advocate, Kevin brings a steady hand & trustworthy guidance to the mediation table.

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Kevin T. Phayer



Denise M. Pilié

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Denise M. Pilié Mediation, LLC

Denise M. Pilié has mediated, supervised and arbitrated more than 1,000 cases, primarily involving commercial, employment, energy, insurance, disaster and asbestos disputes. She taught mediation and arbitration at Loyola University College of Law for 14 years. She has served as a neutral on the American Arbitration Association's (AAA) Commercial, Employment, Energy, Consumer and Large-Complex Case panels for more than 30 years, serving as arbitrator in cases with damage claims of up to \$500 million. Before teaching at Loyola, she practiced law with Stone Pigman Walther and Wittmann for 20 years. She is a past chair of the LSBA ADR Section and has written a book chapter, "Settlement and Alternative Dispute Resolution," for *Louisiana Civil Pretrial Procedure, West Group Civil Practice Series* (1999). She is the editor of *Louisiana Civil Practice Forms, Louisiana Practice Series* (Thomson Reuters).

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Hon. Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (Ret.)

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Retired Judge Freddie Pitcher has over 20 years of experience serving as a mediator, helping litigants resolve hundreds of legal disputes. He currently teaches Alternative Dispute Resolutions at the Southern University Law Center and has "Advanced Mediation Training" through the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University. Some of his areas of concentration include Automobile Accidents, Personal Injury, and Products Liability. While serving on the First Circuit, he participated in more than 1,000 judicial opinions, authoring well over 200. Judge Pitcher has also served as a Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Ad Hoc by appointment of the Louisiana Supreme Court on six separate occasions, giving him the distinction of having served at every level of the judicial system in Louisiana.

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Hon. Freddie Pitcher, Jr. (Ret.)



Hon. Michael E. Ponder (Ret.)



Hon. Suzan Ponder (Ret.)



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Hon. Michael E. Ponder (Ret.)

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Judge Ponder has been conducting mediations since 1993 and was appointed arbitrator for settlement of a nationwide major class action lawsuit wherein millions of dollars were distributed to hundreds of claimants. He has retired as a District Court Judge, Parish Attorney, and City Judge. Judge Ponder was also a member of Arbitration Forums from 1993-1995. He received advanced mediation and arbitration training from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Administration, specifically in Stipulation Analysis and Claim File Preparation and Analysis. Ponder has mediated hundreds of matters, and his broad experience as a city attorney and judge make him an ideal choice when choosing a neutral. In addition, he serves as a special master on the Perry Dampf Special Master panel and is a member of the Academy of Court Appointed Masters.

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Hon. Suzan Ponder (Ret.)

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Hon. Suzan Ponder (Ret.) was elected in May 1993 to serve on the Baton Rouge City Court and retired June 30, 2017. She handled civil cases, including contract disputes, automobile accidents and landlord-tenant matters, and a criminal docket. During her tenure on City Court, in addition to handling her regular docket, she presided over Sobriety Court, which addressed offenders with multiple DWI offenses. Prior to her election, she was engaged in private practice as well as serving as an assistant district attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish. Since retiring, Judge Ponder serves as a mediator and arbitrator with maps. She is appointed as a neutral/mediator for Hurricane Ida claims in the USDC, Middle District of Louisiana.

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Timothy E. Pujol

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Timothy E. Pujol is an AV-rated lawyer who practices in the areas of insurance defense, personal injury, commercial, construction, business and employment litigation. He has tried countless civil jury and bench trials. In 2013, he completed mediation training with The Mediation Institute of Oklahoma City, Okla., and began mediating cases after that. He has participated in hundreds of mediations representing plaintiffs and defendants. He is past president of the 23rd JDC Bar Association and formerly served as liaison to the LSBA Board of Governors for the LSBA House of Delegates. He received his law degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1988 and is a current member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

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Steven B. (Steve) Rabalais

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Steve Rabalais is a partner in the law firm of Rabalais, Hebert & Couvillion and has more than 40 years of practice. He received his formal mediation training at the University of Texas School of Law's Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution in Austin and at the Attorney-Mediator Institute in San Antonio. He is on the approved registry of mediators maintained by the ADR Section of the Louisiana State Bar Association. He is an attorney with broad experience in a variety of fields including personal injury, trucking, oil and gas, construction, insurance coverage, U/M, maritime, product liability and general casualty cases, as well as commercial matters involving business formation, oil and gas operations and contractual disputes.

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Hon. Nadine M. Ramsey (Ret.)

Hon. Nadine M. Ramsey (Ret.)

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Hon. Nadine M. Ramsey (Ret.) has been a maps arbitrator and mediator since 2010. She served on the Orleans Parish Civil District Court from 1996-2009 and New Orleans City Council from 2014-2018. She has been a mediator and arbitrator with FINRA since 2019.

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George B. Recile

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George B. Recile was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1978. He is currently a managing partner in the law firm of Chardy Sherman Williams Murray Recile Stakelum & Hayes, LLP. His practice primarily focuses on personal injury litigation, but he has also litigated maritime allision actions, construction disputes, insurance disputes and complex business disputes and has served as class counsel in numerous class actions, including but not limited to, FLSA and TCPA litigation. He has litigated several multi-million-dollar cases and he has served as an adjunct professor of Trial Advocacy at Tulane University Law School. He is a former member of the LSBA House of Delegates and served as chair of the House Liaison Committee to the LSBA Board of Governors. He also served on several LSBA committees, including the Legislative Committee.

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George B. Recile



Hon. Cornelius E. (Conn) Regan (Ret.)

Hon. Cornelius E. (Conn) Regan (Ret.)

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Hon. Cornelius E. "Conn" Regan (ret.), graduated from Loyola School of Law in 1977 and began his legal career as A.D.A. for Orleans Parish. 1981-1986, he served as ADA for Jefferson Parish. In 1986, he was appointed as a Domestic Hearing Officer for the 24th JDC. 1986 -1996, he maintained a private practice representing both insurance and personal injury clients. In 1997, he returned to the Jefferson Parish District Attorneys office as "Chief of Trials" and also served as Secretary and later, a President of the Assistant District Attorneys Section of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association. In Oct. 2006, elected to District Judge of Division "B" in the 24th JDC. He was re-elected without opposition in 2008 and 2014 and served as Chief Judge from Jan. 2016 through Dec. 2017. While on the bench, he was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Louisiana Sentencing Commission and also completed a 40 hour course in Civil Mediation offered by the National Judicial College. He is a member of the American Judges Association, Louisiana District Court Judges Association, 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association, ABA, LSBA, and Jefferson Bar Association. He is also a member of the Board of River Port Pilot Review and Oversight Commission.

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Bryan C. Reuter

**Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul
SMS Dispute Resolution**

Bryan Reuter, a member of Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul, understands issues plaintiff and defense attorneys face in litigation and mediation. Best Lawyers listed him "Lawyer of the Year" for Ethics and Professional Responsibility Law-New Orleans in 2022 and 2024. His diverse practice is instrumental in resolving disputes and includes commercial and intellectual-property litigation, construction, contract and tort claims, class actions, closely held business disputes, and pharmaceutical, products-liability, and asbestos cases. He has a BS degree in mechanical engineering as valedictorian and an MS degree in computer science from Tulane. He has advised many technical and charitable organizations and been on the Loyola Law Adjunct Faculty since 2000. He was a Court-appointed Hurricane Ida mediator for state and federal courts and is now gladly assisting Special Master Services, LLC. He has mediated well over 450 disputes and would welcome an opportunity to resolve yours.

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Bryan C. Reuter



Ron Richard



Keith L. Richardson



**Coleman D. Ridley,
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Stephanie Roberts

Ron Richard

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Originally from Lake Charles, Ron was admitted to the Bar in 1996 and in that same year served as a judicial clerk in the Fourteenth Judicial District Court. Ron went into private practice in 1997 as a founding partner of Richard Law Firm, LLC. He has been involved in hundreds of mediations, including business disputes, personal injury matters and class action litigation. Additional matters, such as sexual harassment matters, employment matters and school-related litigation made up a significant part of his practice. Ron is an active member of the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association and the Texas Bar Association. He serves as a Trustee for the Lake Charles Charter School Foundation and has been a primary sponsor of the MLK Coalition for over 17 years, for which he was recognized as the first-time recipient of the MLK Coalition Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

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Keith L. Richardson

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Keith Richardson was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1992, holds a BA from LSU, and received his JD from the George Washington University. After serving as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, Keith returned to Baton Rouge, and practiced with Guglielmo, Marks, Schutte, Terhove, & Love from 1996 until 2016 and thereafter with Schutte, Richardson, Eversberg, Cronin, Judice and Avocato until beginning full time mediation. His primary practice areas included civil litigation, premises liability, coverage analysis, bad faith defense, and general insurance defense for a wide range of carriers. He is a past board member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (LADC) and has extensive trial and appellate experience in courts throughout the State of Louisiana. Keith believes that the mediation process is the most efficient and effective method for the resolution of nearly all types of disputes.

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Coleman Ridley is an experienced litigator and governmental relations and public policy professional who draws on more than 30 years as an advocate in crafting innovative solutions to complex problems. Mr. Ridley is Senior Advisor, Issues Management with Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald, the oldest strategic communications firm in the southern United States. Coleman started his career as a law clerk to the Honorable Sylvia R. Cooks (Ret.), Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeals, before serving as an associate attorney and then partner at Jones Walker, LLP, where he was a member of the firm's Litigation Practice Group. While at Jones Walker, he represented national corporations and local/regional companies in tax litigation, as well as general business cases, including antitrust, construction, products liability, telecommunications, and intellectual property. Most recently, he was Of Counsel Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, PC, in its New Orleans office in the Business Litigation Practice Group.

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Stephanie Roberts

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Stephanie Roberts joined the maps panel in March 2006, serving as mediator in hundreds of cases in the areas of automobile accidents, premises liability, insurance coverage, hurricane disputes, medical malpractice, employment disputes and business interruption. She was chosen to be on the panel of neutrals for the USDC Eastern District to resolve hurricane IDA claims and continues to mediate these cases. As an assistant district Attorney for the Orleans Parish DA's Office, she took more than 100 felony and misdemeanor cases to trial. She was a senior trial attorney for Prudential Property and Casualty Insurance Co. for 11 years and developed extensive experience in insurance law. It's there that she developed a strong passion for mediation when taking cases to maps as an advocate. She received her mediator training through maps and the Attorney-Mediator Institute of Dallas. Stephanie mediates in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Mandeville offices, as well as attorney's offices throughout south Louisiana. She is admitted to practice law in Louisiana federal and state courts.

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Craig J. Robichaux, LL.M

Craig J. Robichaux, LL.M
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Craig J. Robichaux is the managing partner for Talley Anthony Hughes & Knight, LLC, and a founder of SELA. Over his 39 year career, he has litigated complex cases for the plaintiff and defense in medical malpractice, general casualty loss, business dissolutions, complex domestic litigation and succession/trust litigation. He has advanced ADR education and training, receiving his LL.M in dispute resolution from Pepperdine University Law School's Straus Institute. He has mediated and arbitrated as a disputant and a neutral in more than 180 cases. He is court-certified in child custody and visitation mediation in Louisiana and is certified as a Family, Circuit, and County Civil mediator by the Florida Supreme Court. He is a registered neutral with the American Health Law Association, Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, rated as a Super Lawyer, AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and listed in Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. He is board certified in Civil Trial Advocacy by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

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Larry M. Roedel

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Admitted to the Bar in 1977, Larry Roedel is a founding shareholder of Roedel Parsons Blache Fontana Piontek & Pisano. He has practiced law for 45 years, blending general litigation and public/private partnerships for the construction of large public projects in Louisiana. His areas of experience include project management; contract and construction litigation; professional liability and employment disputes; and mediation of church and religious conflicts. He served as a mediator and arbitrator on FINRA cases. He was general counsel for the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District (including the Caesars Superdome, Smoothie King Center, Shrine on Airline and related facilities) from 2004-17 and 2024-future. He served in an advisory role for Louisiana Governors. Business administration degree, LSU; JD, LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Dispute Resolution Training, Pepperdine University. Guest lecturer, LSU and Southern University Law Centers. AV-rated, Martindale-Hubbell. Recognized by Best Lawyers in America, 2011-22.

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Larry M. Roedel



John T. (Jack) Roethele

John T. (Jack) Roethele
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Jack Roethele is an experienced mediator who utilizes his 38 years of litigation experience to resolve even the most difficult cases. Jack graduated from LSU Law School in 1987. He started his own practice in 1996. His practice has been primarily focused in the areas of insurance defense personal injury litigation, where he has handled thousands of cases for numerous insurance companies as well as fortune 500 companies in multiple Louisiana and Federal courts. Jack has also represented injured individuals in personal injury litigation. He has extensive experience in automobile accidents, trucking accidents, premise liability, general liability, coverage dispute and bad faith litigation. Jack has recently merged his litigation practice with Hannah, Colvin and Pipes in Baton Rouge and is winding down his litigation practice to focus on mediating full time. Jack's unique experience and perspective in operating a small firm in a large litigation arena has proven valuable in providing his mediation services, finding solutions and getting cases settled.

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Collins C. Rossi

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Collins C. Rossi has been a practicing attorney since 1982 and a mediator since 2005. His practice has been exclusively devoted to mediations since 2015. He received his undergraduate degree from Spring Hill College in 1979 and his Juris Doctor from Loyola University Law School in 1982. His mediation practice includes personal injury claims, workers compensation claims under both Louisiana and Federal Law, employment discrimination and civil rights claims. His nationwide practice assists parties in matters arising under the Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act, the Defense Base Act and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as well as associate third party claims. He is also an original member of the Advisory Board for the Loyola University Law School Annual Longshore Conference. He is also experienced in industrial accidents. Mr. Rossi is also listed by *www.Expertise.com* as one of the top mediators in New Orleans.

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Randy P. Russell

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Randy Russell is a Mediator on the maps Mediation Panel with extensive mediation experience, having successfully mediated a multitude of cases over the course of his career from all sides of the mediation table - as Mediator, Plaintiff counsel and Defense counsel. He is the owner/manager of his law firm located in Mandeville, LA, which he founded in 2004 and has since maintained an active practice. Randy has vast litigation/trial experience, having successfully litigated and tried matters in Louisiana over the past 29 years, representing both plaintiffs and defendants, primarily involving individual and commercial Property and Casualty Claims/Litigation (including Hurricane Losses; Business Losses/Disputes; Extra-Contractual/Bad Faith; Personal Injury; Wrongful Death; Trucking; etc), worker's compensation; medical malpractice; and contested probate and successions, among other practice areas. He has served as plaintiff counsel throughout his career and also has extensive experience defending major insurance companies in Louisiana property and casualty claims, having previously served as insurance defense counsel for many years. Practical insight gained through his diverse experience and practice has proven to be incredibly useful and valuable throughout his many years as an attorney and mediator.

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Elizabeth Haecker Ryan

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Elizabeth Haecker Ryan graduated from Tulane University Law School where she was a member of the Board of Editors of The Maritime Lawyer and Moot Court. She practiced for more than four decades in the areas of maritime personal injury, construction, pharmaceuticals and medical device, environmental, products liability, toxic tort and class action litigation. She has written in numerous legal publications and lectured extensively regarding litigation and mediation, including in CLE and law school settings, for the LSBA, Tulane University Law School, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, International Association of Defense Counsel and the ABA. She is a former Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Governors member; received the Citation of Honor from the Young Career Women Program and the APEX Award in 2000. She served as Vice Chair of Diversity for the International Association of Defense Counsel's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. She was a partner at the former Montgomery Barnett, Lemle and Kelleher and Coats Rose.

She was recently selected by the Eastern District of Louisiana's federal court to serve as a member of the Mediation Panel addressing resolution of Hurricane Ida cases. She has mediated scores of those matters since her appointment.

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Dr. Jerrela (Dr. Jay) Sanders JO, MCJ, MSW, LCSW, DBH Dr. Jerrela Sanders, LLC

Dr. Sanders is a registered mediator who is a Doctor of Behavioral Health (DBH) and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) who has a Master's in Criminal Justice (MCJ) and Social Work (MSW). Dr. Sanders mediates cases throughout the state of Louisiana.

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Dewey Scandurro works primarily as a mediator and handles all types of civil disputes. He is a member of the panel of neutrals appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana to mediate Hurricane Ida claims. He has conducted more than 200 court-ordered mediations of first-party insurance claims for 10 court systems. He also has particular experience with personal injury, product liability, admiralty and maritime law, medical malpractice and business disputes. He was formally trained as a mediator at Pepperdine Law School's top-ranked Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, where he is working toward a certificate and LLM in dispute resolution. He maintains a selective litigation practice representing plaintiffs and defendants in the areas of admiralty and maritime law, personal injury, product liability, insurance and commercial litigation. Tulane Law School, JD, 1994; University of Richmond, 1990; Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts, 1986.

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Valerie T. Schexnayder

Valerie T. Schexnayder
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Valerie T. Schexnayder is a seasoned attorney with over 35 years' experience representing individuals, large and small businesses and insurance companies. She has represented clients in a vast array of general casualty litigation, including automobile, transportation/trucking, products liability, premises liability, first-party claims, construction defect liability, toxic torts and employment-related litigation. She was a partner with a mid-sized firm and a founding partner of a small firm. She received a BBA degree in 1986 from Loyola University and her JD degree, cum laude, in 1989 from Tulane University Law School. She is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. She received her mediator training in 2017 with the Mediation Institute and in 2024 successfully completed The Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. She opened Schexnayder Mediation Services, LLC, with the goal of giving her clients professional, personalized service and a creative approach to dispute resolution. She has successfully mediated hundreds of cases. She currently serves as Secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association and Chair of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

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E. Blair Schilling
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Blair Schilling represents clients in a wide range of commercial matters in federal and state court, with a concentration in environmental law. Schilling is also a certified mediator through the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, an internationally recognized program at Pepperdine University's Caruso School of Law. In her law practice, Schilling handles highly technical matters, and she is known both for immersing herself in the complicated aspects of her cases and for her keen ability to steer cases strategically and effectively to achieve the overarching goal. Schilling brings these same talents to her successful mediation work; she is able to quickly understand complex matters and skillfully enhances communication and negotiation between parties toward a mutually satisfactory resolution. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the Litigation Counsel of America, and she was recently named to the 2025 Lawdragon Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law.

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Marta-Ann Schnabel

Marta-Ann Schnabel
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Admitted to the Bar in 1981, Marta-Ann Schnabel is managing director of O'Bryon & Schnabel, PLC, in New Orleans. In 30-plus years of practice, she has represented clients in business, commercial and insurance litigation involving construction, products liability, professional malpractice, ethics and employment matters. A seasoned litigator (plaintiffs and defendants), she understands the importance of finding practical and affordable solutions to complex problems. Her mediation training includes studies at Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine University Law School. She was the first woman to serve as Louisiana State Bar Association president (2006-07). She served as president of the Louisiana Civil Justice Center, as chair of the LSBA's Access to Justice Committee and as chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court's Judicial Oversight Committee. AV rating, Martindale-Hubbell; Louisiana Super Lawyers; Top 25 Women Attorneys in Louisiana. BA, honors, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada, 1978. JD, Loyola University College of Law, 1981 (Law Review).

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Mark Schroeder has 37 years' experience in the energy industry, as a partner in a national law firm, a political appointee at the U.S. Department of Energy and as the executive vice president and general counsel of a publicly-traded energy infrastructure partnership. Areas of experience include disputes between midstream energy infrastructure companies, and their suppliers and customers, as well as disputes arising from construction agreements. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, received the Certificate in Advanced Arbitration Skills from the A.A. White Dispute Resolution Center of the University of Houston Law Center, and completed the 40-hour course "Mediating Disputes" offered by the Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School. Licensed in Louisiana (active) and the District of Columbia (inactive). BS, accounting, Louisiana State University, 1978; JD, LSU Law Center, 1983. Certified Public Accountant (inactive).

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Keely Y. Scott



Rodney A. (Rocky) Seydel, Jr.



H. Bruce Shreves



Imtiaz A. Siddiqui

Keely Y. Scott

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Keely Scott is a full-time mediator and former partner and of counsel with Donohue, Patrick & Scott PLLC. She has 30 years of experience in litigation and ADR and has handled matters in state and federal courts in Louisiana, Texas, and throughout the United States. She has served as a court-appointed neutral/mediator in the United States District Courts for the Western, Eastern, and Middle Districts of Louisiana. Since joining Perry Dampf in 2012, Keely has mediated over 850 simple and complex multi-party cases in a wide array of areas including construction disputes, professional liability, personal injury, first and third-party property damage, transportation/trucking, insurance coverage, and catastrophic and mass tort litigation. She is a LSBA Qualified Civil Mediator, a past member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Bar Association/ADR Section, and a Louisiana Bar Foundation Fellow. Keely is Martindale-Hubbell "AV" Preeminent rated by the Bar and Judiciary. She completed intensive mediator training at Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Keely routinely mediates disputes throughout the state of Louisiana and is available for mediations throughout the United States.

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Rodney A. (Rocky) Seydel, Jr.

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Rodney (Rocky) Seydel has participated in more than 2,000 mediations and has been a litigation attorney for more than 40 years in practice. His mediations have primarily involved personal injury, commercial disputes, maritime and oilfield litigation, and insurance disputes. He participated in more than 100 mediations of Hurricane Katrina and Rita insurance claims. As a member of the Tulane Law Review, he was on the Board of Editors, served as its business manager and was the author of the casenote, "Status of the Sieracki-Seaman After the 1972 Amendments to the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act," which appeared in the Tulane Law Review. He is admitted to practice in Louisiana and before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana.

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H. Bruce Shreves

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H. Bruce Shreves, partner in Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP, is affiliated with the American Arbitration Association (AAA), handling construction and insurance mediations and arbitrations in complex construction cases. He chairs the LSBA's Fidelity, Surety and Construction Law Section and is a past chair of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Fidelity and Surety Law Committee, Tort Trial Insurance Practice Section. He was honored as the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 2018 Distinguished Lawyer of the Year. *New Orleans Magazine*, "Best Lawyers in New Orleans" (2004-present), construction law, ADR. *Louisiana Super Lawyers* (2005-present), ADR. *Chambers USA*, 2017 Best Lawyers in New Orleans. *Best Lawyers in America* — 2011-present, "Lawyer of the Year," ADR; 2014, 2015 and 2016 "Lawyer of the Year," mediation; 2016-present, "Lawyer of the Year," arbitration; 2018-present, New Orleans "Lawyer of the Year," arbitration; 2019-present, arbitration, construction law, litigation/construction, mediation. Member, American College of Construction Lawyers.

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Imtiaz (IM-tee-oz) A. Siddiqui (Si-DEE-kee)

Imtiaz Dispute Resolution

Imtiaz formally entered the ADR arena when he launched Imtiaz Dispute Resolution (IDR) earlier this year. For the past few years, Imtiaz has served as a neutral/mediator appointed by the Eastern District of Louisiana as part of its In re Hurricane Ida Claims Streamlined Settlement Program, a FINRA and NAM arbitrator, and a Hearing Examiner for the New Orleans Civil Service Commission. Imtiaz's move to the middle has been guided by his varied experience as an advocate for the past 20+ years (iaslaw. llc). IDR's ADR practice includes disputes concerning business, construction, contract, education, employment, insurance claims, personal injury, property, and securities. IDR offers hourly, half-day, and daily rates with no administrative or filing fees. Imtiaz can host, travel statewide, or video conference.

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Gracella Simmons

Gracella Simmons

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Gracella has participated in hundreds of mediations, both as an attorney representing clients and as a mediator. She obtained mediation training in the 1990s and subsequently attended Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation. She practiced law for over 40 years before retiring from active practice to focus exclusively on mediation and arbitration. Having practiced as both a plaintiff and defense attorney, Gracella developed a valuable perspective on the resolution of disputes. She has a depth of knowledge regarding how to mediate and arbitrate cases and disputes to resolution. She has lectured on mediation at Louisiana State University School of Law and at the Southern University School of Law. She has served as an arbitrator for the LSBA and has authored an article on mediation titled, "Mediation, a Little History."

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Virginia Erwin Sirera

Sirera Mediation Services, LLC

Virginia Erwin Sirera has a passion for family mediation. An attorney for over 30 years, she has been a qualified civil and family law mediator since 2008. After practicing family law exclusively for almost 15 years, she saw a tremendous need for a better way to help families resolve conflicts rather than going to Family Court. In 2020, she began Sirera Mediation Services and now works exclusively as a mediator. She has recruited a top-notch panel of family mediators, all of whom, like herself, listed on the Louisiana State Bar Registry of Child Custody Mediators, eligible for court-ordered appointment throughout Louisiana. BA degree, Loyola University, 1987; JD degree, Loyola University College of Law, 1992. In addition to the training required by the Louisiana Mediation Statutes, she received training through the Harvard University Program on Mediation. She has successfully mediated scores of cases and is frequently called upon by colleagues to aid with resolving complex matters through mediation.

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**Virginia Erwin
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Lacy M. Smith

Lacy M. Smith

SMS Dispute Resolution

Lacy Smith possesses over fifteen years of litigation and mediation experience in all areas of domestic and family law as well as first party insurance disputes. As a litigator and certified collaborative divorce practitioner, Ms. Smith practiced before Louisiana's Supreme Court as well as its district and appellate courts. In her domestic law mediation practice, Ms. Smith has years of experience in successfully resolving community property, child custody, child support, and spousal support disputes. Ms. Smith has also served as a deputy special master in the 24th Judicial District Court over Hurricane Ida insurance claims. Along with the other court-appointed SMS Dispute Resolution neutrals, Ms. Smith was a key contributor to resolving 97% of the over 4,000 assigned claims. Ms. Smith's skills for navigating intricate, emotionally charged disputes brings invaluable insight to identifying sensible and pragmatic outcomes to her alternative dispute resolution practice.

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David R. Sobel

David R. Sobel

David R. Sobel mediates cases statewide, focusing on professional liability and personal injury. After decades litigating, he founded Sobel Law Mediation and now exclusively practices as a neutral. When he retired from litigation, attorneys from both sides—who had tried cases with him—were the first to retain him to mediate, citing his deep understanding of the legal and tactical nuances of malpractice cases and his integrity. David's background includes defending healthcare providers, attorneys, and architects, and representing plaintiffs and/or defendants in premises liability, motor vehicle accidents, and products liability cases. David is a *Super Lawyer* (Alternative Dispute Resolution), AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. David currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Tulane University School of Law. He received his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University in 1983 and his law degree from Tulane in 1986.

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Emmett C. Sole



**William A. (Billy)
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Ralph J. Stephens

Thomas J. (Tom) Solari

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Before retiring in 2021, Tom Solari was Of Counsel with the law firm of Plauché, Smith & Nieset, LLC in Lake Charles. Tom has practiced law for 33 years with particular emphasis in representing employers, insurance companies and their insureds in the defense of casualty and workers' compensation claims. He has successfully tried numerous jury and bench trials in both state and federal courts and before the Louisiana Office of Workers Compensation. He has presented workers' compensation seminars to members of the bar association and to various claims organizations. He began serving as a mediator in 2014. In 2021 he was appointed by U.S. District Judge James Cain to serve on a panel of neutrals to mediate cases arising from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. He has conducted over 500 hurricane mediations along with several hundred mediations involving personal injury, property damage, contract and business dispute claims.

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Emmett C. Sole

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Emmett Sole is with The Sole Law Firm, LLC in Lake Charles. He has over fifty years' experience in all areas of Louisiana law, including construction, fidelity and surety, product liability, professional liability, insurance (including coverage and damage disputes) and toxic torts law. Sole is the 2017 recipient of the Louisiana Bar Foundation's prestigious Curtis R. Boisfontaine Award, given annually to a Louisiana lawyer who exhibited long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice and has upheld the standards of ethics and consideration for the courts, litigants and counsel. He is current Chair Emeriti and past President of the Louisiana State Law Institute and serves as Chair of the ADR Committee. He is Vice-Chair of the LSBA's Fidelity, Surety and Construction Law Section. Sole was previous Chair of the LSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section and is a frequent speaker on alternative dispute resolution. He attended multiple mediation training programs at Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law. His lengthy career and experience uniquely qualify him as a neutral in resolution of disputes.

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William A. (Billy) Stark

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William (Billy) Stark is the managing member at William A. Stark, A.P.L.C. After graduating from Southern University Law Center in 1981, he started his career as an associate at Authement, Weeks & Larke. Before starting his sole practice, he was a partner at Weeks and Stark. His practice areas include automobile, construction, insurance coverage, medical malpractice, personal injury, premises liability, property damage, real estate, and succession. Though his practice has been primarily plaintiff, he has served as an assistant attorney general with significant defense experience and an abundance of trial experience.

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Ralph J. Stephens

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Ralph Stephens has over forty years of experience in taxation matters. After practicing law briefly, he began his career at Postlethwaite & Netterville (APAC), retiring as the senior tax director in December, 2024. His practice concentrated on tax compliance and planning, representation before the IRS, LDR and other state Revenue Departments. He served as the Chairman of the Louisiana CPA Society's Federal Tax committee, Louisiana Tax Conference and the Advanced Tax Workshop. Mr. Stephens is credentialed by the AICPA as Accredited in Business Valuation and in Financial Forensics. He was a member of the AICPA Business Valuation Standards Task Force. He was a member of the AICPA's initial CFF credential committee. He has performed hundreds of business valuations and appeared as an expert witness in State and Federal courts in Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. He has testified as an expert on business valuation, commercial damages, and forensic accounting.

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Lynne Rothschild Stern

**Lynne Rothschild Stern
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Lynne Rothschild Stern has been a full-time mediator and arbitrator since 1993. As a mediator, she resolved numerous cases involving employment, insurance, personal injury, healthcare and commercial matters. She has also arbitrated many employment, commercial and consumer cases and served as the chairperson on several panels. After receiving her JD from Columbia Law School in 1971, she clerked for Judge Heebe in the Eastern District of Louisiana, was in private practice and taught at Loyola Law School. She has served on mediation and arbitration panels including the EEOC, American Arbitration Association, FINRA, Key Bridge Foundation and Resolute. She was a Gulf Coast Claims Facility Appeals Judge and later one of two court appointed Documentation Reviewers for the 2010 BP oil spill settlement. 2023-2025, she served on the panel of mediators for hurricane Ida claims pending in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She has discussed mediation and negotiation at seminars sponsored by the ABA, Tulane, LSU and Loyola Law Schools as well as the Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Associations. She is a past-Chairman of the LSBA's ADR Section and is a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers as well as a member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

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**Jennifer M. Stoler
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Jennifer Stoler brings 23 years of legal experience to her mediation practice. Her general civil litigation and regulatory experience includes medical malpractice, products liability, toxic torts, and health care regulatory work including representing health care providers in regulatory compliance matters involving fraud and abuse, physician contracting and medical staff bylaws, as well as defending health care providers before their respective licensing boards. She also spent over 12 years as board counsel and general counsel to the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board as well as the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners. She received her formal mediation training at the University of Texas School of Law's Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution. She currently serves as a deputy special master for the 24th JDC for all property damage cases related to Hurricane Ida, where she and her colleagues at SMS Dispute Resolution have closed over 3,000 cases with a 97% success rate.

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Jennifer M. Stoler



John E. Sudderth



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John E. Sudderth

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John Sudderth began his litigation practice in 1993 as ADA in New Orleans. During his time with the Louisiana Department of Justice, he defended the State of Louisiana, its Departments and employees. In his private practice, he has represented and continues to represent both plaintiffs and defendants, and both individuals and corporations. John has tried over 150 bench and jury trials as lead counsel, in most courts throughout southeastern Louisiana. His areas of concentration include personal injury (including wrongful death, traumatic brain injury and permanent incapacitation), property damage, bad faith litigation, insurance coverage, products liability, premises liability, contract law and unfair trade practices. He has argued complex civil cases and issues in the Louisiana 1st, 4th and 5th Circuit Courts of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court, and has applied for writs to the U. S. Supreme Court. John is a certified mediator and has been appointed by the 24th JDC as a neutral for all Hurricane Ida cases. He has successfully negotiated and mediated hundreds of cases and understands that only through hard work and preparation will a case resolve to the satisfaction of all parties.

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Cherrell S. Taplin

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Cherrell S. Taplin is the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer and a partner at the law firm of Liskow & Lewis where she practices general litigation. Ms. Taplin served as judge pro tempore in Orleans Parish Civil District Court, and as the Senior Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans. Ms. Taplin has a diverse litigation background, including commercial, contract, complex personal injury, insurance, procurement, construction, land use, public bid, employment, administrative appeals, and civil rights matters. Ms. Taplin is a member of many professional organizations including: the Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Associations, the Federal Bar Association, the National Bar Association, A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the American Inn of Court, and she is a past-president of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. She is a Loyola University School of Law graduate and is currently a skills professor and ADR coach at Loyola Law School.

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Randall K. Theunissen



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Randy Theunissen is a partner in the Lafayette office of Allen & Gooch. After earning his law degree at Louisiana State University in 1977, Randy was licensed with the Louisiana Bar. He has also been licensed with the Texas Bar since 1995. Randy is recognized by Martindale-Hubbell as an AV rated attorney and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Courts – Eastern, Western and Middle Districts of Louisiana and Southern District of Texas. Among his clients and peers, Randy's expertise within his maritime practice is well recognized, and he routinely participates in various industry speakers' Forums. In 2006, he was a featured speaker at the annual SEALI seminar, with the topic "Update on Maritime Cases in the Fifth, Ninth & Tenth Circuits". He has achieved proctor status with Maritime Law Association of the United States, and Master designation with American Inns of Court. Randy was inducted in 2022 into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

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Peter S. Title is a partner in the New Orleans office of Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, where he focuses on real estate and commercial transactions. He is a member of the American Arbitration Association Panel of Neutrals. A 1972 graduate of Columbia University, he graduated in 1975 from Tulane Law School, where he served as articles editor of the Tulane Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He is listed in the 2025 edition and in 27 past editions of Best Lawyers in America, has served as an adjunct professor of property law at Tulane Law School, is the past president of the Louisiana Land Title Association, and is a frequent speaker and writer on commercial and real estate topics. His experience makes him well suited for the arbitration of commercial disputes.

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Jane L. Triola

After 25 years of successfully practicing, navigating and litigating all types of family law matters in St. Tammany Parish, La., Jane L. Triola has made the decision to now focus her time, talents and efforts to help parties save time, save money and to stay out of the courthouse. She is trained and qualified as a Custody and Visitation Mediator and a Civil Mediator, and is available to help families, neighbors and others negotiate and resolve their disputes face-to-face in a confidential setting, and without expensive costs, attorney's fees and lengthy court proceedings. She offers mediation services as well as legal document preparation and pre-mediation case assessments at her office, 64242 Highway 41 in Pearl River, La., or at any other mutually-agreed-upon location.

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Gina Bradley Tuttle, a native of Opelousas, earned a BS degree from Louisiana State University in 1977 and her JD degree from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1980. She has an active civil trial practice throughout Louisiana. AV rating, Martindale-Hubbell. Selected for the Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, 2011. She is a long-time member of the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel (former member of the board of directors). She was an officer for the St. Landry Parish Bar Association and a member of the St. Landry Parish Indigent Defender Board for more than 20 years. She has extensive experience in complex tort litigation, including personal injury and products liability cases, environmental exposure and contamination litigation, construction defect litigation, helicopter and aviation accidents, premises liability, and a variety of insurance matters. She is routinely appointed attorney chair in medical malpractice matters before the Louisiana Patients' Compensation Fund. She began her mediation practice in 2015.

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Richard J. Tyler, FCI Arb

**Richard J. Tyler, FCI Arb
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Richard Tyler is a lawyer, arbitrator, and mediator with Jones Walker's nationally ranked Construction Practice. With more than 35 years' experience with complex, high-stakes construction disputes across the country, including multiple industrial megaprojects, over the past decade he has handled claims having an aggregate value exceeding \$750 million. Fellow, American College of Construction Lawyers and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Member, American Arbitration Association Commercial, Construction, Large Complex Case, and International panels. Serves on AAA-ICDR Council and co-chairs its National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee. Experienced with AAA, ICDR, ICC and UNCITRAL rule arbitrations. ADR training from AAA (commercial, construction, international), CI Arb (international), Dispute Resolution Board Foundation, and Harvard Law School (mediation). Frequent writer and speaker on construction and ADR topics. Recognized by Chambers USA, Legal 500, Best Lawyers in America, and Who's Who Legal - Construction. Former member, ABA Forum on Construction Law Governing Committee. Undergraduate and law degrees from Georgetown University.

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Thomas M. Usdin

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Thomas Usdin has been a maps mediator since 2003 and has handled more than 3,000 mediations. His areas of mediation experience include admiralty matters, insurance coverage issues, securities litigation, general personal injury, medical malpractice, business disputes, family business disputes, toxic tort cases, employment discrimination disputes, property disputes, contract disputes, construction litigation, commercial litigation, legal malpractice, sexual abuse, and health care disputes.

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Thomas M. Usdin



John R. Walker



Myron A. (Mike) Walker, Jr.

John R. Walker

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John R. Walker has been engaged in a full-time litigation practice since 1983 and is a partner at the Jones Fussell law firm in Covington. His current practice focuses on aviation litigation, vehicular accidents, premises liability, product liability, professional liability, employment, insurance coverage, commercial litigation and real estate disputes, for both plaintiffs and defendants. He has tried cases to verdict in all federal courts in Louisiana and many state courts throughout Louisiana, including many involving multi-million-dollar exposures. He is fully admitted to practice in all state and federal district courts in Louisiana, federal courts in Texas and Florida, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has also handled cases on a pro hac basis in Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Illinois, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. He has been rated AV Preeminent by Martindale-Hubbell for more than 25 years. Over the course of his career, Mr. Walker has participated in several hundred successful mediations. He completed the advanced mediator training program at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine Law School. He is currently serving as a court appointed neutral in the 24th JDC and is mediating Hurricane Ida cases in that capacity.

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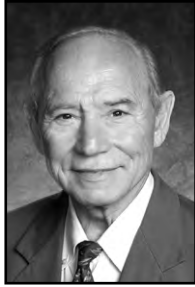
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Mike Walker was one of the original founders of Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and has been a neutral with Perry Dampf for over 20 years. He has extensive litigation experience having practiced for 44 years, and has tried over 100 juries to verdict. He has been an active mediator since 1999 in the areas of medical malpractice, products liability, hospital liability, employer liability, general casualty, insurance, and civil rights. Mike received his mediation certification from the University of Texas Law School Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution in 1999. He has been elected to membership in the American Board of Trial Advocates and has been identified as one of Louisiana's top attorneys in 2007, 2008 and 2009 by *Louisiana Life Magazine*. Additionally, Mike is a contributing author regarding construction litigation, medical/legal issues and mediation. Mike is known for his common sense, impartiality, and effectiveness in dispute resolution.

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**Andrew D. (Andy)
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Colby F. Wenck



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Andrew D. (Andy) Weinstock
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Andy Weinstock's thirty-eight years of practice focused on insurance, personal injury, toxic tort, product liability, and general casualty litigation. Mr. Weinstock received his J.D. with honors from Tulane in 1987. Since then, he has been exclusively involved in litigation matters, serving as lead counsel in over 100 trials in 12 different Louisiana parishes. Although typically thought of as a "defense lawyer," Mr. Weinstock has tried five plaintiff cases to verdict before a jury. Mr. Weinstock served as Defense Liaison Counsel in the In Re FEMA Class Action involving formaldehyde in travel trailers. His diverse experience has allowed him to try cases in a large variety of areas including general casualty, auto, ERISA, product liability, asbestos, formaldehyde, mTBI, construction defect, breach of contract, and premises liability. Mr. Weinstock was Past President of the Louisiana Chapter of The American Board of Trial Advocates (A.B.O.T.A.) and is presently a partner with the Duplass APLC Law Firm.

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Hon. Jewel (Duke) Welch
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For more than 30 years, Judge Welch served Louisiana as a jurist, receiving the highest rating of AV by Martindale/Hubbard. He presided as a trial judge for 10 years in the 19th JDC in criminal court and civil court. For 20 years, he served on the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal as an Appellate Judge, culminating with his retirement at the end of 2024. He completed his LLM Degree in ADR from the Pepperdine Law School in 2014. He was certified at the National Judicial College as a mediator in 2024. Through his many years of gathering the judicial wisdom that garnered his induction into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, Judge Welch has become skillful with his "in the trenches" experience that provides a high level of understanding and the ability to quickly and completely synthesize the issues that are presented, as well as those that reveal themselves through the facts. He has the education, legal knowledge, and judicial experience, along with the life skills, that are vital in resolving issues.

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Colby F. Wenck
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Colby F. Wenck is the founder of The Wenck Firm, LLC, with offices in Metairie and Harvey. His Firm represents a continuation of more than two decades in the legal profession focused entirely on personal injury, during which he has represented thousands of clients. Prior to opening The Wenck Firm in August 2017, he worked for Michael Hingle and Associates, LLC, Morris Bart, PLC, The Law Office of Glenn Diaz as well as a judicial clerkship in the 34th JDC. He is admitted to practice in Louisiana, Texas and the US Virgin Islands, as well as all Louisiana Federal Districts and the US Supreme Court. Mr. Wenck has served as a member of the Louisiana Bar Foundation for the past ten years. Additionally, he serves as a member of the LSBA House of Delegates representing Jefferson Parish.

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K. Douglas (Doug) Wheeler
Law Office of K. Douglas Wheeler, APLC

Doug Wheeler owns and manages the Law Office of K. Douglas Wheeler in Monroe. He has been practicing law for 27 years and has been an active civil litigator during that time. He has practiced in virtually all state district courts in north Louisiana and in federal court in Monroe. He has represented plaintiffs and defendants in thousands of cases. His areas of practice include insurance law, commercial litigation, environmental litigation, car accidents, tractor trailer accidents, residential/commercial contractor claims and slip/trip and fall cases. He is a 1993 graduate of Mississippi School of Law. He received his training and certification in civil, commercial and employment mediation from The Mediation Institute of Oklahoma City, Okla., in October 2018. As a mediator, he will work tirelessly before, during and after a mediation to assist parties in reaching an amicable resolution of their case.

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Kathryn T. (Kathy) Wiedorn

Kathryn T. (Kathy) Wiedorn

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Kathy Wiedorn was a founding partner of Pelleteri & Wiedorn and is now a full time mediator. She has an AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell. She has more than 35 years of litigation experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in personal injury, property, general casualty, homeowner's, premises liability, construction, commercial, bad faith, insurance coverage cases and hurricane claims. She received formal mediation training from Pepperdine University Law School's Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

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Lance B. Williams

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Lance B. Williams has been a litigator for 30 years. His practice includes defending product liability, mass tort, professional malpractice, construction, trucking, toxic tort, Class Action, and insurance defense litigation. Mr. Williams has also represented plaintiffs in litigation and at trial. Mr. Williams has unique experience from having tried cases for both plaintiffs and defendants throughout the State of Louisiana and in other jurisdictions. Mr. Williams handles both mediations and arbitrations at Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions. A significant portion of his practice has involved representation of manufacturers in the automotive, heavy machinery, industrial equipment, home product, and medical device industries in product liability litigation. Mr. Williams also handles catastrophic toxic tort and class action litigation. Through his appellate work, Mr. Williams has argued cases at every appeals court in the state. Mr. Williams has written articles and spoken nationally on topics related to product liability, class action, and asbestos litigation. Additionally, he was an assistant professor at the Chicago-Kent College of Law from 2000-2001.

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Lance B. Williams



Rebecca K. Wisbar

Rebecca K. Wisbar

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Rebecca Wisbar is an experienced mediator and a founding partner of Akers & Wisbar, L.L.C., which was formed in 1994. She is an "AV" rated attorney who received her B.A. from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University. She has been selected to several mediator panels, including currently, the Hurricane Ida Panel of Neutrals, Middle District of Louisiana. Currently, her legal practice focuses solely on mediation. She has extensive experience in all trial and appellate courts in the state as well as practicing before the Louisiana Supreme Court and Federal courts. Her legal practice included representation of clients in areas including personal injury (both plaintiff and defense), commercial/ business, contract, succession, workers' compensation and governmental retirement systems. She is the creator and host of the podcast "The Mediation Minute". For several years she has served as an adjunct professor in Legal Negotiations at LSU Law Center.

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Steven B. Witman

Law Offices of Steven B. Witman

Steven B. Witman is the founder of Louisiana Dispute Resolution, LLC, and is the founder and senior partner of the Law Offices of Steven B. Witman. He was a founding partner of Duplass, Witman & Zwain, APLC, in 1987. He also served as assistant parish attorney for Jefferson Parish for 11 years, with emphasis on road and bridge hazard defense litigation. He has more than 40 years of experience in plaintiff personal injury, commercial litigation, construction, insurance defense and product liability. He has extensive experience in settlement and litigation practice and strategy. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his BA and JD degrees from Tulane University. He maintains offices in Madisonville and Metairie and is available to provide mediation services throughout Louisiana.

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Steven B. Witman



Mary Anne Wolf



John F. Young



Micah C. Zeno

Mary Anne Wolf

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Mary Anne is an arbitrator and mediator. She is on the neutrals panel at Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and the commercial, construction, energy, and large complex cases panels of the American Arbitration Association. She received her mediation training at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Her goal as an impartial neutral is to use her technical experience, knowledge of the law, and respect for the parties and the process to reach a fair and efficient resolution. Ms. Wolf is a licensed engineer and worked for 10 years in the construction industry before getting her law degree. She is a partner at the Keogh Cox law firm. For 20 years, she has represented clients in construction litigation, delay claims, industrial related claims, contract disputes, hurricane and other catastrophic losses, and product liability claims, as well as early dispute resolution. She is a fellow in the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of the American, Federal, Louisiana and Baton Rouge Bar Associations, Institute for Energy Law, Louisiana Engineering Society, ACEC, AIA, Associated General Contractors, and Women's Energy Network.

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John F. Young

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John Young is accomplished in strategic organizational development and building collaborative relationships. He is effective in coordinating with government, legislative, and regulatory officials to expedite projects, planning and executing operations, overseeing complex projects, spearheading initiatives, and leading organizational change. John is experienced in organizational management, operational management, organizational audits, public relations and media coordination, project management, and sensitive negotiations. John served as the Parish President in Jefferson Parish from 2010-2016. Prior to serving as the Parish CEO, he served as a Councilman At Large and Assistant District Attorney. In his Civil Law practice, John had been a litigator focused on maritime, personal injury, insurance and corporate litigation, and first party insurance claims litigation, including hurricane damage claims litigation.

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Micah C. Zeno

SMS Dispute Resolution

Micah Zeno is a skilled alternative dispute practitioner with a broad spectrum of experience as a mediator and arbitrator. Mr. Zeno is a qualified mediator by the LSBA ADR section and has served as a court-appointed mediator for first-party property insurance claims in eight Louisiana parishes. He also serves as an arbitrator with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. Possessing dual advanced degrees in business and law, Mr. Zeno was a partner in the Gordon Arata law firm and held positions in finance and lending at several Fortune 500 companies before launching his full-time alternative dispute resolution practice. Mr. Zeno is currently a member of the Louisiana Law Institute and is a Tulane University Law School adjunct professor. Mr. Zeno's approach to mediation includes proactive engagement, collaborative problem solving, and creative solution development.

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Nicholas J. Zeringue



Hon. Franz
L. Zibilich (Ret.)



Gary M. Zwain

Nicholas J. Zeringue

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Nicholas Zeringue is a 1997 graduate of Tulane's JD/MBA program. He has more than 27 years of experience with a diverse civil litigation background. Licensed to practice in all Louisiana state and federal courts, Zeringue represents insurers, personal injury plaintiffs and commercial clients, with current cases involving auto/truck and maritime accidents, mold illnesses, real estate disputes, construction disputes and property damage. He also serves as general counsel for companies in oilfield services, labor services, the sugar industry and maritime and land-based fabrication. He is rated AV Pre-eminent by Martindale-Hubbell, its highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards. His hobbies include all shooting sports, as well as big game hunting and fishing.

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Hon. Franz L. Zibilich (Ret.)

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Judge Franz Zibilich practiced law in state and federal courts in Louisiana for over 26 years before being elected a District Court Judge in New Orleans in 2011. He served as a Judge for 9 years before retiring at the end of 2020. Franz worked in the City Attorney's office in New Orleans as a Deputy City Attorney and Chief Deputy City Attorney for over 24 years and was the supervisor for all litigation matters. Franz has tried more than 160 jury cases in state and federal courts in front of 52 different judges. He also argued dozens of cases in state and federal Appellate Courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court. Franz is a member in good standing to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He also taught trial advocacy at Tulane Law School for 12 years. Franz has participated in hundreds of settlement conferences and mediations. His areas of practice include personal injury, age and gender discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace, matters involving law enforcement, attorney fee disputes, succession issues and community property cases. He has successfully mediated over 800 cases since joining maps in 2021.

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Gary M. Zwain

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Gary Zwain graduated from Rutgers University in 1975, magna cum laude and received his JD from Tulane University School of Law in 1978. From 1978-87, he worked as an associate and, later, as a partner in a small defense firm in New Orleans, which included Larry Duplass as a senior partner. In 1987, Gary and Larry founded Duplass, Zwain, Bourgeois, Pfister, Weinstock & Bogart. Zwain's litigation experience spans 38 years and includes general casualty, automobile liability, maritime, construction defect litigation, toxic tort, mass tort, environmental law, oil and gas litigation, insurance coverage, extra contractual and bad faith litigation and class action/complex litigation. Zwain opted to end his participation in litigation to serve as a mediator with maps. He is recognized as a Louisiana mediator after meeting the requirements of La. R.S. 9:4101, et seq. He is admitted to practice before the U.S District Courts (Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana), the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

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**[www.lsba.org/goto/
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Louisiana Mediator Registry Requirements

Three Louisiana statutes detail the requirements to be listed on the three Louisiana Mediator Registries, as coordinated by the Louisiana State Bar Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Section.

- **Civil Mediator Registry:** La. R.S. 9:4106.
- **Child Custody and Visitation Registry:** La. R.S. 9:334.
- **Juvenile Mediator Registry:** Louisiana Children's Code Art. 439.

The **Louisiana Mediator Registry Requirements** are located on the LSBA's website at:
www.lsba.org/goto/ADRSection.

Also on the website are the three **Applications**, the current **Louisiana Mediator Registry** and several **ADR Training Providers**.

Interested parties may contact Registrar Christine A. Richard by email at crichard@lsba.org.

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