

Louisiana State Bar Association **ADR Directory** 2026



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Louisiana State Bar Association ADR Directory 2026

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LSBA ADR 2026



Harold J. Adkins



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**Hon. Glenn B.
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Harold J. Adkins is a mediator and arbitrator with Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc. (maps). He is senior partner at Hammonds, Sills, Adkins, Guice, Noah & Perkins, LLP, practicing in mediation, casualty, automobile liability, premises liability, personal injury and governmental liability. Adkins earned his BA in 1981 and JD in 1984 from Louisiana State University. He obtained mediation certification from Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court; U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana; U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and all Louisiana state courts. Adkins frequently lectures on mediation, litigation, trial tactics, ethics and professionalism for the Louisiana State Bar Association, Baton Rouge Bar Association, Southern University Law Center and maps. Since 2019, he has also served on the faculty of the Trial Ad Program at LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center as an instructor and section leader.

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M. Nan Alessandra, senior partner in Phelps, LLP, practices in labor and employment litigation, alternate 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 2003-2026 editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*, *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, Amond 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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Judge Glenn Ansardi brings to the mediation table a wealth of knowledge from over forty-five years as a lawyer, negotiator, legislator and judge. Glenn was admitted to the Bar in 1976 and was privileged to serve as a judge in the 24th JDC for twelve years, including a term as the court's chief judge. Prior to being elected to the court, Glenn served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives for twenty-two years. During his time in the legislature, Glenn served as chair of the Civil Law and Procedure Committee from 2004-2008 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 provides him with a wealth of experience and tools to successfully mediate these large and complex disputes. Areaux founded and continues to chair the firm's IP practice group and is a Registered Patent Attorney with the USPTO. He also counsels clients on information privacy issues as well as franchise disputes. Areaux 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. Previously 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 civil litigation, including general casualty, personal injury, products liability, insurance coverage, construction, construction defect, commercial and general civil litigation. Armand 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 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 and frequently presents CLEs. He served on Centenary College's adjunct faculty as an Instructor in Negotiations for the Executive MBA Program. Armand is a founding member of Pettiette, Armand, Dunkelman, Woodley & Cromwell LLP and obtained his BA from LSU in 1982 and JD from Tulane Law School in 1986.

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Ian L. Atkinson
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Ian Atkinson regularly mediates all manner of disputes, previously serving as a member of the Hurricane Ida neutral panels for Orleans Parish Civil District Court and the Eastern District of Louisiana. He was trained as a mediator at Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Outside of mediation, he is an experienced trial and appellate lawyer, focusing on civil litigation, criminal defense and tax representation. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law (Order of the Coif and Virginia Law Review) and obtained his LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law. He is a former law clerk to Hon. Sarah S. Vance (E.D. La.) and Hon. Edith Brown Clement (U.S. 5th Circuit).

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Ray Augustin 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 33 years and has been a Qualified Mediator for 20 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 3,500 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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Andrew F. Barr

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Andrew Barr's practice spans Workers' Compensation, Premise Liability, Contract Disputes, Non-Profit Advocacy, Municipality Counsel and Employment Law, demonstrating his ability to adapt across varied legal subjects. His legal affiliations further reflect his dedication. As an active member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section, he remains engaged in this nuanced area. He has practiced on both the plaintiff and defense bars for over a decade. Beyond practice, Barr contributes to academia. His publication, "The Tidelands Oil Controversy: 1947-1960," appeared in the *Southeast Historical Review* in 2011 and demonstrates his ability to analyze complex historical legal matters. His speaking engagements include presentations at the Southeast Historical Society Conference, the Louisiana School Law Workshop, and the New Orleans and Baton Rouge Bar Associations on the use of Medical Marijuana in Louisiana Workers' Compensation claims, reflecting his commitment to legal knowledge dissemination and ethical professionalism, and continued professional engagement and education.

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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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Robert I. Baudouin

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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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Jack Benjamin established his solo mediation practice. He is a Qualified and Registered Mediator with the LSBA and has served as a court-appointed neutral/mediator and arbitrator for the LSBA Attorney Fee Dispute Resolution Program. He trained at the Mediation Institute and Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University and continues mediation education nationwide. He has presented CLEs on alternative dispute resolutions and serves on faculty for Tulane Law School's Negotiation and Mediation Advocacy Program. His litigation experience includes maritime matters, general liability claims, transportation accidents, personal injury and wrongful death cases and commercial and insurance coverage disputes, providing a broad foundation for creative, efficient resolutions during mediation. He earned his JD/MBA (1994) from Tulane University and is a former federal judicial law clerk. He has maintained an AV-Preeminent Rating from Martindale-Hubbell and been recognized by *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, *Top Lawyers of New Orleans* and *Best Lawyers in America*. His mediations conclude efficiently through candor, cooperation and creativity.

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David F. Bienvenu

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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. Bienvenu has spent his career earning the trust of lawyers and judges across Louisiana and brings the qualities that built his reputation to his work as a neutral with Perry Dampf where he has conducted successful mediations in general liability, casualty, insurance and commercial litigation. 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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Kelly C. Bogart

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Trained at Pepperdine University's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, Bogart 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. She is sought after for multi-party, complex matters. Bogart 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. While now retired from litigation, Bogart practiced at Duplass, APLC, for over thirty years after completing a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable A.J. McNamara. 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 BA.

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Hon. Paul A. Bonin (Ret.)
maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)
 Judge Paul A. Bonin (Ret.) is focusing his ADR practice in three underserved and under-appreciated areas, for which he is especially suited and prepared by experience and temperament: (1) mediation of cases post-judgment but pending appeal; (2) a neutral's recommendation for a settlement range based upon a judge-like consideration of an encapsulated "record" jointly submitted for mutual feedback of counsel and the parties, especially appropriate with the "effect" single difficult facts (e.g., criminal conviction, prior claim history, credibility of part or witness), and (3) mediation of succession, domestic and family property disputes. Judge Bonin has 50 years of legal experience, including more than 25 years of judicial experience: serving by election or appointment at every level of Louisiana courts: justice ad hoc on the Louisiana Supreme Court, 4th Circuit Court of Appeal, district courts (Civil and Criminal Courts, and 21st, 22nd and 24th), Juvenile Court, Municipal and Traffic Courts, and 2nd City Court.
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Hon. Paul A. Bonin (Ret.)



Michael E. Botnick



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**Monica (Vicky)
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**Michael E. Botnick
Gordon Arata**

Michael Botnick is a member of Gordon Arata with over 40 years of experience in commercial transactions, litigation, real estate and construction matters. A certified mediator, he serves on the American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators and has conducted mediations and arbitrations involving multiparty construction, environmental toxic tort, boundary disputes, and personal injury matters. He also is an appointed mediator under the Hurricane Ida Case Management Order. Botnick previously served as Deputy City Attorney for the City of New Orleans, where he negotiated and prepared contracts and served for 15 years as the designated Administrative Officer for public bid and competitively selected contract disputes from \$50,000 to more than \$10 million. Botnick has been recognized by *Chambers USA for Construction Law and Real Estate Law*, *Legal 500 New Orleans Elite Guide*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, *Lawdragon Leading Real Estate Lawyers*, and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*.
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**Bartley P. Bourgeois
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Along with formal mediation training, Bartley Bourgeois offers clients over two decades of vast litigation experience across Louisiana's state and federal courts. His extensive background in commercial/construction law, contractual and property disputes, creditor's rights, bankruptcy, and representing state and national clients in secured and unsecured lending allows him to grasp the nuances of complex, high-stakes conflicts. Bourgeois brings high-level, courtroom-tested insight and a balanced, practical approach to guiding parties toward a resolution. He's an attorney with The Cohn Law Firm in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and has tried hundreds of cases in nearly every Louisiana court and received his undergraduate degree in Business Law from Louisiana State University and his law degree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He served on the Moot Court Board, received the CALI Excellence for the Future Award in International Law and was a Flory Trial champion. Bourgeois trained in mediation through the University of Texas School of Law.
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**Monica (Vicky) Bowers
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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
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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

Patrick J. Briney
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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, he 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. Briney has tried and handled all manner of 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, he 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.
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Robert J. Burns, Jr., is a full-time mediator and has been affiliated with Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions since 2001. He is also a partner in the Baton Rouge law firm of Perry, Balhoff, Mengis & Burns, L.L.C. He has facilitated settlements in a wide array of claims, including personal injury actions, mass tort claims, insurance coverage disputes, fee disputes, commercial litigation and many other types of actions. To this point, he has served as mediator in more than 3,500 matters. 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, 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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Robert J. Burns, Jr.



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

Hon. Charlotte A.L. Bushnell (Ret.)
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Charlotte Bushnell has been a member of the Perry Dampf panel since 2021. She was appointed by U.S. District Judge James Cain to serve on the Hurricane Laura and Delta panel of neutrals, where she mediated over 450 hurricane cases, bringing valuable experience to hurricane and first-party claims. Before joining Perry Dampf, Bushnell served 27 years as a Louisiana Workers' Compensation (WC) District Court Judge, conducting judicial hearings at the District 3, Lake Charles Office. As judge, she held approximately 1,500 trials, hearings and exceptions and handled over 4,000 settlement conferences. Judge Bushnell brings invaluable experience and unmatched expertise to Perry Dampf's WC Panel. She is a member of the SWLB Association - WC Section, Executive Board and Women's Section, and a fellow with the College of WC Lawyers. She quickly grasps the complexity of WC claims, saving time and increasing efficiency with the goal of resolving claims.

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David Butler is a partner in the Baton Rouge law firm of Funderburk & Butler. He brings forty-two (42) years of legal experience to his mediation clients. Butler's mediation practice focuses primarily on workers' compensation claims. He offers a flat rate billing plan and no travel charges statewide for workers' compensation cases only. Butler has an extensive legal background having tried over 200 cases and chaired over 400 medical review panels. He is also an experienced instructor on topics regarding workers' compensation. Butler is a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association's Workers' Compensation Section and the Wex Malone Inn of Court.

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David L. Carrigee



Daniel J. (Dan) Caruso



Hon. Marilyn C. Castle (Ret.)



James R. (Sonny) Chastain, Jr.

David L. Carrigee

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

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Daniel J. (Dan) Caruso

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Caruso is a lifelong resident of New Orleans. Admitted to the Bar in 1972, he gained civil and criminal trial experience before joining the law firm of Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in 1979 where he was a partner for 42 years. He is now Of Counsel to the firm. In over 50 years of practice, Caruso has been privileged to represent plaintiffs and defendants in a variety of matters involving maritime law, product liability, construction and surety, professional liability, along with environmental damage and toxic torts. He has also been extensively involved in matters centered on the interpretation of insurance policy provisions. He is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the bars of all three federal district courts in Louisiana as well as the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the American Bar Association (TIPS and ADR Sections). He also held memberships in DRI (Association for Defense Attorneys) and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

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Hon. Marilyn C. Castle (Ret.)

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Marilyn Castle served as a District Court judge in the 15th Judicial District for 25 years, retiring in December 2023. Before taking the bench, she practiced litigation for 22 years, concentrating in business and commercial litigation. Her experience as both judge and practitioner provides a wealth of insight into factors affecting trial outcomes and a practical approach to pretrial resolution, helping parties realistically assess case merits and weigh mediated settlement against litigation. Her consensus-building ability is demonstrated by service as Chief Judge, President of the Louisiana District Judges Association, President of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association, and on the Louisiana Law Institute and Lafayette Parish Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. She received her BA and JD from LSU and was admitted to the Bar in 1976. She received mediation training from the University of Texas Law Center for Public Policy. She resides in Lafayette and is available for assignments throughout Louisiana.

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James R. (Sonny) Chastain, Jr.

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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. Chastain 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 and trade secret protection. Chastain 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 Wex S. Malone, American Inns of Court.

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Albert D. Clary

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Albert D. 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, LLC. Clement handles mediations, arbitrations and umpire claims. Clement earned his degree in Architecture in 1990. After practicing architecture, he attended law school and obtained his degree in 1995. Clement 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. Clement teaches Mediation and Arbitration as an Adjunct Professor at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Clement joined the Perry Dampf panel in 2014. Recently, Clement 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 serve on the Eastern District of Louisiana's Hurricane Ida Panel of Mediators.

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Hon. Martin E. Coady (Ret.)

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Judge 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

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Before retiring from his firm in 2016, Jeffrey M. Cole was a partner at Plauché, Smith & Nieset, LLC, 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. 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. Cole received the Louisiana State Bar Association 2016 Pro Bono Publico Award.

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Blair C. Constant

Brigid E. Collins

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

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J. Gregg Collins

Gregg Collins Mediation Arbitration

GCMA opened in 2016. Since COVID, focused on online mediation using Zoom and Webex. More than 310 online mediations, including large, multiparty cases. 96% success rate. In-person mediation remains available. Full-time mediator for 33 years. More than 3,020 matters handled, from two-party auto cases to complex, multimillion-dollar disputes involving business, contracts, insurance, product liability, trucking, Jones Act, successions and toxic torts. AV-rated; *Best Lawyers in America*, 2012-26, Mediation; *Top Lawyers*, Louisiana and America; *Best New Orleans Attorneys*, Mediation. Umpired cases involving appraisal clauses. Arbitrator in business, construction and insurance matters. Former small business owner and historic real estate developer; former Tulane Law adjunct professor; President of 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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William P. (Peter) Connick

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William (Peter) Connick has practiced law in both state and federal courts for the last 43 years in the State of Louisiana. He has been Managing Partner for Connick and Connick, LLC since 1996. Throughout his career, Connick has overseen and handled numerous legal matters including insurance defense, environmental issues, natural disaster claims, business disputes and personal injury claims. He is admitted to practice law before the Louisiana Supreme Court and all state courts in Louisiana, the U.S. Eastern and Western Districts of Louisiana, and the United States 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Connick served as an Assistant Parish Attorney for the Parish of Jefferson from 1986-1991 and was appointed to the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission by then-Governor Mike Foster from 2002-2004, including serving as Commission Vice Chair and Chairman from 2000-2002. Connick has an AV-Preeminent rating with Martindale-Hubbell, which is received for exhibiting the highest level of professional excellence.

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Blair C. Constant

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Blair Constant practices in both commercial and general litigation, as well as consulting his clients on navigating the levels of state and local governments on a variety of issues. He has mediated over 2,000 cases, and he has experiences resolving complex litigation, mass tort, commercial/corporate, insurance, premise liability, personal liability and disputed successions. 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 previously served as a court-appointed liquidator and court-appointed special master in several matters, including for the 24th Judicial District Court for all property damage cases related to Hurricane Ida.

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David S. Cook

David S. Cook

Lafayette attorney David Cook handled his first Mediation in 1993, some 33 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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Reneé C. Crasto

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Reneé Crasto is a mediator, arbitrator and trial attorney with nearly two decades of legal experience. After completing the Harvard Mediation Intensive through the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, she was appointed by the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana to mediate Hurricane Ida claims. Crasto's practice focuses on large and complex wrongful death and catastrophic burn cases. Her experience includes catastrophic injury, products liability, catastrophic 18-wheeler and other highway and interstate death and serious injury cases, as well as petrochemical and industrial cases involving fires, explosions, electrocutions, burns, asbestos exposure and mesothelioma. Having represented plaintiffs and defendants during her legal career, she brings a balanced perspective, practical risk analysis and deep understanding of how parties evaluate disputes. Known for thorough preparation, professionalism and the ability to navigate complex legal and factual issues, Crasto helps parties move beyond conflict toward practical, lasting resolutions.

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Reneé C. Crasto



Steven D. Crews

Steven D. Crews

Steven D. Crews, LLC

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 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, complex litigation, 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.)

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Bringing unmatched legal experience, Crichton joined Perry Dampf after retiring from the Louisiana Supreme Court, where he served as Associate Justice from 2015 to 2024. Before serving on the state's highest court, he was a district court judge from 1991 to 2014 and a litigator from 1981 to 1990. Since joining Perry Dampf, Justice Crichton has mediated and arbitrated complex disputes from Shreveport to New Orleans and statewide. Known for diligence, integrity, professionalism and an outgoing, approachable manner, Crichton brings these qualities to mediation and arbitration. He analyzes complex issues through the perspectives of both trial and appellate jurists. 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 24 years as a First Judicial District Court judge (Shreveport/Caddo Parish). Before judicial service, he maintained an intense litigation practice in civil and criminal courts.

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Robert S. Dampf



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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 39 years. 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. 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. 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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Jay Dardenne has enjoyed a distinguished career as an attorney and public servant. A seasoned practitioner and mediator with varied civil practice, he is president of Kennon Odom and Dardenne (APLC) in Baton Rouge. He served eight years as Commissioner of Administration, the state's chief operating officer and budget architect. He previously was elected twice as Lieutenant Governor and twice as Secretary of State after fifteen years in the State Senate and three years as a Metro Councilman. Dardenne has mediated nearly 100 cases and negotiated numerous complex matters during state service. He rendered dozens of decisions involving contract disputes and administrative appeals involving governmental entities. A premier coalition builder, he is routinely sought for his constructive problem-solving style. He created, wrote and hosted the Emmy-nominated LPB documentary "Why Louisiana Ain't Mississippi... or Any Place Else" and recently completed a second LPB documentary, "Circles: The Life of Billy Cannon."

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Robert J. David, Jr.
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Robert David 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 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

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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Mickey S. deLaup

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Mickey deLaup has practiced law in Greater New Orleans and throughout Louisiana since 1981. After retiring from active practice and closing her office in April 2023, she now focuses primarily on mediation. She represented major insurers and corporations in product liability, public entity litigation, construction litigation, toxic tort, premises liability, medical malpractice, bad faith, breach of contract, defamation, civil rights violations, property damage and personal injury matters. She also handled plaintiff cases through trial. Martindale-Hubbell recognized deLaup as one of a select group of preeminent Women Attorneys, and she has been listed as a Top Lawyer/Super Lawyer for over a decade. She served on the House of Delegates and Board of Governors of the Louisiana Bar Association and on a hearing panel of the Louisiana Disciplinary Board. She was selected as 2014 Leader in Law by *New Orleans' CityBusiness* and holds an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell by peers and judges.

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Mickey S. deLaup



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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 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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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. Cofounding 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 R. (René) DeRojas

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Isidro (René) DeRojas is a bilingual Hispanic American experienced in litigating and mediating personal injury disputes in state and federal courts statewide. He joined McCranie, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch in 1991, maintaining a defense practice in personal injury, premises liability, automobile liability, pharmacy malpractice, products liability, homeowners' and workers' compensation. Previously, he maintained a general practice. DeRojas holds Martindale-Hubbell's highest "AV" rating. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of New Orleans in 1984, JD from Loyola University School of Law in 1987, and attended Hastings College of the Law's College of Trial Advocacy in 1988. He completed Civil, Commercial & Employment Mediation Training with Mediation Institute in 2013 and joined the Perry Dampf Panel of Mediators in 2014. He is Immediate Past Chair of the LSBA ADR Section and was appointed in 2022 to the USDC Eastern District of Louisiana Hurricane Ida CMO Panel of Mediators.

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Pride J. Doran

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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 27 years of trial and appellate experience in state and federal courts to his mediation practice. Doran's versatile and varied practice background has helped him develop a keen sense of "what people need." Doran is a creative problem solver and experienced litigator whose skills and experiences will be of value to his ADR clientele. 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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Gerard J. Dragna

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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. 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, Dragna has developed a reputation as one of the top litigators in the state. 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. Dragna is retiring from the practice of law at the end of 2026 to devote his full attention and efforts to his mediation practice.

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Charles J. (Chip) Duhe, Jr.

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Charles (Chip) Duhe focuses on 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 "Retrospective Application of the Louisiana Products Liability Act: A Civilian Analysis," 49 *La. Law Review* 939 (1989). He has been a maps mediator since 2009.

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Ronald L. Faia, Jr.

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 Judge Patrick M. Schott, then Chief Judge of the Louisiana 4th Circuit Court of Appeal. Faia 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, Faia has maintained a general practice as well as a mediation practice.

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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 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
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Hon. W. Ross Foote (Ret.)

The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC

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) 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 neutral evaluations. As an arbitrator, in addition to serving in many areas, he authored over 1,000 opinions as a member of the multi-state appeals panel in "*In re Deepwater Horizon Economic Settlement*," involving the largest environmental disaster in American history. Fornias graduated with highest honors 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 *The 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 articles 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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**Vincent P.
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**Kelsey Kornick
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**Susan W.
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**Dominic J.
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Kelsey Kornick Funes

The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC

Kelsey Funes is a construction lawyer and Partner at Phelps Dunbar LLP in Baton Rouge. She is a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers, serves on the American Arbitration Association's Construction Panel as an arbitrator and trained as a mediator at Pepperdine's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. A 1997 graduate of LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Funes was President of the Student Bar Association and a member of the Order of the Coif. Her nearly 30-year practice includes representing contractors, designers and owners in commercial, civil, industrial and public works projects. She drafts and negotiates construction agreements and assists clients with disputes throughout the construction process. Funes has tried and arbitrated construction cases in state and federal courts throughout the Southeast and before AAA arbitrators, and has litigated public bid protests and licensing issues. As a mediator, she draws on extensive experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in complex cases to help parties reach resolution.

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Susan W. (Susie) Furr

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

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. She is admitted to practice in Louisiana, Washington, D.C. and Virginia.

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E. Phelps Gay

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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. He received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in 1975 and his JD from Tulane University in 1979.

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Dominic J. (Dom) Gianna

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

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), Gianna has litigated them all. Gianna 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. Gianna's Northwestern University formal mediation training/certification is complemented 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, LLC. Gibson 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. Gibson received his Mediation Certification from the Northwestern/Chicago School of Professional Studies in Mediation Skills and has handled hundreds of mediations.

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**Ernest P. (Ernie) Gieger, Jr.
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Ernie Gieger has over 45 years of experience trying cases before federal and state juries and judges in Louisiana, Texas and nationwide. He has been selected hundreds of times to “parachute” into ongoing litigation to quickly review and resolve matters pretrial. His practice includes products liability, class actions, complex litigation, insurance and toxic tort. Although he continues to try select cases, his mediation focus is quickly reviewing and resolving litigation. Gieger has represented diverse national and international companies in product defect, catastrophic fire casualties, oilfield disasters, toxic exposure, toxic waste and environmental litigation. He has served as national lead trial counsel and regional counsel in mass tort, multidistrict and class action litigation involving FEMA temporary housing, pain pumps, latex gloves, catheters, pedicle screws, surgical mesh products, pharmaceuticals and generic herbal supplements. Ernie is a founding partner of Gieger, Laborde and Laperouse and is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Texas.

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**Ernest P.
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Gary J. Giepert

**Gary J. 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 before all levels of federal court, including the U.S. Supreme Court, and state and local courts, arguing twice before the Louisiana Supreme Court. A New Orleans native, he graduated valedictorian from Brother Martin High School. Giepert earned an accounting degree from LSU in 1984 and graduated from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in December 1987. He is an arbitrator for the AAA Construction and Commercial Sections and has participated as a litigant in construction and commercial arbitrations and mediations. A New Orleans Rugby Club member, he was recently inducted into its inaugural Hall of Fame class. He volunteers as rugby coach at his alma mater, Brother Martin High School. Giepert mediated privately for five years before joining maps.

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**Hon. Carolyn
Gill-Jefferson (Ret.)**

**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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Ron F. Green



**Nicholas C.
(Nick) Gristina**



**Joseph B.
(Joe) Guilbeau**



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

Ron F. Green

Ron Green is a mediator and Shared Neutral who ranked among the top mediators in the federal sector for 2025 and 2026. He specializes in complex workplace and Equal Employment Opportunity disputes, mediating cases across the federal government through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and the Federal Executive Board's Shared Neutrals Program. A U.S. Navy veteran with a background in national security and intelligence, Green brings a calm, disciplined approach to high-stakes conflict. In 2025 he served as Personal Advisor to the Chair of the Maryland State Bar Association's ADR Section. He is registered with the Georgia Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution for General Civil Mediation and has completed the Justice Center of Atlanta and FMCS Shared Neutrals programs. Green is available to mediate statewide and remotely, with strength in federal employment, civil rights, disability and labor matters.

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Nicholas C. (Nick) Gristina

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Nick Gristina's mission is to help people navigate legal disputes with professionalism, preparation and a determined focus on resolution. He believes successful mediation begins with preparation, responsiveness and the ability to build trust with all participants. Gristina works to create an environment where parties feel heard, prepared and positioned to resolve disputes effectively. Drawing on over two decades of litigation experience, Gristina has handled thousands of civil cases involving premises liability, casualty, bad faith and automobile personal injury claims throughout Louisiana state and federal courts. His litigation and negotiation background gives him practical insight into the risks, costs and challenges parties face in contested litigation, allowing him to guide discussions toward reasonable, effective resolutions. Gristina was 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 from 2012-17 and a Super Lawyer from 2018-26.

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Joseph B. (Joe) 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 Workers' 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/Workers' 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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Hon. Richard T. (Dicky) Haik, Sr. (Ret.)

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After more than three decades on the state and federal bench, including service as chief judge of the 16th Judicial District Court and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana in Lafayette, Judge "Dicky" Haik retired from the bench. He returned to private practice for mediation, special master appointments and arbitration. Judge Haik is Of Counsel with Morrow, Morrow, Ryan, Bassett & Haik, practicing with his son. He served as a trial court judge in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, served on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeal by designation and is an AAA-approved arbitrator. Haik is uniquely qualified to mediate all matters. His knowledge of law and understanding of human nature make him an effective neutral. In mediation, he uses judicial expertise to settle complex cases requiring delicate negotiation or where settlement seems unlikely. Judge Haik was named the 2022 Distinguished Jurist by the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

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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 Hassinger 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. Hassinger 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. Hassinger serves as an adjunct professor at Tulane Law School teaching negotiation and mediation advocacy. He earned his Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Dispute Resolution from the Straus 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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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. 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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**Timothy W.
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**James J.
(Jim) Hautot**

James J. (Jim) Hautot, Jr.

Hautot and Hautot

Jim Hautot was a member of Judice and Adley from 1988 to 2022 before leaving to found Hautot and Hautot. He obtained his mediator certification from the Straus School of Law at Pepperdine University. He was elected to the *Louisiana Law Review* in 1984 and has been twice published there. Hautot has tried cases all over the state in state and federal court. He was previously voted one of Acadiana's Best Lawyers. He has extensive trial and transactional experience in the following fields: auto liability, maritime casualty, constitutional law, professional liability of all types, including medical, legal, engineering, architectural and accounting, discrimination claims and compliance, general liability, toxic and environmental claims, employment related contracts and litigation, governmental law, business and governmental regulatory compliance, medical regulatory compliance, insurance coverage disputes, product liability and workers' compensation. Whatever the dispute, Hautot can handle it.

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George (Trippe) Hawthorne

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Trippe Hawthorne is a partner at Kean Miller LLP in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, concentrating on arbitration, mediation and complex dispute resolution. A seasoned arbitrator and mediator with over 14 years' experience, he serves as a neutral in construction, commercial and procurement disputes involving industrial, residential and public-sector projects. Hawthorne is a Fellow of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers (ACREL) and former Chair of its Construction Law Committee. He is a Louisiana Law Institute Council member, serving on the ADR Committee and formerly as special advisor to the Security Devices Committee during the 2019 Private Works Act revision. He also serves as the Institute's appointed representative on the Louisiana State Bar Association Board of Governors. Hawthorne completed Harvard Law School's Mediation Program in 2012, receiving advanced training in arbitration, mediation, early neutral evaluation, mini-trials and collaborative dispute resolution techniques. He is admitted to practice in Louisiana and Texas.

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**Thomas M.
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Michael G. Helm



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**Thomas M. (Tom) Hayes III
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Tom Hayes practiced in Monroe for over 45 years, representing parties in state/federal civil actions (lawyers, architects, engineers; products; industrial accidents; commercial disputes; employment/civil rights; healthcare; insurance; transportation; construction; real estate; successions and trusts). *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, civil litigation. Trained as mediator at Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (Pepperdine Law School), and a member of Patterson Resolution Group member since 2015, he has been appointed by state/federal courts as mediator, special master and arbitrator. Attorney council member/Past President of the Louisiana State Law Institute, he is a Fellow/former Regent, American College of Trial Lawyers and Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers. 2016 LBF Distinguished Attorney; 2018 LSU Law Center Distinguished Achievement Honoree; and 2025 LBF Curtis Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award recipient. BA, with honors, University of the South, Seawane, TN, 1974; JD, LSU Law Center, 1977.

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**Michael G. Helm
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As founder of Helm Law Firm, Helm maintains a solo practice in Covington. Before 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 38 years. He has experience in resolving disputes embraced within insurance, personal injury, wrongful death, Jones Act, long-shore, medical malpractice, property damage, energy, transportation and contractual actions. Through his affiliation with Perry Dampf and AAA, he has mediated over 650 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, LLC. He brings over thirty-five years of legal experience to his mediation clients. With a general civil practice, 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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**Gary A. Hemphill
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As a senior partner with Phelps' New Orleans' office, Gary Hemphill practices in the areas of admiralty litigation involving matters in personal injury, cargo, oil and energy, finance and FD&D. Gary has a great deal of experience in complex, multiparty litigation including claims arising out of the Deepwater Horizon and Seacor Power disasters, major losses arising from hurricanes in the Gulf, as well as collisions on the Mississippi River. He has been rated as one of the top Transportation & Maritime attorneys in New Orleans by *Super Lawyers*, and in 2018 was voted Distinguished Maritime Lawyer of the Year by his peers in the New Orleans Bar Association.

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Fred L. Herman

Fred L. Herman

Herman & Young, APLC

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 2009-24 and is an AV-Preeminent rated attorney with Martindale-Hubbell.

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Hon. Guy P. Holdridge (Ret.)

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Judge Guy Holdridge brings 34 years' experience as a former appellate court judge and judge of the 23rd Judicial District Court. Recognized for fair and impartial decision-making, he now channels his expertise into mediation, offering insightful guidance and facilitating constructive resolutions. In 2014, he was elected to the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal without opposition. Prior to that, he served as a judge in the 23rd JDC beginning in 1991. As a district court judge he conducted hundreds of civil and criminal jury trials as well as settling hundreds of civil cases. He is a member of the LSU Law Center Hall of Fame. Judge Holdridge has further served on the adjunct faculty of the LSU Law Center for over twenty-five years and currently teaches Louisiana Civil Procedure. Since 2021, Judge Holdridge has served as the editor of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure published by Thomson Reuters. He is also the Director of the Louisiana State Law Institute.

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**Hon. Guy P.
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Brian A. Homza

Brian A. Homza

Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

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. 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-Hubbell and is a 1979 graduate of the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law School.

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Thomas P. (Tom) Hubert

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Tom 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. Hubert 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, Hubert 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 JD from Louisiana State University.

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Grady S. Hurley



Richard J. Hymel



Roger A. Javier



Robert A. Jenks

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, LH-WCA and platform personal injuries and related insurance claims. Hurley is nationally ranked in *Chambers* and was honored by the New Orleans Bar Association as Maritime Lawyer of the Year. He serves as a vice chair of the American Bar Association Admiralty & Maritime Law Committee and as Immediate Past President of the Maritime Law Association of the United States and is a member of the Comité Maritime Internationale. 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, workers' compensation, environmental, insurance and indemnity claims besides transactional/commercial disputes.

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Richard J. Hymel

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Richard Hymel has 35 years of legal experience. He represented Transocean in the BP Macondo well blowout litigation serving as trial counsel in the 7-week Coast Guard/MMS hearings and 8-week Multi-District Litigation trial. He served as trial counsel for Occidental Chemical Company in a 3-week trial and 7-week arbitration arising from the Bayou Corne sinkhole in Assumption Parish. He served as court-appointed neutral/mediator for Hurricane Laura and Delta Claims in the 14th Judicial District Court. He holds an AV-Preeminent peer review rating from Martindale-Hubbell, is a member of the Texas State Bar, passed the Certified Public Accountant exam, went to IADC WellCAP Supervisor Well Control School and attended mediation training at Pepperdine University School of Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. He has successfully mediated in the areas of admiralty and maritime, well-blowouts, trucking/automobile accidents, premises liability, environmental contamination, insurance coverage, contractual indemnity, construction disputes and employment discrimination cases. He has been on the Perry Dampf mediation panel since 2004.

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Roger A. 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 on 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 has argued in every appellate court, the U.S. 5th and 9th Circuits, and the Louisiana 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 multimillion-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 1,200 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, multimillion-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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**Justice Bernette
Joshua Johnson
(Ret.)**

Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson (Ret.)

maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

Chief Justice Bernette J. Johnson 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. 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. (Tommy) Juneau, Sr.
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Tommy Juneau, Sr., known throughout the country as the mediator who brings boudin balls to mediations, brings a collaborative, creative and positive approach to mediations. He has mediated nearly 3,000 disputes in various states, including Louisiana, California, Texas and New York, in cases ranging from basic two-party casualty matters to complex multi-party class action lawsuits. He served as managing partner of Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and his prior law firm, Juneau David, APLC. Widely recognized as a leader in ADR, he has been selected by his peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for mediation and is an elected Fellow of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators and the Academy of Court-Appointed Neutrals. He is AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and repeatedly recognized by *Louisiana Super Lawyers* and *Acadiana Profile's* Top Lawyers. Based at Perry Dampf's Lafayette mediation office, he regularly conducts mediations throughout the state of Louisiana.

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**Thomas R.
(Tommy) Juneau, Sr.**



**William H.
(Bill) Justice**

William H. (Bill) 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 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 Moot Court Board Intra-School Competition.

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

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**Hon. Timothy E.
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**Hon. Daniel E.
Knowles III (Ret.)**



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**Allen J. (A.J.)
Krouse III**

**Hon. Timothy E. (Tim) Kelley (Ret.)
The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC**

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, Judge Kelley 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. He 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. He is also a Licensed Professional Engineer (Ret.).

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**Hon. Daniel E. Knowles III (Ret.)
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

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 700 cases with an impressive success rate.

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**Andrew C. Kolb
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

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. Kolb 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, Kolb demonstrates expertise in navigating complex legal landscapes. Kolb has represented both taxpayers and tax collectors and also advises clients on business formation, restructure, contracts and employment matters, serving as outside general counsel. Kolb 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. Kolb'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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**Allen J. (A.J.) Krouse III
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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, Krouse was designated as a "Master Mediator" by the American Arbitration Association. He was inducted into the *New Orleans' CityBusiness* "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. A.J. Krouse has been appointed by the *Louisiana Law Institute* to the ADR Committee for a revision of arbitration statutes in Louisiana. 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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**Margaret M.
(Peggy) Landry**

**Margaret M. (Peggy) Landry, Esq., Architect
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

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 served 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 Judicial District Court, Calcasieu Parish.

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**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, cum laude, from Southeastern Louisiana University and his JD 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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Douglas Lawrence



**John S.
Lawrence, Jr.**



**Hon. John E.
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**John S. Lawrence, Jr.
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John Lawrence, Jr., managing partner of Lawrence, Curlin & Associates, earned his B.S. in Business (1986) and JD (1989) from Louisiana State University. His 37-plus years of extensive legal experience include retail and restaurant liability defense; insurance defense; plaintiff/defendant bad faith claims; construction law and defects litigation; construction contracts/lien documents; workers' compensation defense; business litigation and organization; plaintiff/defendant personal injury, real estate/property law, products liability and employment discrimination; and wills and estates. Lawrence was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1989 and to the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Middle and Eastern Districts of Louisiana, Louisiana Supreme Court and all Louisiana courts. In 1996, he was admitted to the Texas Bar and U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Texas, and to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997. He is a member of the Louisiana and Texas State Bars, American Bar Association and Federal Bar Association.

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**Hon. John E. LeBlanc (Ret.)
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Judge 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 multimillion-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 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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Judge M. Lauren Lemmon is a retired judge and seasoned attorney with 35 years of legal experience. She specializes as a mediator and mindfulness instructor. Lemmon 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. Judge Lemmon's approach promotes respectful conversations with a commitment to mutual understanding and resolution, giving hope for positive outcomes. Lemmon 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.

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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 36 years. He has tried jury and bench trials in both State and Federal Court, as well as argued before numerous Appellate Courts. 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. Lochridge has taught Business Law as an adjunct professor at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. His vast array of experience with well over 1,000 cases mediated makes him a prime choice as your next mediator. Lochridge is a certified mediator, having completed the prestigious Mediation class at Pepperdine University. Following completion of the week-long course, he was asked by the faculty to return as a guest speaker at future classes.

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**Jeffrey S.
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Jeffrey S. (Scott) Loeb

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Scott Loeb is a founding partner of Loeb Law Firm. He brings over twenty-eight years of litigation and trial experience to his mediation clients. Having represented both plaintiff and defense clientele, Loeb 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. Loeb 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. Loeb 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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Glen S. (Scott) Love

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Scott Love has presided over more than 3,500 mediations in over twenty years with Perry Dampf. Prior to devoting his practice exclusively to mediation, Love was a litigator with an emphasis on personal injury and business disputes. He is a graduate of LSU, earning a BS in Accounting in 1980 and then a JD 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. Love has also traveled internationally negotiating difficult business transactions and is a member of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators.

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**Glen S.
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Lynn Luker

Lynn Luker

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Lynn Luker is a full-time mediator and trial lawyer with over 40 years' experience in Jones Act, maritime, toxic tort, employment discrimination, product liability, commercial and complex litigation in Louisiana state and federal courts. She served twice as judge pro tempore – Civil District Court for Orleans Parish in 2014 and the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal in 2022. Luker served as national counsel in mass tort and multi-party litigation, providing perspective on claims resolution and client interests. She taught as an Adjunct Professor at Tulane Law School for over 35 years and received the Tulane Distinguished Teaching Award and Distinguished Environmental Law Alumna Award. Luker is 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 LL.M. in Energy and Environment from Tulane Law School and frequently presents CLEs.

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**Daniel
(Dan) Lund III**

Daniel (Dan) Lund III

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Daniel Lund III, a partner at Phelps' New Orleans office, graduated from Tulane Law School in 1988, earned a Master of Theological Studies from Duke University and 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 securities arbitration panel. His practice includes commercial, construction and surety litigation, intellectual property, telecommunications, land use planning, zoning and church law. Lund lectures on construction law, arbitration, mediation, legal ethics, telecommunications and land use. He is licensed in Louisiana courts, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. A New Orleans resident, he serves on nonprofit boards and as Chancellor of the Louisiana United Methodist Conference. In 2023, 2024 and 2025, *Louisiana Super Lawyers* named Lund a "Top 50" attorney statewide.

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**Robert A.
(Robbie) Mahtook, Jr.**



**Matthew L.
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**Gregory D.
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**C.A. (Hap)
Martin III**

**Robert A. (Robbie) Mahtook, Jr.
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Robbie Mahtook is a managing partner of the law firm Mahtook & Lafleur, located in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mahtook has successfully practiced law for over 40 years concentrating in casualty, liability and maritime defense litigation matters. He has also handled cases involving insurance coverage, medical malpractice, trucking and construction litigation. He has recently completed formal mediation training at the Strauss Institute of Dispute Resolution of Pepperdine University School of Law. Mahtook was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1985 and the Texas State Bar in 1995, bringing over 40 years of experience in litigation matters. He has a proven record of success in the court room as well as obtaining settlements for his clients. He graduated from Louisiana State University before attending Loyola Law School and subsequently obtaining an MBA from Tulane's A.B. Freeman's School of Business.

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Matthew L. (Matt) Mann

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Matt Mann brings the perspective of both a seasoned trial lawyer and a practical problem solver to every mediation. For nearly two decades, he has represented clients in complex civil litigation throughout Louisiana, trying cases in both state and federal courts. His experience has taught him that while trials resolve disputes, well-conducted mediations often resolve people. A graduate of the Harvard Mediation Intensive through the Program on Negotiation, Mann combines thorough preparation, balanced evaluation and genuine listening to help parties move beyond positions toward practical, durable resolutions. His approach is rooted in the belief that successful mediation is not about persuading either side to surrender — it is about creating the opportunity for each party to make informed decisions that end conflict with confidence and finality.

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Gregory D. (Dwayne) Maricle

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Dwayne Maricle is a trial-tested attorney with 35 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. Maricle has litigated, mediated, and tried cases in both state and federal courts across Louisiana. His background includes handling complex, multiparty litigation in areas such as personal injury, products liability, construction, general contractor/subcontractor, design and professional liability, contract disputes and energy projects, including wind and solar. 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

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Hap Martin has practiced at Shotwell, Brown & Sperry, in Monroe since admission to the Bar in 1980 and practices in civil litigation, mineral law and construction law. He trained at the Attorney-Mediators Institute of Dallas, Texas and has received advanced mediator training. He was trained as an arbitrator in 2002 and is a member of the AAA Commercial Panel and Construction Industry Panel. He has arbitrated cases as a single arbitrator and panel member (including as panel chair) on matters ranging from consumer cases to large, complex commercial disputes and large construction project disputes. He received a BS in civil engineering in 1977 from Louisiana Tech University and his JD in 1980 from Louisiana State University Law Center.

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John Martin is an LSU alumnus (BA, MBA); Southern University Law Center (JD); Kennesaw State University (MS in Conflict Management), with conflict management and advanced mediation certifications from Harvard Law School and Cornell University. Martin is a seasoned family/business law attorney with 26+ yrs. experience and a very skilled mediator with over 14+ yrs. Martin co-authored "Star Wars and Conflict Resolution II: My Negotiations Will Not Fail," is a course facilitator in Complex Negotiation and Business Law at Cornell, a Johnson University adjunct professor of Business Law and Conflict Management, a Kennesaw State University lead family mediation trainer, and a registered civil mediator and arbitrator with the LSBA and Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution. Experienced in family law, employment, probate, personal injury, landlord tenant, business law, juvenile, commercial leasing and lending disputes, Martin offers remote, evening and weekend mediation.

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Joseph Maselli, Jr.

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Joseph Maselli, Jr. is a full-time mediator and former founding partner of Plauché Maselli Parkerson LLP, where he practiced law for over four decades. His practice was devoted to the litigation of casualty claims throughout Louisiana, including premises liability, transportation liability, product liability and a variety of general and business liability claims. While most of his work was defense-oriented, he also represented numerous plaintiffs in a wide range of cases. Joe has served as a delegate to the LSBA and 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 LSBA and LADC conferences. For many years, he taught Trial Advocacy at Tulane Law School. Joe has mediated hundreds of cases as an attorney and has now mediated hundreds more as a mediator, ranging from two-party personal injury disputes to multi-party, multimillion-dollar settlements involving business disputes, contractual disputes, transportation/trucking, premises, maritime, fire, product liability, property damage and commercial hurricane-related matters.

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Joseph Maselli, Jr.



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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 his approach to empowering parties to resolve seemingly intractable litigation. Massey has emerged as a recognized alternative dispute resolution innovator. As co-creator of SMS Dispute Resolution, 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. 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. Masur has considerable experience in the energy sector in Louisiana and serves on the American Arbitration Association National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators National Energy Panel and as an energy arbitrator for the Institute for Energy Law. Masur has litigated and arbitrated matters resulting in multimillion-dollar awards and has managed complex commercial transactions in the low nine figures. Masur has been recognized by *Chambers USA* – Louisiana for Energy & Natural Resources and General Commercial Litigation, *Legal 500 New Orleans Elite Guide* – Energy Law, Benchmark Litigation, *Lawdragon Leading Litigator in America*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Louisiana Super Lawyers*. In 2022, Masur was named Lafayette Lawyer of the Year – Natural Resources Law by *Best Lawyers*.

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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. McMahon 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, McMahon brings a holistic approach to claims resolution.

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Charlotte Meade is a partner with Meade Young LLC, handling plaintiff and defense claims in professional liability. In January 2024, she joined Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions as a mediator and arbitrator. From 2006 through 2017, she was a partner at Deutsch Kerrigan LLP in Professional Liability and Commercial Litigation, handling complex legal and CPA malpractice litigation and commercial insurance defense claims. Before law school, Meade worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for U.S. Representative Richard Baker (LA, 6th District), and for the lobbying office of Adams and Reese, L.L.P. In addition to her professional liability practice, Meade has volunteered several years as a legal fee dispute arbitrator for the Louisiana State Bar Association and as a child advocate for the Pro Bono Project's Child in Need of Care program. In March 2023, Meade 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 Litigation Counsel of America, the International Society of Barristers, the American Bar Foundation and the Louisiana Bar Foundation.

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Charles R. Minyard

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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. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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Charles R. Minyard



Chad J. Mollere

Chad J. Mollere

Johnson Gray McNamara, LLC

Chad Mollere, a Loyola University alumnus, earned his JD from Louisiana State University in 1999. His tenure as Executive Senior Editor of the Louisiana Law Review helped launch his legal career. Following a judicial clerkship with Associate Justice Jeffrey Victory of the Louisiana Supreme Court, Mollere joined Liskow & Lewis, APLC, before co-founding Johnson Gray McNamara LLC in 2005, remaining a key figure. His expertise includes general casualty, toxic and mass torts, environmental law, oil and gas litigation, insurance disputes, class action and complex litigation, and patent infringement. Mollere holds the AV-Preeminent rating from Martindale-Hubbell and is recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America* for Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions – Defendants and Environmental Law. His commitment to justice is reflected in his role as a court-appointed neutral/mediator, having mediated hundreds of disputes. Based in New Orleans, Mollere’s mediation services are sought across Louisiana and available virtually, reflecting his dedication to accessible legal resolution.

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Hon. Michele R.
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Hon. Michele R. Morel (Ret.)

Michele Morel currently works as a Senior Assistant Parish Attorney for the Parish of Jefferson. She began her legal career as a solo practitioner with a general civil and domestic law practice while serving as an Assistant District Attorney for Jefferson, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. As a prosecutor, she oversaw both civil and criminal matters. Elected to serve as District Judge for the 29th Judicial District; she presided over various types of civil, criminal, probate and domestic issues. Matters she heard as a judge included personal injury, construction and other contractual disputes, class action, toxic tort and product liability. She previously served as a Deputy Parish Attorney and a Deputy Chief Operating Officer for the Parish of Jefferson. Morel graduated from Louisiana State University, Loyola University College of Law and completed the General Jurisdiction Course at the National Judicial College as a sitting judge.

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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 Schwartzberg Law 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 5th Circuit. From 2008-18, 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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Hon. William A. Morvant (Ret.)

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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

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Melanie Mabile Mulcahy leverages commercial litigation and transactional experience across business law to bring a persistent, creative and highly engaged approach to mediation. She trained at maps and the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution at the UT Austin Law Center and is listed on the LSBA ADR Section's approved Civil Mediators register. Her mediation practice includes all civil matters, emphasizing business break-ups, member/shareholder disputes, liquidations, breach of contract, construction law, employment law, intellectual property and other commercial matters. She earned her BA from Tulane University's Newcomb College in 1994 and JD 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 17-plus years with a Metairie firm before founding Mulcahy Law LLC in October 2021. She was recognized in *New Orleans Magazine's* "Top Lawyers," 2020-25, and "Top Women in Law" lists, 2025-26.

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Robert H. (Bob) Murphy

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Bob Murphy retired in 2023 from Murphy, Rogers, Sloss, Gambel & Tompkins, which he co-founded over 30 years ago. He has over 45 years of litigation experience, primarily in admiralty and maritime law. In 2013, the New Orleans Bar Association presented him its Distinguished Maritime Lawyer Award. His maritime practice included defending Jones Act, Longshoremen and other maritime personal injury cases, requiring 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, non-maritime personal injury claims and class actions. He trained as a mediator at Harvard Law School's Negotiation Institute, learning advanced alternative dispute resolution techniques that sharpened skills acquired representing clients in hundreds of mediations and settlement conferences. In mediation, he has handled maritime and commercial disputes, land-based personal injury and tort claims and cleric abuse cases. He also has served as an arbitrator in several matters.

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Rick J. Norman

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Norman 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. Norman 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). Norman 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 R. Nowak

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Eric Nowak 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 is qualified as a Louisiana civil mediator and trained at Pepperdine University's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Multiple courts have appointed him to their hurricane mediation panels. He has strong roots in the Eastern District, serving as a Director of the New Orleans Federal Bar Association for 8 years and President of the Chapter in 2012. And recently, he completed a six-year appointment to the USDC EDLA's Lawyers Disciplinary Committee. 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, LLC 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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**Michele Crosby
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Michele Crosby O'Neal is a skilled mediator with more than three decades of helping people resolve conflict with clarity, dignity and purpose. A 1990 graduate of Loyola Law School in New Orleans, O'Neal is known for an attentive, practical approach that guides parties toward meaningful resolution. She has mediated sensitive, emotionally charged matters, complex insurance coverage issues, hurricane claims, commercial and regulatory disputes, and casualty matters. Her mediation practice draws on over 35 years representing clients and litigating throughout Louisiana and before state commissions and agencies. Through Crosby Law Firm LLC, O'Neal also counsels and represents clients in family law, estate planning, successions, contract/policy interpretation, contractor/lien disputes, landlord/tenant and HOA issues, insurance/casualty matters, cargo loss/damage, products liability, personal injury and property damage. Her experience with state/federal trucking regulations, the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978, Warsaw and Montreal Conventions, FAA land use/zoning issues, and regulatory compliance, including HIPAA, Medicare and ERISA, further enhances her mediation effectiveness.

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Admitted to the Bar in 1974, Patrick Ottinger is Of Counsel to Ottinger Hebert, L.L.C., Lafayette. He practices corporate/commercial law, emphasizing mediation, arbitration, oil and gas, financial transactions, real estate, eminent domain, corporation, banking and related litigation. He served as City-Parish Attorney for Lafayette Consolidated Government in two administrations nearly a decade. He serves as arbitrator/mediator, principally oil and gas, and trained at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution (Pepperdine University). Recipient, 2018 Louisiana Bar Foundation Curtis R. Boisfontaine Trial Advocacy Award. Since 1996, adjunct professor at LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, teaching Mineral Rights and Oil/Gas Seminar. Author, *A Course Book on Louisiana Mineral Rights* (12th Rev. Ed., August 2011). LSBA president, 1998-99. Past Chair, Louisiana Mineral Law Institute Advisory Council. Reporter, Mineral Law Committee, 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 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 was 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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In addition to 42 years of litigation experience, Page has mediated cases since 1997 following her training with the Attorney-Mediators Institute in Houston, Texas. She received her BA in speech education from Northeast Louisiana University in 1980 and her JD 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/compassion needed, to work with attorneys and clients to resolve their cases/disputes. Resolving issues for others through mediation is something she finds especially rewarding. Page has elected to close out her litigation cases and concentrate on her mediation practice. This allows her more time and flexibility for scheduling mediations, even those that need to take place quickly. Page is available to mediate matters throughout the state, in person or via Zoom, and welcomes the opportunity.

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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 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 Pedersen, an 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, 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, 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 is a practicing attorney in the areas of family law, wills and estates, personal injury, civil rights and general civil litigation. He served on the Human Rights Commission for the City of New Orleans and later for the State of Louisiana. In 2022, Perque 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, Perque presided over two divisions of court, as well as a domestic docket.

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John W. Perry, Jr.

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

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Jonathon Perry's civil litigation experience includes representing both plaintiffs and defendants for the last 16 years. He has served as a mediator or co-mediator in cases involving various issues, including personal injury, property damage, construction and other matters. In recent years, Perry's practice has increasingly focused on his role as a neutral, gaining experience in case management, allocating settlement funds to class and mass action claimants, developing and implementing allocation methodology, reviewing the reasonableness of attorneys' fees, allocating attorneys' fees and resolving common fund/benefit issues. Beginning in August 2021, Perry served as a court-appointed neutral/mediator in Hurricane Laura and Delta litigation for the 14th Judicial District Court in Calcasieu Parish, conducting over 60 mediations. Following that assignment, he has continued regularly mediating a variety of cases, including Hurricane Ida claims, disputes arising from the Hard Rock Hotel collapse and numerous matters throughout Louisiana when requested by the parties.

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Kevin T. Phayer maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)

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, Phayer brings a steady hand & trustworthy guidance to the mediation table.

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Denise M. Pilié Denise M. Pilié Mediation, LLC

Denise 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. Michael E. Ponder (Ret.) Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

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 1993-95. 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 makes 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 S. Ponder (Ret.)

Hon. Suzan S. Ponder (Ret.)

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Judge 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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Joseph Pousson has more than 30 years' experience in handling and mediating personal injury, workers' compensation, insurance, commercial and contractual disputes. He brings a balanced perspective shaped by having represented individuals, businesses and insurers as both plaintiffs and defendants. He has earned a reputation as a strategic advisor to CEOs, founders and boards, including serving as General Counsel for several companies, and board member for high-growth companies including helping guide one company through a successful Nasdaq public offering. Pousson's experience includes major commercial claims, business interruption, as well as multiparty international construction disputes involving refineries, distilleries and large industrial projects. These matters have equipped him to successfully mediate high-stakes, complex cases. His 2025 appointment by the La. Supreme Court to the 14th Judicial District Court as a Judge Pro Tempore in Calcasieu Parish reflects the trust and respect he has earned throughout the legal community.

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Joseph R. Pousson, Jr.



Timothy E. Pujol

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 brings more than 40 years of litigation experience to his mediation 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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George B. Recile



**Hon. Cornelius E.
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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 Chehardy Sherman Williams Recile & 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 multimillion-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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Hon. Cornelius E. (Conn) Regan (Ret.)

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Judge Cornelius Regan (Ret.) graduated from Loyola School of Law in 1977 and began as an Assistant District Attorney for Orleans Parish. He served as Jefferson Parish Assistant District Attorney, 1981-86; 24th Judicial District Court Domestic Hearing Officer, 1986; and private practitioner representing insurance/personal injury clients, 1986-96. In 1997, he returned to the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's office as "Chief of Trials," serving as Secretary, then President, of the Assistant District Attorneys Section, Louisiana District Attorneys Association. Elected Division "B" District Judge, 24th Judicial District Court, in October 2006, he was re-elected unopposed in 2008 and 2014 and served as Chief Judge, 2016-17. The governor appointed him to the Louisiana Sentencing Commission; he also completed a 40-hour National Judicial College civil mediation course. Memberships include the American Judges Association, Louisiana District Court Judges Association, 4th and 5th Circuit Judges Association, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Jefferson Bar Association and Board of River Port Pilot Review and Oversight Commission.

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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 in mechanical engineering as valedictorian and an MS in computer science from Tulane. He has advised many technical and charitable organizations and has 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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Originally from Lake Charles, Richard was admitted to the Bar in 1996 and in that same year served as a judicial clerk in the Fourteenth Judicial District Court, he 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. Richard 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



Coleman D. Ridley, Jr.



Stephanie Roberts

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 George Washington University. After serving as an officer in the United States Marine Corps, Richardson returned to Baton Rouge and practiced with Guglielmo, Marks, Schutte, Terhoeve & 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. Richardson 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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A graduate of LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Nancy A. Richeaux is a partner in the firm of Kaster & Cop, LLC and has practiced almost exclusively in the area of construction law for more than 20 years. She has worked closely with and represented construction-related trade organizations, as well as owners, contractors and subcontractors, gaining both technical knowledge and insight into practical and efficient solutions for complex construction disputes. She has spent hundreds of hours in both residential and commercial construction-related mediations resolving disputes concerning contracts, payments, liens, workmanship and defects and other construction-related issues.

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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. Ridley is Senior Advisor, Issues Management with Beuerman Miller Fitzgerald, the oldest strategic communications firm in the southern United States. Ridley started his career as a law clerk to Judge Sylvia R. Cooks (Ret.), Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, 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 at 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 and has mediated hundreds of cases in a wide range of matters involving automobile accidents, premises liability, insurance coverage, hurricane disputes, medical malpractice, employment disputes and business interruption. She was selected for the USDC Eastern District panel of neutrals to resolve Hurricane Ida claims and continues mediating those cases. As an assistant district attorney for the Orleans Parish DA's Office, she tried more than 100 felony and misdemeanor cases. She was a senior trial attorney for Prudential Property and Casualty Insurance Co. for 11 years, developing extensive insurance-law experience. There, she developed a strong passion for mediation while taking cases to maps as an advocate. She received mediator training through maps and the Attorney-Mediator Institute of Dallas. Roberts mediates in the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Mandeville offices and at attorneys' offices throughout south Louisiana. She is admitted to practice law in Louisiana federal and state courts.

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**John T. (Jack)
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Collins C. Rossi

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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 Court 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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Admitted to the Bar in 1977, Larry Roedel is a founding shareholder of Roedel Parsons Blache Fontana Piontek & Pisano. He has practiced law for 49 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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Jack Roethele is an experienced mediator who utilizes his 38 years of litigation experience to resolve even the most difficult cases. Roethele 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. Roethele 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. Roethele 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. Roethele'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 JD 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. 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 numerous cases over his career from all sides of the table — as mediator, plaintiff counsel and defense counsel. He is owner/manager of his Mandeville, Louisiana, law firm, founded in 2004, where he maintains an active practice. Russell has 29 years of litigation/trial experience in Louisiana, successfully representing plaintiffs and defendants in individual and commercial property and casualty claims/litigation, including hurricane losses, business losses/disputes, extra-contractual/bad faith, personal injury, wrongful death and trucking, as well as workers' compensation, medical malpractice, contested probate and successions, among other areas. He has served as plaintiff counsel throughout his career and has extensive experience defending major insurance companies in Louisiana property and casualty claims, having served many years as insurance defense counsel. Practical insight gained through his diverse experience and practice has proven 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, serving on the Board of Editors of *The Maritime Lawyer* and Moot Court. She practiced four decades in maritime personal injury, construction, pharmaceuticals/medical device, environmental, products liability, toxic tort and class action litigation. She wrote for publications and lectured on litigation and mediation in CLE/law school settings for the LSBA, Tulane Law School, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, International Association of Defense Counsel and ABA. A former LSBA Board of Governors member, she received the Young Career Women Program Citation of Honor and 2000 APEX Award. She serves on UC Law San Francisco's Survey on Commercial Mediation Advisory Council and was Vice Chair of Diversity for the IADC Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. A former partner at Montgomery Barnett, Lemle and Kelleher and Coats Rose, she was selected for the Eastern District of Louisiana Mediation Panel resolving hundreds of Hurricane Ida cases.

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Elizabeth Haecker
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Dewey Scandurro

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Dewey Scandurro works primarily as a mediator of civil disputes. He has conducted more than 300 mediations. 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 and has worked as a court-appointed mediator for 10 state court systems. He has particular experience with first-party insurance claims, admiralty and maritime law, personal injury, product liability, medical malpractice and business disputes. He is working toward a master's degree in dispute resolution at Pepperdine Law School's top-ranked Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution, where he was formally trained as a mediator and arbitrator. 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 is a seasoned attorney with over 35 years' experience representing individuals, large and small businesses and insurance companies. She has represented clients in 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 mid-sized firm partner and founding partner of a small firm. She received a BBA in 1986 from Loyola University and her JD, 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 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 mediated hundreds of cases. She previously served as Secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association and Chair of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

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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 Litigation Counsel of America and a Louisiana Association for Justice Board of Governors member. *Lawdragon* recently recognized her among the 2026 Green 500: Leaders in Environmental Law. **201 St. Charles Ave., Ste. 4600, New Orleans, LA 70170 (504) 556-5533; fax: (504) 389-4087 bschilling@fishmanhaygood.com fishmanhaygood.com**

Marta-Ann Schnabel The Patterson Resolution Group, L.L.C.

Admitted to the Bar in 1981, Marta-Ann Schnabel is managing director of O'Bryon Schnabel & Africk, 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 LSBA 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). **O'Bryon Schnabel + Africk, PLC, 935 Gravier St., Ste. 900, New Orleans, LA 70112 • (504) 799-4200 • (866) 367-8620 mas@obryonlaw.com and mas@pattersonresolution.com www.pattersonresolution.com**

Keely Y. Scott Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Keely Scott is a full-time mediator and former partner of Donohue, Patrick & Scott PLLC. Since joining Perry Dampf in 2012, Scott has mediated more than 900 simple and complex multi-party cases in construction, professional liability, personal injury, first- and third-party property damage, transportation/trucking, FELA/ railroad litigation, insurance coverage and bad faith, and catastrophic and mass tort litigation. Scott has over 30 years' litigation and ADR experience in Louisiana, Texas and nationwide. She has served as a court-appointed neutral/mediator in the U.S. District Courts for the Western, Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana. Scott is an LSBA Qualified Civil Mediator and Martindale-Hubbell AV-Preeminent rated by the Bar and Judiciary. She graduated from LSU Law School in 1995 and completed intensive mediator training at Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. Scott brings creative approaches to dispute resolution and tirelessly pursues resolution. Over 90% of her mediated cases settle. She is available for mediations nationwide. **721 Government St., Ste. 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 389-9899 • cell: (225) 802-3773 kscott@dps-law.com or karen@perrydampf.com www.PerryDampf.com**

**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 case note, "Status of the Sieracki-Seaman After the 1972 Amendments to the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act." 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. **New Orleans • Mandeville • Baton Rouge • Lake Charles • Virtual • Nationwide resolutions@maps-adr.com (800) 443-7351**



H. Bruce Shreves

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H. Bruce Shreves, a founding partner of Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, LLP, handles construction and insurance mediations and arbitrations in complex construction cases. He is on AAA arbitration panel for large complex construction cases and is listed on the AAA's Master Mediator Panel. He Chairs the LSBA's Fidelity, Surety and Construction Law Section. He was honored as the Louisiana Bar Foundation's 2018 Distinguished Lawyer of the Year. He has mediated and/or arbitrated over 700 complex construction/insurance cases during the course of his career. He has been recognized by *New Orleans Magazine*, "Best Lawyers in New Orleans" (2004-present), Construction law, ADR. *Louisiana Super Lawyers* (2005-present), ADR. He is a Fellow in the American College of Construction Lawyers.

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Imtiaz Dispute Resolution

Imtiaz launched Imtiaz Dispute Resolution (IDR) to offer alternative dispute resolution as an option for all types of disputes, small and large. Imtiaz's initial exposure to arbitration and mediation was as a junior attorney in high-dollar-amount cases. After his appointment as a neutral by the Eastern District of Louisiana as part of its Hurricane Ida Claims Streamlined Settlement Program, Imtiaz successfully mediated dozens of cases. Over the last decade, Imtiaz has also served as a Hearing Examiner for the City of New Orleans Civil Service Commission, a Hearing Officer for the City's Code Enforcement and Safety and Permits Departments, and an Arbitrator for FINRA and NAM. IDR's philosophy is that all disputes can benefit from ADR. In furtherance of this, IDR offers affordable hourly, half-day and daily rates with no administrative or filing fees. Imtiaz is available to host, travel statewide or proceed via video conference.

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Gracella Simmons

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Simmons 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, Simmons 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 Louisiana State Bar Association and has authored an article on mediation titled, "Mediation, a Little History."

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Lacy M. Smith

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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, Smith practiced before Louisiana's Supreme Court as well as its district and appellate courts. In her domestic law mediation practice, Smith has years of experience in successfully resolving community property, child custody, child support and spousal support disputes. 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, Smith was a key contributor to resolving 97% of the over 4,000 assigned claims. Smith's skills for navigating intricate, emotionally charged disputes bring invaluable insight to identifying sensible and pragmatic outcomes to her alternative dispute resolution practice.

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David R. Sobel Sobel Mediation

Sobel devotes his practice exclusively to mediating professional liability and personal injury claims. Before becoming a full-time mediator, he spent nearly 40 years litigating and trying jury and bench trials in state and federal courts, frequently representing healthcare providers. Attorneys who litigated both with and against him, including prominent plaintiffs' attorneys, now retain him as a mediator, citing his integrity, judgment and command of the legal, medical and strategic issues driving outcomes. Sobel is a Louisiana Super Lawyer in Alternative Dispute Resolution, AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell and Board Certified in Civil Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He serves as Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Tulane Law School. Admitted in Louisiana and Texas and before the U.S. Supreme Court, he earned his undergraduate degree from Hofstra University and law degree from Tulane University.

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Thomas J. (Tom) Solari Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Before retiring in 2021, Tom Solari was Of Counsel with the law firm of Plauché, Smith & Nieset, LLC in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Solari 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 United States District Judge James Cain to serve on a panel of neutrals to mediate cases arising from Hurricanes Laura and Delta. To date, 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 Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Emmett Sole is with The Sole Law Firm, LLC in Lake Charles. He has over fifty years' experience in Louisiana law, including construction, fidelity and surety, product liability, professional liability, insurance coverage and damage disputes, and toxic torts. Sole received the Louisiana Bar Foundation's prestigious 2017 Curtis R. Boisfontaine Award, given annually to a Louisiana lawyer exhibiting long-standing devotion to and excellence in trial practice while upholding ethics and consideration for courts, litigants and counsel. He is chair emeritus and past president of the Louisiana State Law Institute and chair of its ADR Committee. He is vice-chair of the LSBA's Fidelity, Surety and Construction Law Section, past chair of the LSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section and a frequent speaker on alternative dispute resolution. Sole attended mediation training at Pepperdine University School of Law's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. His career and experience uniquely qualify him as a neutral resolving disputes.

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Shayna L. Sonnier is a partner with Veron Bice, LLC, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Her practice focuses on estate planning, successions, corporate litigation, and oil and gas litigation. Sonnier earned a BA from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and ultimately, a JD from SMU's Dedman School of Law. In November of 2025, Sonnier completed her mediation training with the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution through Pepperdine Caruso School of Law and was honored to join the Patterson Resolution Group. Peers will attest that some of the many characteristics that set Shayna apart are both her ability to establish trust with her clients as well as her hands-on approach to every case. She is licensed to practice in both Louisiana and Texas. She served as President of the Louisiana State Bar Association in 2023-24.

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Ralph J. Stephens

Ralph J. Stephens
Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

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. Stephens is credentialled 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
Stern Arbitration and Mediation

Lynne Rothschild Stern has been a full-time mediator and arbitrator since 1993, resolving employment, insurance, personal injury, healthcare and commercial matters and arbitrating employment, commercial and consumer cases as panel chair. After her 1971 JD from Columbia Law School, she clerked for Judge Heebe in the Eastern District of Louisiana, practiced privately and taught at Loyola Law School. She served on EEOC, American Arbitration Association, FINRA, Key Bridge Foundation and Resolute panels. She was a Gulf Coast Claims Facility Appeals Judge and one of two court-appointed documentation reviewers for the 2010 BP oil spill settlement. From 2023-25, she mediated Hurricane Ida claims in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. She discussed mediation and negotiation for ABA, Tulane, LSU and Loyola Law Schools and Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Associations. She is past-Chairman of the LSBA's ADR Section, a Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

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**Lynne Rothschild
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Jennifer M. Stoller

Jennifer M. Stoller
SMS Dispute Resolution

Jennifer Stoller 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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John E. Sudderth
maps (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)
 John Sudderth began his litigation practice in 1993 as an Assistant District Attorney 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. Sudderth 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 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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John E. Sudderth



Cherrell S. Taplin



**Randall K.
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Peter S. Title



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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. 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. 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. She 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 College of Law graduate and is on the faculty for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA).

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Randall K. (Randy) Theunissen

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Randy Theunissen is a partner in the Lafayette office of Allen & Gooch. He earned his law degree from Louisiana State University in 1977 and is licensed to practice in both Louisiana and Texas. He is recognized by Martindale-Hubbell as an AV-rated attorney and was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 2022. He has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® since 2005 for Admiralty and Maritime Law and Personal Injury Litigation – Defendants and has been selected as a Super Lawyer annually since 2007. He is also a Proctor in the Maritime Law Association of the United States and a Master in the American Inns of Court. Theunissen is admitted to practice in all Louisiana state courts and several federal courts in Louisiana and Texas. His practice focuses on maritime, transportation and personal injury litigation, including commercial trucking, aviation, offshore and inland platform accidents. He is a frequent industry speaker on maritime law developments and litigation trends.

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Peter S. Title

Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, LLC

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

Jane Triola has been a sole practitioner in Pearl River, Louisiana, since 1993. She is a Louisiana-qualified Child Custody and Visitation Mediator and Qualified Civil Mediator. After more than 30 years of practicing family law in St. Tammany Parish, Triola has dedicated her practice to helping families resolve disputes through mediation. She assists parties in reaching practical, cost-effective agreements regarding child custody, parenting plans, support, property division and other family law matters without the expense and stress of prolonged litigation. Triola provides a respectful, solution-focused environment where each person is heard and encouraged to work toward lasting agreements that meet the unique needs of their family. Her extensive legal experience, combined with her compassionate approach, helps clients navigate difficult transitions with confidence and dignity.

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Gina Bradley Tuttle

Gina Bradley Tuttle

Guglielmo, Lopez, Tuttle, Hunter & Jarrell, LLP

Gina Bradley Tuttle, a native of Opelousas, earned a BS from Louisiana State University in 1977 and her JD 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

Jones Walker LLP

Richard Tyler is a lawyer, arbitrator and mediator with Jones Walker's nationally ranked Construction Practice. With more than 40 years' experience in complex construction matters, he has handled over \$1 billion in high-stakes disputes, including petrochemical and industrial megaprojects and high value commercial projects. He has experience with both domestic and international arbitration. An arbitrator for over 20 years, he is a member of the American Arbitration Association Commercial, Construction, Large Complex Case, International and Mega Project panels. He serves on the AAA-ICDR Council and National Construction Dispute Resolution Committee (former co-chair). A Fellow of the American College of Construction Lawyers and Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, he received ADR training through AAA, CIArb (international), the Dispute Resolution Board Foundation and Harvard Law School (mediation). He frequently writes and speaks on construction and ADR topics, and is recognized by *Chambers USA*, *Legal 500*, *Best Lawyers in America*, and *Who's Who Legal – Construction*.

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Richard J. Tyler



Thomas M. Usdin



John R. Walker

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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John R. Walker

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John Walker has practiced litigation since 1983 and is a partner at Jones Fussell in Covington, Louisiana. His practice includes aviation litigation, vehicular accidents, premises liability, product liability, professional liability, employment, insurance coverage, commercial litigation and real estate disputes for plaintiffs and defendants. He has tried cases to verdict in Louisiana federal and state courts, including multimillion-dollar matters. Walker has testified as a legal expert on Louisiana insurance bad faith in Florida and New York cases. He is admitted to Louisiana state and federal district courts, federal courts in Texas and Florida, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and U.S. Supreme Court, and has handled cases pro hac in Texas, Florida, Mississippi, Illinois, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. AV Preeminent-rated by Martindale-Hubbell for over 25 years, Walker has participated in several hundred successful mediations. He completed advanced mediator training at Pepperdine Law School's Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution and served as a court-appointed neutral in the 24th Judicial District Court.

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**Myron A. (Mike)
Walker, Jr.**



**Andrew D. (Andy)
Weinstock**



**Hon. Jewel (Duke)
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Colby F. Wenck

**Myron A. (Mike) Walker, Jr.
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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. Walker 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, Walker is a contributing author regarding construction litigation, medical/legal issues and mediation. Walker is known for his common sense, impartiality and effectiveness in dispute resolution.

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**Andrew D. (Andy) Weinstock
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Andy Weinstock's thirty-eight years of practice focused on insurance, personal injury, toxic tort, product liability and general casualty litigation. Weinstock received his JD 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," Weinstock has tried five plaintiff cases to verdict before a jury. 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. 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 E. (Duke) Welch, Jr. (Ret.)
The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC**

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 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 Pepperdine Law School in 2014. He was certified at the National Judicial College as a mediator in 2024. Through his 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 presented, as well as those that reveal themselves through the facts. He has the education, legal knowledge and judicial experience, along with life skills, that are vital in resolving issues.

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**Colby F. Wenck
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Colby F. Wenck is a Metairie-based mediator and attorney serving Louisiana and Texas. He founded The Wenck Firm, LLC, with Metairie and Harvey offices, and serves on the Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems (maps) panel. His mediation practice draws on more than 25 years focused entirely on personal injury law, representing thousands of clients. Before founding The Wenck Firm in August 2017, Wenck worked at Michael Hingle and Associates, LLC, Morris Bart, PLC, and The Law Office of Glenn Diaz, and clerked in the 34th Judicial District Court. His courtroom and pre-trial experience inform both sides of negotiations. He understands how personal injury cases are built, valued and resolved, helping him identify key issues, facilitate candid dialogue and guide practical resolutions. Wenck is admitted in Louisiana, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. Supreme Court and all Louisiana federal districts. A Louisiana Bar Foundation member for ten years, he serves on the LSBA House of Delegates for Jefferson Parish.

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K. Douglas (Doug) Wheeler

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

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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Kathryn T. (Kathy) Wiedorn



Lance B. Williams

Lance B. Williams

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Lance B. Williams has been a litigator for more than 30 years. His practice included defending product liability, mass tort, professional malpractice, construction, trucking, toxic tort, Class Action and insurance defense litigation. Williams represented parties including multinational Fortune 100 companies, large insurers, local businesses and individual plaintiffs. He tried cases in dozens of jurisdictions around the State of Louisiana, as well as other jurisdictions around the country. Now serving as a full-time mediator and arbitrator with Perry Dampf, he leverages decades of courtroom insight to facilitate efficient and fair resolutions. His national ADR practice reflects his professional reputation for balance with the ability to bring even the most challenging cases to resolution. Williams has written articles and spoken nationally on topics related to product liability, class action and asbestos litigation.

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Rebecca K. Wisbar

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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 BA from the University of Virginia and her JD 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



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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 50 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 from Tulane University. His office is in Madisonville, and he is available to provide mediation services throughout Louisiana.

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Mary Anne Wolf, PE, FCIArb **Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions**

Wolf is an arbitrator and mediator. She serves on the neutrals panel at Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions and on several American Arbitration Association panels, including commercial, construction, energy, consumer and large complex cases. She received her mediation training at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. As an impartial neutral, she draws on her technical background, legal experience and respect for the parties and process to help achieve fair and efficient resolutions. Wolf is a licensed engineer who spent 10 years in the construction industry before earning her law degree. She is a partner at the Keogh Cox law firm and has more than 20 years of experience representing clients in construction litigation, delay claims, contract disputes, industrial claims, catastrophic losses, product liability matters and early dispute resolution. She is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Institute for Energy Law and the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals.

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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. Young is experienced in organizational management, operational management, organizational audits, public relations and media coordination, project management and sensitive negotiations. Young served as the Parish President in Jefferson Parish from 2010-16. 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

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Micah Zeno is a skilled alternative dispute practitioner with a broad spectrum of experience as a mediator and arbitrator. 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, 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. He is currently a member of the Louisiana Law Institute and is a Tulane University Law School adjunct professor. Zeno's approach to mediation includes proactive engagement, collaborative problem solving and creative solution development.

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Nicholas J. Zeringue



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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 28 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, real estate disputes, construction disputes, property damage cyber-security and cyber breach, and he has experience with the Real Estate Disclosure Act. 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-Preeminent 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 Louisiana courts for over 26 years before being elected a New Orleans District Court Judge in 2011. He served nine years, retiring at the end of 2020. Franz worked in the New Orleans City Attorney's office as Deputy City Attorney and Chief Deputy City Attorney for over 24 years, supervising all litigation. He tried more than 160 jury cases in state and federal courts before 52 judges and argued dozens of appellate cases, including before the Louisiana Supreme Court. Zibilich is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and taught trial advocacy at Tulane Law School for 12 years. He has participated in hundreds of settlement conferences and mediations. His practice includes personal injury, age and gender discrimination, workplace sexual harassment, law enforcement matters, attorney fee disputes, successions and community property cases. He has mediated over 800 cases since joining maps in 2021.

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WHO'S WHO IN ADR 2027

The print version of the directory for arbitrators and mediators will be mailed with the October/November *Louisiana Bar Journal*. The directory is uploaded to the LSBA website in interactive PDF format (email addresses and website URLs are activated and instantly accessible). The Web version of the directory remains active for one full year!

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Fishman Haygood, LLP is a litigation and transactional firm handling complex, high-stakes matters for organizations and individuals across the country. The firm's work spans commercial disputes, securities litigation, class actions, bankruptcy and restructuring, M&A, real estate, energy and environmental matters. With approximately 40 attorneys in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, the firm is lean by design — known for direct partner involvement and the kind of judgment and precision that only comes from doing difficult work repeatedly, at the highest level. Several partners are also experienced in Alternative Dispute Resolution, including Lori Mince, a certified American Arbitration Association® arbitrator, and Blair Schilling and Ian Atkinson, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution trained mediators. These attorneys bring years of experience litigating a variety of commercial disputes to their dispute resolution services, quickly understanding complex matters and skillfully enhancing communication and negotiation between parties toward a mutually satisfactory resolution. To learn more about our arbitration and mediation services, contact Lori Mince at (504) 586-5273.

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The Patterson Resolution Group, LLC, brings together a distinguished group of committed professionals with



broad and deep legal experience. With nearly 200 years of combined practice experience, Patterson Resolution Group members provide a strong foundation for the resolution of complex disputes. Each group member has distinguished himself/herself in law and in positions of service in the legal profession, in the public sector, on the bench, in civic service, and as teachers and authors. Group members have been actively involved in dispute resolution for years, serving as mediators, arbitrators, settlement counsel, mediation counsel and special masters. Group members have substantive experience in disputes in corporate business matters, commercial real estate, family, oil and gas, banking, insurance, including professional liability, construction, maritime, products liability, employment, healthcare, antitrust and class actions. The members are ready to assist you with the resolution of your complex disputes in a wide array of industries.

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Perry Dampf Dispute Solutions

Our panel is among the most experienced and diverse in the region, bringing decades of practical legal experience to disputes of every size and complexity. From complex class actions and multi-party litigation to routine tort matters, our neutrals deliver practical, efficient dispute resolution. Perry Dampf proudly serves clients throughout Louisiana, including North Louisiana, Acadiana, Greater Baton Rouge, New Orleans, the Northshore, and South Louisiana. We also provide ADR services nationwide and in select international matters, offering attorneys, businesses, insurers, and organizations access to experienced neutrals wherever disputes arise. Our services include mediation, arbitration, special master appointments, early neutral evaluation, umpiring and standing neutral services for construction projects. From Admiralty to Workers' Compensation, and nearly every practice area in between, our neutrals are ready to assist.

Continued next page

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LLC provides their clients with a task-force oriented team of resourceful lawyers with a wide variety of experience to achieve those solutions for our clients. When it comes to Alternative Dispute Resolution, three of our senior attorneys, including Bryan Reuter, Thomas Owen, Jr. and Leonard Davis, are all experienced and skilled in mediations and arbitrations in local or national matters within the Gulf South region. With their deep understanding of the Louisiana market, these attorneys are able to work as elite-level neutrals to provide solutions to complex legal matters. To arrange a mediation, arbitration or any consultation, contact Stanley Reuter Alford Owen Munson & Paul, LLC, at (504) 523-1580.

909 Poydras St., Ste. 2500, New Orleans, LA 70112

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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.



*Louisiana State Bar Association
601 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70130*