

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline, likely New York City, viewed from across a body of water. The buildings are illuminated with various lights, and their reflections are visible on the water's surface. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting twilight or early evening. The overall scene is a classic urban nightscape.

S | H
M & R

SALLEY HITE MERCER & RESOR LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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OUR MISSION

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor (SHM&R) was founded in April of 2004 with the goal of providing outstanding legal services in focused fields of practice at competitive rates. All of the Firm's named partners practiced together for many years at a pre-eminent downtown New Orleans law firm where they honed their skills in a variety of areas of litigation, including insurance coverage and defense, banking, transportation, professional liability, maritime, toxic tort, products liability, environmental, worker's compensation and construction defect, as well as the general practice associated with all of those forms of litigation. The attorneys that make up the SHM&R team have a vast amount of experience practicing in both the State and Federal Courts of Louisiana. They are also actively involved with the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance, the Defense Research Institute and the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel.

SHM&R attorneys are, first and foremost, Trial Attorneys. Every case is handled with one goal in mind: successful resolution on the merits. Each and every case is prepared as if it will proceed to trial. The attorneys of SHM&R have been successful in over 90% of the matters that have proceeded to trial. Cognizant of litigation risks and costs, SHM&R routinely explore alternative dispute resolution, assess business considerations and other risks to the client, and ultimately resolve the vast majority of cases amicably prior to trial. The attorneys' trial experience as lead counsel in both jury and bench trials is one key to the success of their individual practices.

As discussed on the following pages, SHM&R attorneys routinely and successfully handle a wide range of practice areas and continually strive to provide excellent services to their clients in a cost effective manner.

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AND
JURIST
OF
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OF
LOUISIANA

PRACTICE AREAS



BANKING LITIGATION

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor regularly represents both national and state banking associations in commercial litigation in federal and state courts throughout the State of Louisiana. It handles retail banking litigation including disputes between banks and their customers involving negligence, unauthorized withdrawals, faithless bookkeepers, electronic funds transfers, credit cards, negotiable instruments, deposit account agreements, trusts, and commercial disputes under the Uniform Commercial Code. The Firm also represents financial institutions with regard to issues of privacy, fraud, forgery, conversion, breach of fiduciary duty, R.I.C.O., and theft. The Firm has defended banking and financial institutions in class actions as well as in FINRA and NASD arbitrations involving securities. The Firm is a member of the Bank Counsel Section of the Louisiana Bankers Association.

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BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LAW

SHMR's attorneys are experienced in many aspects of commercial and business law. With our years of experience, we can easily assist you with the handling of your commercial and business needs. The ever changing economic and political climates can give rise to challenging issues. Our diverse experience allows us to guide you to the best solutions with ease.

Our attorneys represent limited liability companies, corporations, partnerships, individuals and financial institutions in a wide variety of commercial and business law matters, including:

- › Business and Partnership Formations and Dissolutions
- › Business Purchase and Sales Agreements
- › Contract reviews, including employment contracts
- › Mergers and Acquisitions of all types
- › Stock and Asset Acquisitions or Sales
- › Commercial Business Loans and other financial transactions

CONTACT

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COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

John Hite has been involved in handling commercial litigation for the past 20 years. Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor lawyers have aggressively represented banks, lenders, corporations, commercial collection agencies and individuals in a wide variety of commercial and contractual matters in all local and federal courts.

The Firm offers extensive services in commercial litigation including:

- › Subrogation litigation
- › Suits on notes, leases, and contracts
- › Representation of secured and unsecured creditors in bankruptcy proceedings
- › Enforcement of liens and judgments
- › Contract negotiation and preparation

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SHMR represents and counsels business operators and property owners in all aspects of commercial real estate. We can handle an array of commercial real estate needs for individuals as well as businesses. Whether it is reviewing a contract, recording or canceling a lien, acquiring land or dealing with most other real estate issues. Our experience in Commercial & Business Law aids in this area of practice.

Our attorneys have experience in commercial real estate, including:

- › Commercial Real Estate Purchase and Sales Agreements
- › Commercial Real Estate Loans and other financial transactions
- › Commercial Real Estate Leases
- › Commercial Lease Disputes
- › Commercial Landlord-Tenant Disputes
- › Land Use and Zoning Issues

SHMR can provide counsel designed to help prevent and/or resolve claims dealing with real estate issues, no matter how small or large.

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CONSTRUCTION DEFECT

Salley Hite Mercer & Resor regularly represents general contractors and subcontractors in construction defect and faulty workmanship claims brought by government, commercial and residential claimants. The Firm's attorneys have handled litigation with issues involving roofing, windows, concrete, soils/foundation failure, water-proofing, electrical and plumbing. The attorneys who practice in this area include a Louisiana licensed General Contractor as well as several others who have, through years of experience in this line of litigation, developed knowledge of the technical aspects and contract documents, all of which helps our clients to develop cost effective and targeted strategies to obtain successful resolutions of often complex claims. The Firm also has significant experience pursuing subrogation claims arising from Construction Defect situations.

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DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor represents several self-insured Motor Carriers, and insurers devoted to coverage for Motor Carriers, in Louisiana State and Federal Courts. The Firm's representation ranges from defense of catastrophic losses to cargo related claims. As a result, its attorneys are knowledgeable of the difficulties faced by Motor Carriers in litigation filed against them and are aggressive with the defense of evaluating and determining which claims should be defended or settled. In addition to defense of catastrophic losses, the Firm regularly represents Motor Carriers on cargo damage claims. As a result, its attorneys are familiar with all federal statutes applicable to interstate carriers and, most importantly, the protections afforded by those federal statutes.

In conjunction with the Firm's representation of Motor Carriers, it has formed a Catastrophic Loss Response Team comprised of qualified attorneys and specialized vendors who can quickly and competently respond and deploy in the unfortunate event of a catastrophic loss in Louisiana. The Firm and its Catastrophic Loss Response Team is available to its Motor Carrier clients on a 24-hour basis.

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ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor, LLC, regularly represents insurers, landowners and oil companies in environmental contamination cases. This practice includes the defense of “legacy” lawsuits alleging pollution damages from prior oilfield production activities, breaches of mineral leases and violations of the Louisiana Mineral Code; the defense of occupational exposure cases by employees of refineries and pipe cleaning companies as well as claims by residents residing in the adjoining neighborhoods; and the defense of claims by truckers and other transporters alleging exposure to naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM), benzene and other hazardous products. The Firm works closely with the executives and in-house counsel of the companies it represents to ensure appropriate litigation strategy and efficiently defend against complex environmental matters.

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ESTATE PLANNING AND SUCCESSIONS

Planning is very important when it comes to who gets what when you pass away and who will make decisions for you if you were to become disabled and not able to handle your affairs. Putting all the appropriate legal documentation in place plays an extremely important role in being ready for any of these very emotional and stressful situations.

At SHMR, it is crucial to build relationships with our clients so we can assist them in putting the proper legal documentation in place to deal with situations that may arise throughout their lives, in an effort to ease the emotions and stress that may occur during trying times. Having a Living Will, Power(s) of Attorney and Last Will & Testament is utmost important to assure that your affairs are in order for your peace of mind and to make it easier on your loved ones.

SHMR's attorneys can provide legal assistance with the following to help meet your personal needs for your affairs and assets:

- › Last Will and Testament
- › Power(s) of Attorney
- › Living Will
- › Trusts
- › Estate Administration

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HEALTH LAW

SHMR's health law attorneys understand the unique business, operational and regulatory needs of the ever-changing health care industry. We provide the strategic counsel required to operate efficiently, effectively and in compliance with a myriad of state and federal laws and regulations.

We provide an array of services to health care providers across the United States including hospitals of all types, ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), nursing facilities (including SNFs), home health agencies and hospices, DME providers and suppliers and physicians and physician groups.

Among our notable practice areas, are the following:

Regulatory

- › Compliance
- › Fraud and Abuse
- › Governmental Relations
- › Licensing and Enrollment
- › Medicare/Medicaid Reimbursement
- › Rural Health

Transactional

- › Mergers and Acquisitions
- › Joint Ventures
- › Formation and Governance
- › Contracts and Transactions
- › Construction and Real Estate Development

Dispute Resolution

- › Health Insurance Coverage Disputes
- › Third Party Payor Audits, Overpayments and Appeals
- › Dispute Resolution

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INSURANCE COVERAGE

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor focuses on litigation involving insurance coverage issues and regularly drafts insurance coverage opinions and advises insurance companies in coverage dispute actions, acting as Coverage Counsel for a number of insurers doing business in Louisiana. Louisiana is unique in that it is one of only two jurisdictions in the United States that provides third party claimants with a right of direct action against liability carriers. The Firm routinely represents insurers who are sued under Louisiana's Direct Action Statute, including Direct Action claims against insurers in litigation that involve professional liability, mass tort, toxic tort, class action, construction defect, environmental and bad faith claims, among others. Louisiana's Direct Action Statute provides insurers with an opportunity to address coverage issues in ongoing litigation between a claimant and an insured, as opposed to filing a separate Declaratory Judgment Action. The attorneys of the Firm have enjoyed great success in presenting fact issues to juries or judges during trial for resolution in order to apply those fact findings to the coverage issue in dispute in order for the Court to rule upon the coverage dispute. The Firm has extensive experience working with virtually every type of insurance policy utilized in the industry, including professional liability, commercial and personal automobile, general liability, employers liability, homeowners, builders risk, excess and umbrella policies, as well as manuscripted policies and endorsements.

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INSURANCE DEFENSE

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor is regularly retained by insurance companies to defend policy holders in a variety of litigation throughout the State of Louisiana in both state and federal courts. The Firm defends insureds in litigation ranging from cases involving issues of premises liability, products liability, maritime personal injury, commercial and personal lines automobile liability to class action and mass tort.

The Firm devotes a significant portion of its insurance defense practice to environmental litigation. Insurers have retained the Firm to represent oil companies, landowners, and other defendants in large scale environmental contamination cases, mass tort, toxic tort, class action, radiation, and environmental claims. Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor is routinely retained to defend insureds in “legacy” cases, wherein Louisiana landowners and lessors have filed suit against the former lessees and operators alleging a myriad of issues that arise as a result of oil field operations on their property.

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MARITIME

The Firm's Maritime Section is overseen and managed by David M. Flotte and includes the handling of nearly every type of admiralty litigation and contract.

The Firm's attorneys have vast experience with litigated matters that include bodily injury claims involving Jones Act, Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act, limitation of liability, seaman status, maintenance and cure, unseaworthiness, third party maritime tort, passenger claims, investigation and defense of vessel collisions and toxic releases arising from vessel and shipyard operations, and Defense Base Act claims. The Firm's marine property damage experience includes hull and cargo, docks, bridges, wharfs, loss of use and earnings. From an environmental standpoint the Firm has handled pollution claims arising out of maritime activities including clean up and pursuit of third party liability under OPA 90 and defense of all charges (civil and criminal) under the Clean Water Act.

The Firm regularly prepares and analyzes maritime contracts, as well as litigating the terms of such contracts, including all types of charter agreements, master service agreements, af-freightment contracts and cargo claims. Based upon their years of experience, the Firm's attorneys have developed a unique understanding of the terms and conditions that are unique to marine insurance policies and routinely represent both carriers and policy holders in claims that involve a wide range of coverages, including Hull and Machinery, Protection and Indemnity, Marine Employer Liability, Sue and Labor, Wreck Removal and General Liability.

The Firm routinely protects its client's rights through pursuing vessel arrests or seeking the release of vessels that have been wrongfully arrested, including obtaining Warrants of Attachment that arise from collision, towage liens, ship mortgages, other tort and liens, salvage liens, and vessel sales.

The Firm's maritime practice regularly takes its attorneys into the State Courts, Federal Courts and Administrative Tribunals in Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, Mississippi and Tennessee.

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PREMISES LIABILITY

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor routinely defends property owners in premises liability litigation throughout Louisiana. The Firm has significant experience applying the facts of premises liability claims to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statute 9:2800.6 and Article 2317.1 of Louisiana's Civil Code. Those statutory and codal requirements can make what might appear to be a clear cut premises liability claim not only defensible but, in some cases, subject to dismissal by summary judgment. The Firm's attorneys have successfully obtained dismissal of premises liability cases by summary proceeding when the burden of proof has not been met and have also defeated premises liability claims at trial. The Firm's clients include owners and operators of retail establishments, restaurants, medical facilities, hotels, banks and numerous other commercial establishments. The Firm has developed relationships with the appropriate experts which, coupled with the years of experience of its attorneys, allows Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor to defend all premises liability claims in an efficient and pro-active manner.

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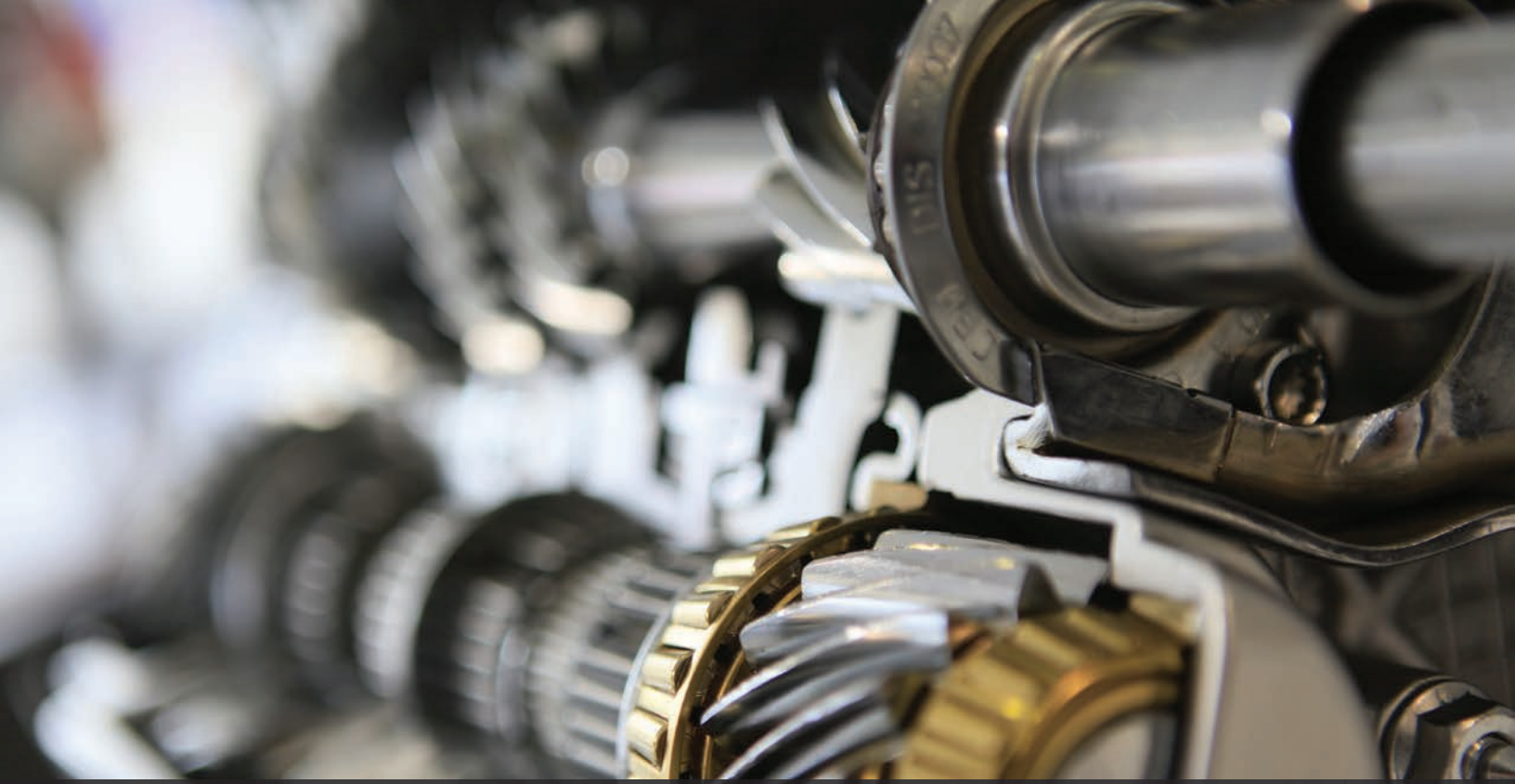
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PRODUCTS LIABILITY

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor has represented both manufacturers and distributors in products liability litigation throughout the state of Louisiana in both State and Federal courts. The Firm has experience litigating issues involving design defects, construction and composition defects, failure to warn, breach of warranty, redhibition, and general negligence, as well as defenses to which a client is entitled under the Louisiana Products Liability Act, among others. The Firm's clients include manufacturers and sellers of a wide variety of industrial products and consumer products, including manufacturers of cell phones, home products and pharmaceutical products. The Firm has acted both as lead counsel as well as local counsel for large manufacturers of products in multi-district litigation and class actions. Its attorneys are experienced in complex products-liability litigation, including toxic-tort actions involving exposure to asbestos, chemicals, radiation and mold.

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PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor has extensive experience defending professional liability claims against architects, engineers, insurance agents and brokers, pharmacists, as well as other professions. The defense of the professionals in the foregoing areas has allowed the Firm's attorneys to expand their knowledge of the fields of expertise in which these professionals practice their trades and to apply that knowledge to the overall defense of professional liability claims. One of the Firm's Partners, Ashley Inabnet, was a practicing architect for over 12 years before attending law school.

Although professional liability matters involve very fact specific issues, many such cases can be resolved in the early stages of litigation if factors that can give rise to early disposition, such as statutory preemption, are identified and fully explored. The Firm's attorneys have enjoyed great success in defending these types of claims by identifying such factors and taking steps to obtain dismissals of their clients where appropriate.

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TOXIC TORT

Long before the Firm was formed, several of the Partners had a long history of defending toxic tort litigation, including claims involving long and short term exposure to asbestos containing products, silica, benzene and other hazardous chemicals, compounds and products. We have also defended numerous claims, from an individual and class action standpoint, that arise from alleged exposure to mold as well as naturally occurring radioactive materials.

The Firm represents a broad spectrum of clients, ranging from major manufacturing corporations and shipyards to small closely held family businesses. Our experience with both the law and science allows us to identify effective strategies for both the aggressive defense of claims and cost control of large dockets. The Firm's experience includes not only defending matters through all aspects of pre trial discovery and evaluation, but also through verdict by a jury following trial on the merits.

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WORKERS' COMPENSATION

We have over 25 years of experience and have been defending workers' compensation claims against self-insured corporations, insurers and their insureds that are filed pursuant to both state and federal law, including Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act (LHWCA) and the Defense Base Act (DBA). The Firm's attorneys practice in all nine workers' compensation districts throughout Louisiana and have successfully litigated workers' compensation matters at both the Courts of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court levels.

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
- PREMISES LIABILITY

James G. Albertine III (“J.G.”) is part of the firm’s general civil litigation department and practices in the areas of insurance coverage, insurance defense, professional liability, asbestos, personal injury, and commercial litigation.

J.G. grew up in Memphis, TN but has lived in Louisiana since 2005. He received his Juris Doctorate and Diploma in Civil Law from Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where he was the recipient of the Faculty Scholarship and Chancellor’s Scholarship. While in law school, he served as the President of the LSU Energy & Mineral Law Society. J.G. received his undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University, where he majored in Business Management. Prior to law school, J.G. worked in the construction, real estate, and oil & gas industries. J.G. was named a Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of civil litigation defense in 2016.

J.G. is admitted to practice in Louisiana, as well as federal courts for the Eastern, Middle and Western districts of Louisiana and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. J.G. is a member of the American Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association.

Jacob practices in the areas of general civil litigation, insurance defense, insurance coverage, and commercial litigation. In addition, he has experience handling cases involving medical malpractice defense, toxic torts, and environmental litigation. He has represented clients in litigation in state and federal courts, on both the trial and appellate levels.

Jacob received a bachelor's of science degree from Louisiana State University, with a major in Economics. He obtained his law degree from Tulane Law School. Following law school, he served as a law clerk for the Honorable John M. Roper, Chief Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Jacob is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association and the New Orleans Bar Association. He is admitted to practice in Louisiana State and Federal Courts.



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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- PREMISES LIABILITY



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- COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION

For over 30 years, David has focused his practice almost exclusively on maritime related issues. David regularly handles litigated matters that include bodily injury claims involving Jones Act, Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act, limitation of liability, seaman status, maintenance and cure, unseaworthiness, third party maritime tort, passenger claims, investigation and defense of vessel collisions and toxic releases arising from vessel and shipyard operations, and Defense Base Act. David routinely handles marine property damage litigation involving hull and cargo, docks, bridges, wharfs, loss of use and earnings, contract of carriage under COGSA (package/CFU limitation) and the Harter Act. As maritime operations can often result in the release of contaminants, David has vast experience in handling pollution related claims, including handling of clean up and pursuit of third party liability under OPA 90 and defense of all charges (civil and criminal) under the Clean Water Act. A regular part of David's practice includes protecting client's rights through pursuing vessel arrests or seeking the release of vessels that have been wrongfully arrested. David's experience in this area includes obtaining Warrants of Attachment that arise from towage liens, ship mortgages, tort liens, salvage liens and vessel sales.

David's maritime practice includes preparing, analyzing, and revising maritime contracts, as well as litigating the terms of such contracts, including all types of charter agreements, master service agreements, affreightment contracts and cargo claims. Through his vast maritime experience, David has acquired a great understanding of the terms and conditions that are unique to marine insurance policies and has represented both carriers and policy holders in claims that involve a wide range of

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coverages, including Hull and Machinery, Protection and Indemnity, Marine Employer Liability, Sue and Labor; Wreck Removal and General Liability.

The types of marine interests that David's practice has handled is wide ranging and includes A frame rigs, tow boats, dry cargo barges, tank barges, pilot boats, dock barges, deep draft dry cargo ships, pipe laying barges, spud barges for marine construction, crew boats, passenger vessels, casino boats, integrated towing units (notch tug and barge), pleasure boats, yachts, subsea divers, offshore jack up drilling rigs, lift boats, offshore supply boats, pipe laying barges, cargo elevators, cargo transfer terminals, docks and other marine structures.

David is admitted to practice in Louisiana, Texas and Missouri and his extensive maritime practice has admission on a pro hac vice basis in courts and administrative tribunals in Mississippi, Tennessee and Virginia.



JOHN W. HITE III

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- BANKING LITIGATION
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- PREMISES LIABILITY

In his litigation practice, John has served as lead trial counsel in the areas of insurance coverage, banking defense, environmental defense, products liability actions and commercial disputes. He has successfully represented clients in jury trials and bench trials in the federal and state courts throughout Louisiana. Additionally, he has successfully represented clients in cases before the Louisiana Courts of Appeal, the Louisiana Supreme Court, and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Banking and Financial Institutions: John has represented national and state banks in lender-liability suits, R.I.C.O actions, fraud and forgery claims, negligence actions, and checking and demand deposit lawsuits including those arising under the Louisiana Commercial Code, the U.C.C., and retail banking. His financial institution litigation also includes claims involving breach of contract and commercial transactions, as well as arbitration claims brought before FINRA, the NASD and AAA.

Insurance Coverage and Defense: John routinely represents insurers and carriers in a wide variety of insurance coverage disputes including bad faith suits, professional liability claims, class action litigation, Louisiana Direct Action claims, suits against insurance agents, declaratory judgment actions, and the representation of manufacturers and distributors in products liability cases.

Environmental Defense: John's environmental practice involves the representation of insurers, oil companies, and landowners in large scale environmental contamination cases; the defense of insurers and insureds in "legacy" lawsuits claiming pollution

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from prior oilfield production activities; and the representation of insurers and insureds in mass environmental toxic-tort cases.

John was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1986. Prior to co-founding Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor, LLC in 2004, John had been a partner at Sessions, Fishman & Nathan, LLP in New Orleans. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from the University of Virginia, and he graduated Order of the Coif and magna cum laude from the Tulane University School of Law in the top 5% of his class. He was a member of the Board of Editors of the Tulane Law Review from 1984 through 1986 and served as Notes and Comments Editor from 1985 through 1986. He wrote a case note on Federal Preemption that appeared in the Tulane Law Review. He has served on the Federal Bar Association's sub-committee on federal rule changes. John is AV rated by Martin-dale-Hubbell.



AMY DUNN HOTARD

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- LHWCA
- PREMISES LIABILITY

Amy's practice includes workers' compensation defense at the state level and on a federal level under the LHWCA, defense of first and third party automobile and homeowners' claims, premises liability defense, defense of personal injury claims in the transportation and trucking industry, subrogation, and oversight of workers' compensation policy.

Amy is a graduate of Louisiana State University where she attended LSU Honors College obtaining a B.A. in Mass Communications with a minor in History after only three years. She received her Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Civil Law from Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center.

After being admitted to the Louisiana Bar, she began working for a commercial litigation and healthcare law firm in New Orleans concentrating in the areas of workers' compensation defense, insurance defense, and general civil litigation. After several years at that firm, she was asked to join Salley, Hite, Mercer and Resor, LLC as an Associate. On January 1, 2015, Amy was named a Partner in the Firm.

Super Lawyers has named Amy a "Rising Star" in the field of workers' compensation on more than one occasion. Amy is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, and CLM. She is admitted to practice in Louisiana State and Federal Courts as well as the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Robert's practice focuses on professional liability for architects and engineers, and construction law. He is experienced representing design professionals in all manners and stages of construction-related disputes and litigation. Robert is also experienced defending clients in a variety of civil matters, including construction defect litigation, products liability, toxic tort cases and commercial litigation.

Robert is recognized by Louisiana Super Lawyers and ranked in Best Lawyers as "One to Watch" for his work in construction litigation: Louisiana Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2020-2023; Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, 2021-2023.

Robert received his B.A., magna cum laude, from Villanova University and his J.D. from Loyola University College of Law. He is licensed in Louisiana and admitted to practice before all federal District Courts of Louisiana and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



ROBERT KELLER

ASSOCIATE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- TOXIC TORT
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- PREMISES LIABILITY



VINSON J. KNIGHT

PARTNER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- HEALTH LAW
- COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
- BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LAW
- ESTATE PLANNING AND SUCCESSIONS

Vinson is a Board Certified Health Law Specialist with over 33 years of experience in multiple areas of law, including healthcare and commercial business formation, healthcare and commercial business transactions and finance, healthcare and commercial contracting including physician, hospital and employment contracting, commercial real estate transactions and finance, healthcare fraud and abuse, provider licensure and certification, provider reimbursement and appeals and other healthcare regulatory matters.

Vinson's practice is concentrated on commercial real estate, business and healthcare transactions and provider audits and appeals. Vinson has handled several multi-million dollar sales and acquisitions, several of which involved obtaining the approval of the Louisiana Attorney General for the sale of non-profit hospitals as required under Louisiana law. In addition, Vinson routinely handles third party payor audits, over-payments and appeals for a multitude of physicians and other healthcare providers all over the country. Vinson also assists clients with wills, estate planning and successions.

Vinson routinely interacts on behalf of clients with representatives of local, state and federal governmental agencies, including the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC) and various fiscal intermediaries (FIs) and Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) of these state and federal agencies.

Education

- › J.D., 1989, Paul M. Hebert Law Center of Louisiana State University
- › B.S., 1985, Nicholls State University

Admitted to Practice

- › Texas, 2017
- › Louisiana, 1989
- › U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, 1989
- › U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 1989
- › U.S. District Court Middle District of Louisiana, 1989
- › U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1991

Memberships

- › American Bar Association
- › Federal Bar Association
- › Louisiana State Bar Association
- › Health Law Section
- › New Orleans Bar Association
- › American Health Law Association
- › Louisiana Society of Hospital Attorneys



JORDAN T. LACOSTE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY

Jordan T. Lacoste is an associate of Salley, Hite, Mercer and Resor, LLC, currently practicing in the firm's general civil litigation department in the areas of Professional Liability, Construction Defect, Premises Liability, Defense of Motor Carriers, and Insurance Defense.

A Metairie, Louisiana native and 2018 Global Business Honors Program graduate of Fordham University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Accounting and Finance, Jordan received his Juris Doctorate in 2021 from Tulane University Law School with a Concentration in Sports Law. In law school, he represented juvenile defendants as a student-attorney with the Tulane Juvenile Clinic, was a member of the Tulane Law School Pro Bono Krewe and Civil Law Society, and served as a staff writer for the Sports Law Weekly.

Kevin is an experienced litigator in the areas of insurance defense, mass tort, commercial vehicle and trucking accidents, personal injury, governmental defense, and municipal law. Kevin has successfully tried numerous cases to verdict in state and federal courts, and also achieved success in both state and federal appellate courts.

After graduating from Purdue University in 1996, Kevin worked in management for multiple restaurant and casino corporations. He then earned a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of Mississippi.

Kevin is licensed to practice law in all state and federal courts of Mississippi and Louisiana, the Fifth Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. In 2020, Kevin was recognized by his peers as AV Preeminent in the Martindale-Hubbell rankings for the highest level of professional excellence and ethical standards.



KEVIN MELCHI

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PRACTICE AREAS

- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PREMISES LIABILITY



GLEN E. MERCER

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- TOXIC TORT
- ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION
- BANKING LITIGATION
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT

Glen is a litigator specializing in insurance coverage issues, toxic torts and general commercial litigation. In addition to drafting coverage opinions for his insurance clients, he has significant experience representing and advising his insurance clients in coverage litigation related to construction defects, mass-environmental toxic torts and general commercial litigation. In addition to his coverage work, Glen has experience handling a multitude of insurance defense, professional liability, and banking related claims. He has successfully represented clients in Louisiana State and Federal courts as well as before each of the Louisiana Courts of Appeal and the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal.

Glen graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts in English and a minor in French. He obtained his law degree from Louisiana State University in 1992, where he served as a member of the Louisiana Law Review.

Evan Plauché is Of Counsel with Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor, LLC. Evan has over 30 years of experience in handling trial litigation. Evan attended Loyola Law School, graduating in 1991 in the top 25 percent of his class. He was a board member Student Bar Association and was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Fraternity. Prior to law school, Evan earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Tulane University in 1979, where he was a member of the Pi Tau Sigma Honorary Engineering Fraternity. Evan began his professional career in 1979, working for a global engineering company in its offices in the Middle East, India, Norway, South America and the United Kingdom, designing offshore oil platforms utilized and installed in the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, India and the Middle East.

Prior to joining Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor, LLC, Evan practiced at one of the largest insurance defense firms in Jefferson Parish, for several years as its Managing Partner.

Evan's practice continues to focus on advising and defending corporate and insurance clients involved in complex legal matters arising from civil based claims, both before and after litigation is filed. Evan's technical background developed over 10 years as a practicing engineer routinely plays a part in his analysis of complex factual issues that are common aspects in the defense of civil litigation. Evan has managed litigation involving a wide range of claims, including construction, products liability, environmental property, environmental, professional liability, maritime, employment practices, Intellectual Property, and Director and Officer litigation.

Evan is admitted in all State and Federal courts in Louisiana and Mississippi.



EVAN PLAUCHÉ

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- COMMERCIAL LITIGATION



STEPHEN C. RESOR

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- COMMERCIAL LITIGATION
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- PREMISES LIABILITY

Steve is an AV[®] rated Partner who has tried well over a hundred bench and jury trials at the state, federal and administrative levels. Steve has served as Lead Counsel in the areas of general liability, products liability, professional malpractice and workers' compensation defense. He has also been trained by the well respected Henning Mediation Group out of Atlanta and has served as a mediator in personal injury and commercial disputes.

He brings over 30 years of experience representing large self-insured corporations, insurance companies and insureds in Louisiana State and Federal Courts. He routinely handles litigation matters in Mississippi pro-hac vice with the assistance of Mississippi counsel. Steve also acts as Coverage Counsel within the State of Louisiana for a large nationally recognized insurance carrier.

Steve attended Columbia University in New York and graduated from Louisiana State University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He obtained his law degree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in May 1985, and was admitted to practice in Louisiana on September 27, 1985. He is also admitted to practice in all Louisiana federal district courts and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal as well as the U.S. Supreme Court. He holds memberships in the Louisiana, Federal and American Bar Associations. He is a Notary Public and a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, as well as The Defense Research Institute (DRI), and The Claims and Litigation Management Alliance (CLM).

Alejandro J. Rodríguez hails from the island of Puerto Rico and came to New Orleans to attend Tulane University School of Law after finishing his undergraduate studies at Boston University. While finishing his Juris Doctorate at Tulane, Alejandro was forced to evacuate New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck on August 29, 2005. Upon returning, he discovered the rich culture of the Crescent City and, after graduating from Tulane, he realized that New Orleans had become home.

Alejandro has concentrated his legal profession mainly on defense of personal injury matters and has extensive experience handling litigation pertaining to trucking and commercial auto accident cases. In addition, Alejandro has a deep understanding of workers' compensation matters and the defense of employers or insurance carriers from claims arising under the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, the Defense Base Act, and the War Hazards Compensation Act. Alejandro dedicates himself to being collaborative, responsive, and disciplined in his approach to resolve his clients' legal challenges.

Alejandro is admitted to all Louisiana State and Federal Courts.

Alejandro lives in New Orleans with his wife and three children. He enjoys spending time with his wife and their children and is very involved in their extracurricular activities. He loves to cook and is a huge Saints fan. Alejandro is a coach for his kids' soccer teams and also regularly donates his time and resources to the NOLA lab rescue, fostering and finding "forever" homes for abandoned dogs.



ALEJANDRO RODRÍGUEZ

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PRACTICE AREAS

- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- LHWCA/DBA
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- TOXIC TORT



MICHAEL W. RUTLEDGE

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PRACTICE AREAS

- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- TOXIC TORT
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- PREMISES LIABILITY

Michael is a partner in the Firm and his primary area of practice is professional liability for architects and engineers. He regularly litigates claims ranging from small residential matters to complex commercial and public works projects. Michael also routinely assists designers in the negotiations of professional services agreements and advises clients on potential claims with the goal of avoiding litigation. In addition, he has experience in construction defect litigation, products liability and toxic tort cases, and commercial litigation.

Michael graduated cum laude from Creighton University and received his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University of Law. He was a member of the Tulane Maritime Law Journal and authored the Note, "Sea Worthiness Adapts to New Environment," 25 Mar. Law 409.

Michael is a Fellow of the Louisiana Bar and a member of the Louisiana Bar Association Public Information Committee. Michael is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell. He is admitted to practice before all Mississippi and Louisiana State and Federal courts.

David P. Salley is a founding member of Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor. He attended the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he was the Research Editor of the Mississippi Law Journal and the Chairman of the Moot Court Board. After graduation, David began his law practice with a focus on litigation. Within two years of being admitted to the Louisiana Bar, he tried his first case as Lead Counsel in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Recognizing the excitement of trial practice, David focused his law practice on litigation and has acted as Lead Counsel on almost 100 jury and bench trials.

David has developed an extensive litigation based practice focused primarily on representation of insurers and corporations involved in litigation in Louisiana State and Federal courts. He routinely handles cases and trials for clients on matters involving defense of professional liability claims, transportation-related claims, toxic-tort, mass-litigation claims, environmental exposure claims, cargo claims for interstate motor carriers, and claims arising from contractual disputes on government contracts. David has an active practice focused on insurance coverage litigation and since 2012 David has been designated as a Super Lawyer in the area of Insurance Coverage litigation. David acts as Coverage Counsel within the State of Louisiana for several insurance carriers.

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DAVID P. SALLEY

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- DEFENSE OF MOTOR CARRIERS
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY
- TOXIC TORT
- ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- PREMISES LIABILITY

David received his AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell on his first rating survey and within 8 years of being admitted to the Louisiana Bar, the earliest time that Martindale-Hubbell will rate an attorney. He attributes that unusual rating success by his peers to his focus on professionalism in the practice of law. David has been appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court on several occasions to sit as Judge ad hoc for vacationing judges. David also works hard to support local philanthropic agencies and groups, with a focus on the local arts and public broadcasting.

David is an active Member in the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance and has presented at various events sponsored by the organization. David is also a 2011 graduate of the Litigation Management Institute at Columbia University where he received his designation as a Certified Litigation Management Professional.

Kourtney is a partner in the Firm and practices in the areas of construction defect, insurance defense, general civil litigation, products liability and mass toxic tort. She is experienced in personal injury/casualty claims, premises liability claims and coverage disputes. She has worked in asbestos and mold litigation, as well as other environmental and chemical toxic tort lawsuits and class actions.

Kourtney received her bachelor's degree with honors from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy. She obtained her law degree from Tulane Law School, receiving an environmental law certificate. She also earned a Master of Public Health from the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, focusing on environmental science. She serves as Associate Editor and as Notes and Comments Editor of the Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law.

Kourtney is admitted to practice in the State and Federal courts of Louisiana and Michigan. She is a member of the Louisiana, Michigan and New Orleans Bar Associations, as well as the Federal Bar Association. She is also a notary public and a member of the Defense Research Institute. She has served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) in New Orleans.



KOURTNEY N. TWENHAFEL

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PRACTICE AREAS

- INSURANCE COVERAGE
- INSURANCE DEFENSE
- PRODUCTS LIABILITY
- CONSTRUCTION DEFECT
- ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION

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Read This Before You Send Us Any Information:

While we would like to hear from you, we cannot represent you until we know that doing so will not create a conflict of interest. Accordingly, please do not send us any information about any matter that may involve you until you receive an “engagement letter,” which is a written statement from us that we represent you.

The best way for you to initiate a possible representation is to contact one of our practice-group leaders listed on our “Attorneys” page. The practice group leader will first take you through our conflict-of-interest procedure and see that you are put in touch with the lawyer best suited to handle your case. When you receive an engagement letter from that lawyer, you will be our client, and we may exchange information freely.

