



Joseph E. Bearden, III

Shareholder

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Jay was born and raised in South Louisiana, but law school was not his original plan as an undergrad at Louisiana State University. He started LSU wanting to go to Vet School, but soon realized his natural talent was more suited towards Political Science. He graduated from LSU in 1996 and went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University College of Law in 1999, where he graduated in the top third of his class.

Jay has extensive practice experience as a civil litigator, primarily in class action, premise liability, energy and environmental/legacy sites, toxic tort, admiralty and maritime, construction, and personal injury defense. He has been involved in several environmental legacy cases that have resulted in reported appellate decisions on new issues of environmental and property law. He represented petrochemical refineries on numerous occasions, successfully establishing contractors' defense, indemnity and additional assured obligations. He was part of a team that successfully implemented and managed a community settlement program following a major urban oil spill, resulting in thousands of claims settled, and was involved in a complex class action representing two governmental bodies relating to flooding damages from levee breaches during and following Hurricane Katrina. Jay has fifteen years of experience representing insurers, insureds, and independent clients in all types of litigation. He has successfully resolved through motion practice, settlement, mediation, or trial literally hundreds of cases. Jay enjoys fishing and hunting, and is married with two young boys.

Areas of Practice

- Construction Defect
- Energy and Environmental / Legacy Sites
- Toxic Tort
- Class Action
- Admiralty and Maritime
- Construction and Personal Injury

Professional Affiliations

As a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the New Orleans Bar Association and the American Bar Association, Jay is admitted to practice law in all state and federal courts in Louisiana. He is also admitted to the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

