

## Ones to Watch: Law

By: Valerie Huntley, Market Research/Reporter April 11, 2018 0

### ONES TO WATCH | Law



**Thomas**



**Gonski**



**Riggins**



**Brilleaux**



**Good**



**Segrest-Jay**



**Ferchmin**



**Hanemann**



**Silberstein**



**Engelhardt**



**Conklin**



**Sherman**



**Gonzalez**



**Woolf**



**Knight**



**Lewis**



**Coons**

#### Miles Thomas

shareholder

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard

Miles Thomas is a seasoned litigator, trial attorney and advocate for the best interests of his clients. While maintaining a general litigation practice, he focuses on several practice areas including admiralty and maritime law and marine insurance coverage.

Thomas is a member of the New Orleans, Louisiana, South Carolina and American Bar Associations, and is admitted to practice law in the state and federal courts of Louisiana and South Carolina, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court. He is the rising president of the board of directors of Kingsley House. Thomas has been named to the Louisiana Super Lawyers' Rising Stars list for the past four years in the field of admiralty and maritime law. A South Carolina native, he received his bachelor's degree from Clemson University before earning his juris doctor at the University of Tennessee.

#### Kathryn Gonski

shareholder

Liskow & Lewis

Kathryn Gonski is a litigator whose appellate practice regularly includes cases before the Louisiana courts of appeal, the Louisiana Supreme Court and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. Her practice focuses on complex litigation,



including environmental, energy, employment and oil and gas matters. Based on her experience, Gonski is also frequently retained to write amicus briefs on behalf of businesses and trade organizations in matters of industry-wide significance. She has had significant representation in appellate, business and energy matters, including Hess Corporation in the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. She obtained a unanimous opinion affirming the application of Louisiana's subsequent purchaser doctrine to bar a plaintiff's claims against Hess for pre-purchase property damage; assisted the trial team in securing a \$1.16 million judgment in favor of Red Willow Offshore LLC and Medco Energi US LLC; was retained as appellate counsel by Louisiana Association of Business and Industry and Louisiana Midcontinent Oil & Gas Association to submit amicus brief to the Louisiana Supreme Court and represented ExxonMobil in a legacy case and secured a unanimous opinion from the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal affirming the dismissal of the plaintiff-landowner's claims based on the subsequent purchaser doctrine.

Gonski is a member of the Women's Energy Network, the New Orleans, Louisiana and American Bar Associations and the Young Friends of St. Andrew's Village. She has won several awards, including being named a Rising Star of Louisiana Super Lawyers, 2017-2018; Practicum editor, Loyola Law Review; recipient of 2010 Best Comment Award; William L. Crowe Scholar and 2010 Spirit of St. Ignatius Award recipient. Gonski received her juris doctor from Loyola University and her bachelor's of science degree from Louisiana State University.

### **Jeanette Riggins**

partner-in-charge, New Orleans and Mississippi offices  
Manion Gaynor & Manning (MG+M)

Jeanette Riggins is a trial attorney and currently serves on the national trial team for multiple clients and regularly appears in state and federal courts in various states. Her practice primarily focuses on toxic tort, products liability, general insurance defense and premises liability. She has extensive experience supervising and coordinating large litigation dockets on behalf of clients, and has handled all aspects of litigation, including pre-trial preparation, settlement negotiations, mediation and trial. Upon graduation, she served as a law clerk to the Judge J. Sterling Snowdy, Madeline Jasmine, and Mary Becnel of the 40th Judicial District Court in Louisiana.

Riggins is admitted to practice law in Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as before the United States District Courts for all Districts of Louisiana, the Southern District of Texas, the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In addition to being a member of the bar associations for all states in which she is admitted to practice, she is a member of the Houston Bar Association, the Houston Lawyers Association, the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Association and the Defense Research Institute. She is also a member of the distinguished Trial Advocacy faculty at LSU. She received her juris doctor from Tulane University. While in law school, she was a member of the Tulane Moot Court board and winner of the 2000 Phelps Dunbar Senior Trial Competition. She also received her bachelor's of arts degree from LSU.

### **Kelly Brilleaux**

associate  
Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore LLC

Kelly Brilleaux has worked with major pharmaceutical clients in mass-tort multidistrict litigation in all phases of the litigation process, including discovery, motion practice, expert workup and trial preparation. In the context of railroad and transportation litigation, she has defended employee lawsuits arising under the Federal Employers' Liability Act as well as passenger claims. She has also defended numerous premises liability actions. In handling these matters, Brilleaux has drafted and argued motions, participated in settlement conferences and mediations, deposed fact witnesses and physicians, facilitated the settlement of cases and prepared cases for trial.

Brilleaux is a member of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys, the Defense Research Institute, the New Orleans Bar Association (where she is currently chair-elect for the Young Lawyers Section), the Federal Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, The Young Leadership Council and the LSU Law Chancellor's Council. She has been recognized by Louisiana Super Lawyers as a Rising Star. Brilleaux received her bachelor's and juris doctor degrees from LSU.

### **Jeffrey Good**

partner  
Jones Walker LLP



Jeffrey P. Good focuses primarily on real estate transactions, commercial lending and general business law. He is a New Orleans native and has played a key role the development and financing of a number of mixed-used developments and hotels. He is involved in structuring and closing New Markets Tax Credits and Historic Tax Credit transactions throughout the region. Good has advised international lenders on infrastructure projects, including an LNG export train and a methanol production facility.

Good currently serves as the secretary of the board of directors at Liberty's Kitchen and is also involved with the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, GNO Inc.'s NextGen, the Young Leadership Council, Emerging Philanthropists of New Orleans, Tulane Hillel board of directors and the Ferber Foundation. He was awarded the Tulane 34 Award, honoring him as one of 34 outstanding undergraduate and graduate students who distinguish themselves during their collegiate life at Tulane. He was also awarded the Tulane Association Business Alumni Award. Good received his juris doctor degree from Tulane, his master's degree in business administration from Tulane and his bachelor's of science degree from American University.

### **Sarah Segrest-Jay**

counsel

Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore LLC

Sarah Segrest-Jay is experienced in representing and advising corporations and their affiliates in the discovery aspects of complex litigation, including negotiating ESI protocol agreements, litigating disputes arising from privilege and production issues and orchestrating large document collection and review projects. She is skilled in navigating the unique challenges and circumstances associated with e-discovery, from document and metadata preservation to the use of analytics to navigate voluminous collections. Before joining Irwin Fritchie, she was a partner at Curry & Friend.

Segrest-Jay is a member of Women in E-Discovery and the Louisiana Bar Association. She received her bachelor of arts and juris doctor degrees from Loyola University.

### **Adelaida Ferchmin**

partner

Chaffe McCall LLP

As a member of the firm's insurance practice, Adelaida "Adi" Ferchmin focuses on advising clients in a wide variety of insurance, energy and maritime matters. Her experience includes representing the interests of domestic and international insurers, government entities, marine terminal owners, dock owners, ship owners, ship charterers and P&I Clubs on a variety of issues. As part of her litigation practice, she regularly represents clients in federal and state courts and assists in arbitration and mediation proceedings. Ferchmin has represented clients in defense matters, including direct-action, bad faith, cargo, personal-injury, pollution, subrogation and collision claims, in addition to her general litigation practice. She is originally from San Juan, Puerto Rico, is fluent in Spanish and has a strong working knowledge of both Polish and Croatian.

Ferchmin has served as president for the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association, New Orleans chapter. Her professional memberships include: Louisiana State and Federal Bar Associations, Maritime Law Association and Women's International Shipping and Trading Association. She has been selected for inclusion in Louisiana Super Lawyers as a Rising Star for transportation and maritime. Ferchmin received her juris doctor from Tulane University and received her bachelor of arts degree from Tufts University.

### **Stephen Hanemann**

partner

Kean Miller LLP

Stephen Hanemann is an international trade attorney and counselor and practices in the areas of admiralty, maritime, vessel finance and international trade.

Hanemann is a member of the board of directors, World Trade Center of New Orleans; president, Law Alumni board of directors, Loyola University; and member, Boys Hope Girls Hope of New Orleans. He received the New Orleans CityBusiness Leadership in Law Award (2012); and Louisiana Super Lawyers (2012 to date). He received his bachelor of arts degree in French from the University of Texas and also studied French abroad at the Université Catholique De L'Ouest in Angers, France. He also completed coursework at the University of New Orleans. He



earned his juris doctor from Loyola University where he served as a member of the Moot Court program, Moot Court T.A. He was treasurer and president of the Student Bar Association. He also holds an International Trade Certificate, having successfully completed the World Trade Center of New Orleans International Trade Certificate program.

**Daniella Genet Silberstein**

partner

Jones Walker LLP

Daniella Silberstein co-leads the mergers and acquisitions and private equity practice team. Her practice primarily focuses on mergers and acquisitions, securities law and corporate governance. She advises clients on domestic and cross-border mergers, carve-out transactions, joint ventures, spin-offs, financing transactions, private investments in public entities and securities offerings. Silberstein also represents clients in corporate governance matters and has assisted clients in defending against hostile takeovers and proxy contests. She has advised a broad range of public and private companies across several industries, including health care, oil and gas, biotechnology, gaming, aerospace, retail and financial institutions. Prior to joining Jones Walker in 2013, she practiced law at Wachtell Lipton in New York.

Silberstein served on the board of directors of the Louisiana chapter of Young ACG, an organization for professionals age 35 and younger involved in corporate growth, corporate development and mergers and acquisitions. She is the former president and current treasurer of the Harvard Club of Louisiana. She was named a Rising Star in the area of mergers and acquisitions in the 2018 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers, in which she has been listed annually since 2015. She was recognized in the 2012 edition of New York Super Lawyers as a Rising Star in the area of business/corporate. Silberstein earned her juris doctor degree from Harvard Law School, where she was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Journal of Law and Gender. She graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in biology and economics from Columbia University.

**Leah Nunn Engelhardt**

partner, practice area coordinator, insurance practice group

Chaffe McCall LLP

Leah Engelhardt offers a rich background in litigation, insurance counseling and volunteer management. She has represented insurers in matters involving property, bad faith, energy, long-tail pollution claims, health hazard, marine, subrogation, construction defect and employer liability disputes, and other excess and primary general liability claims. She draws upon over two decades of diverse experience in a national insurance litigation and counseling practice for domestic and London Market insurers. Engelhardt's practice includes experience on a wide range of first and third-party matters under various forms of primary, umbrella, excess and OCCIP policies. Prior to joining Chaffe McCall, she served as the managing partner of a regional law firm where she routinely advised domestic and international insurer clients in connection with insurance coverage, defense and complex litigation matters. She previously served for over 10 years with a mid-sized AmLaw 200 law firm as a member of the insurance and reinsurance practice group. Throughout the course of her career, Engelhardt has counseled both domestic and foreign insurers on coverage matters and represented these clients in litigation in several jurisdictions throughout the country.

Engelhardt participates in pro bono and charitable activities, working with various nonprofits in board leadership and fundraising positions, including Children's Hospital, New Orleans Museum of Art, Louisiana Children's Museum, Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and the Audubon Institute. She currently serves as a board member for Bureau of Governmental Research and is chairman of the executive committee and Good Government and ethics committee for Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans. She is a frequent recipient of national recognition in several areas of law. Most recently she was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America for insurance law; she is rated AV Preeminent, Martindale-Hubbell's highest ranking by peers for ethical standards and legal ability; and was a 2016 Young Leadership Council Role Model Award recipient. Engelhardt is a graduate of LSU where she received an American Jurisprudence Award and served as an officer in the Student Bar Association. She received her bachelor of arts degree in marketing from Auburn University.

**Katherine "Kathy" Conklin**

member

McGlinchey Stafford PLLC



Katherine Conklin focuses on employee benefits in both the welfare and retirement benefit areas. She assists numerous plan sponsors in their compliance with applicable laws, including the Internal Revenue Code, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Conklin's work includes prohibited transaction consultation, fiduciary exposure with respect to plan investments, redesign and termination of plans for cost savings and negotiation of third-party service provider contracts. In addition to drafting all types of qualified plans and submitting such plans to the IRS for approval where applicable, she has also done much work in the area of non-qualified plans, including executive deferred compensation and 457 (f) plans. In the welfare benefits area, she has drafted medical benefits plans, cafeteria plans, health reimbursement arrangements, dependent care assistance plans and occupational injury plans. She assists clients daily in administering these plans to comply with applicable laws, such as tax laws, ERISA and HIPAA. A particular area of proficiency is compliance with the health continuation requirements of COBRA. Conklin also advises clients on employment law compliance with laws such as the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act and other laws governing the workplace. She frequently assists employers in drafting severance agreements in compliance with the Older Workers Benefits Protection Act and assists employers to observe U.S. immigration laws when employing aliens to work in the U.S., which includes obtaining and renewing appropriate visas and work authorizations.

Conklin is a member of the American Bar Association, the Association for Employee Benefits Planners, the Louisiana State and The New Orleans Bar Associations and the New Orleans Estate Planning Council. She is a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated Lawyer; won the Chambers USA Louisiana award in labor and employment and employee benefits and compensation; has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America in employee benefits law from 2005-2018; was the Best Lawyers New Orleans Lawyer of the Year in 2015 for employee benefits law; and was in the Louisiana Super Lawyers Top 25 Women Louisiana Super Lawyers in 2012. She received her juris doctor from Tulane University and her bachelor of arts degree from LSU.

#### **Matthew Sherman**

attorney, equity partner

Chehardy Sherman Williams Law Firm LLP

Matthew Sherman handles personal injury and business and commercial litigation issues. Previously, he was the assistant district attorney in the family violence unit in Jefferson Parish.

Sherman is the director for the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation; member of the Metairie Park Country Day Alumni board; member of the Foundation Preparatory Chapter School Founding board; member of the East Jefferson General Hospital Foundation's Annual Golf Classic committee; former second vice president for Lake Vista Property Owners Association; former treasurer for the Lake Vista Crime Prevention District; and member of the Audubon Institute's Scales & Ales Host Committee. He received the New Orleans CityBusiness "Leadership in Law" Award in 2017 and 2018. Sherman received his bachelor of arts from Southern Methodist University and his juris doctor from Loyola University.

#### **Pablo Gonzalez**

partner

Phelps Dunbar LLP

Pablo Gonzalez is the deputy practice coordinator for the insurance and reinsurance practice group in the New Orleans office and leads the firm's cybersecurity, privacy and data protection practice group. He practices in the area of insurance and reinsurance. Additionally, he litigates and counsels clients on insurance coverage issues. Gonzalez lived in London in 2012 as part of the Seconded Counsel Program run by Faraday Underwriting Syndicate 435 at Lloyd's. He trained primarily with Faraday specialty lines claims and underwriting personnel, but also spent time training with other Underwriting Syndicates at Lloyd's as well as a broking house and the claims bureau.

Gonzalez is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association (Publications subcommittee, 2011-present; Ethics Advisory Service committee 2014-present; Ethics Advisory Service subcommittee, 2011-2014; Rules of Professional Conduct committee, 2009-2011; Leadership LSBA Class of 2009); New Orleans Bar Association; American Bar Association; Council of the Louisiana State Law Institute – Observer of the Young Lawyer's Section (2009); Young Leadership Council; and the Thomas More Inn of Court. He was recognized in the Louisiana Super Lawyers – Rising Stars and the Louisiana Super Lawyers. Gonzalez received his juris doctor from Loyola University and was a William

Crowe Scholar in 2004. He received his bachelor of arts degree in English with a minor in history from Sewanee –The University of the South.

### **Matt Woolf**

shareholder, recruiting chair, and practice group chair  
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz PC

Matt Woolf oversees the firm's new litigator group with more than 50 litigation associates across the firm's footprint in their early years of practice. He also concentrates his practice on general business litigation and complex commercial disputes. He has particular experience representing clients in securities fraud litigation, corporate class and mass action litigation, insurance defense and a variety of contractual, fiduciary and business tort litigation.

Woolf is a member of the Louisiana State, New Orleans, American and Federal Bar Associations, and serves as co-chair of the Property Subcommittee of the ABA's Section of Litigation Insurance Coverage Litigation Committee. Since 2012, he has been listed in Louisiana Super Lawyers in the area of business litigation. He has also been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 2013 in the areas of commercial litigation and insurance law. He received his juris doctor from Tulane University and a bachelor of arts degree from Duke University.

### **Kathryn Knight**

member  
Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann LLC

Kathryn Knight concentrates her practice in employment law, gaming law, business and complex litigation and appellate work. She defends clients against employment discrimination, retaliatory discharge, harassment and other claims of unfair employment practices asserted against public and private employers. She also assists members of the gaming industry with licensing, permitting and compliance issues under the Louisiana Gaming Control Law and Regulations. Knight currently serves on Stone Pigman's Ethics and Professional Responsibility committee and its recruiting committee and is also an ombudsperson for the firm.

Knight is chair of the national Federal Bar Association labor and employment law section and previously served as secretary, newsletter editor and treasurer. She is the president-elect of the New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and previously served on the board of directors and as secretary, treasurer and newsletter editor. She is also chair of the Louisiana State Bar Association labor and employment law section and previously served as vice-chair and secretary-treasurer. She also serves as a barrister in the American Inns of Court, St. Thomas More Chapter and is a member of the American, Louisiana State and New Orleans Bar Associations. Knight has co-presented the Gaming CLE session at the annual Louisiana Judicial Council/Louisiana State Bar Association Joint Summer School conference on multiple occasions. She regularly volunteers in the Lawyers Helping Homeless program and also serves on the board of directors for the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law Alumni Association.

Knight has been named to Best Lawyers in America in the fields of employment law-management and labor and employment litigation. She received her juris doctor from Loyola University and her undergraduate degree from LSU.

### **Raymond Lewis**

partner  
Deutsch Kerrigan LLP

Raymond Lewis focuses in the areas of insurance defense litigation, commercial and business litigation and appellate work. He has successfully litigated complex commercial disputes for local and national clients involving multimillion-dollar claims for breach of contract, product liability and transportation casualty. In his appellate practice, Lewis has handled numerous appeals before the Louisiana Supreme Court, Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Fifth Circuit, many resulting in published decisions favorable to his clients. He has also written and lectured on trial and appellate practice and co-authored a chapter in the recently released 206-page ABA witness preparation book.

Lewis is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association and Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. He has been listed on the Super Lawyers Louisiana Rising Stars List, 2014-2017. He received his juris doctor from LSU and his bachelor of arts degree from Baylor University.



## David Coons

partner

Adams and Reese LLP

David Coons assists clients in general business counseling, contract claims, partnership and other entity disputes and franchise transactions and litigation. He also represents developers and business operators before executive branch and legislative bodies. His previous experience includes working on the political staff of a U.S. senator and working as an intern in the Washington, D.C. office of Adams and Reese.

Coons is chairman of CASA Jefferson, which trains volunteers to advocate in court for the best interests of abused and neglected children. He helps the board of directors fulfill its fiduciary duties by ensuring adherence to governance best practices. He also coordinates two annual service projects for HUGS (Hope, Understanding, Giving, and Support), the Adams and Reese philanthropy/ community service organization. He also participates in Leadership Jefferson, the Young Leadership Council Leadership Development Series and the Loyola University Institute of Politics. Coons was a Louisiana Rising Star in 2016. After earning his bachelor's degree in economics from Wake Forest University, he received his juris doctor and diploma in civil law from LSU.

## WHO'S WATCHING YOU?

*To submit your name or a colleague's for "Ones to Watch," contact Valerie Huntley at [vhuntley@nopg.com](mailto:vhuntley@nopg.com) or 293-9273.*

**To sign up for free CityBusiness Daily Updates, click [here](#).**