

## Maritime, Oilfield & Insurance Litigation

### Overview

Our clients are major oil companies, vessel owners and operators, national and international corporations, and insurance companies. We regularly represent clients in litigation before state and federal courts throughout Louisiana, Texas and the South, as well as arbitration and mediation.

The firm's successful involvement in a number of unique cases of major importance contributes to our reputation in maritime, oil and insurance issues. Such noteworthy cases are:

- The Piper Alpha explosion in the North Sea
- A class action suit involving gasoline claims in four Southern states
- The sinking of the drilling rig Ocean Ranger off the coast of Canada
- Ongoing litigation from a Filipino ferry collision with extensive loss of life
- The Mobile Bay Block 861 blowout
- Class action litigation related to chemical spills on the Mississippi River
- Numerous significant construction disputes
- Texaco's deepwater Petronius project and litigation involving the loss of a multi-million dollar deck module

### Casualty

The Liskow & Lewis maritime, oil and insurance team has deep experience and takes an aggressive approach in handling casualty matters and cases that involve personal injury, death, property damage, pollution and economic loss. Our representation often begins in the hours immediately following an incident, and continues throughout any government investigation and resulting litigation. Our firm enjoys a long and distinguished track record in these matters before state and federal courts.

Our casualty lawyers represent clients in issues involving premises liability, negligence, strict liability, cases involving the Jones Act, offshore and maritime claims, occupational exposure and all aspects of environmental and toxic torts.

### Insurance Coverage & Litigation

Our lawyers' experience includes insurance related matters and litigation involving insurance requirements and certificates, first party property claims, coverage disputes and maritime and energy-related insurance matters.

### contact

Michael A. Golemi  
713.651.2914  
magolemi@liskow.com

David W. Leefe  
Chair, Maritime, Oilfield & Insurance  
Practice Group  
504.556.4137  
dwleefe@liskow.com

R. Keith Jarrett  
504.556.4133  
rkjarrett@liskow.com

## **Oilfield Contract Litigation**

We represent plaintiffs and defendants in complex contractual disputes at trial, on appeal, in settlement negotiations and before administrative agencies. These matters include employment and indemnity contracts, insurance coverage, equipment leases, real estate transactions, supply and service contracts, franchisee disputes, manufacturing issues and commercial lending agreements.

The firm has been involved in significant litigation and arbitrations involving disputes between operators and non-operators under joint operating agreements and other claims between companies involved in joint participation and other development efforts. These matters range from assertions involving the propriety of joint account expenses, asserting and defending claims relating to alleged operator gross negligence, and claims with respect to efforts to remove operators from operating, and, more generally, a wide range of issues involving the interpretation and application of contractual provisions pertaining to joint oil and gas operations.

Recent experience includes having obtained summary judgment in favor of a client that had been sued by its construction contractor for a variety of claims, including breach of contract and fraud. Summary judgment was affirmed in full on appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## **Mass Torts & Class Action**

When unforeseen incidents occur, clients depend on our responsiveness and resources across offshore, casualty, environmental and insurance law. Our lawyers represent both major and independent oil companies in drilling and completion accidents, well blowouts, reservoir damage, pipeline accidents and other oilfield tort claims. The maritime, oil and insurance team has trial experience in cases ranging from Jones Act personal injury, wrongful death, and longshoremen's injuries to major toxic tort class certification hearings and federal multi-district litigation.

## **Vessel Collisions**

We represent a variety of clients in disputes related to vessel collisions and allisions. Our team works with clients on the recovery of property damage and business losses resulting from collisions between vessels or a vessel allision with fixed structures, such as docks, loading terminals, breasting dolphins and platforms. In many cases, we have successfully avoided litigation. However, we also are fully prepared to pursue litigation quickly when needed to protect our clients' interests.

## **Vessel Construction and Repair Litigation**

We regularly represent clients in tort and contract disputes involving the construction, repair, and modification of vessels. These cases frequently involve delay and disruption, unabsorbed overhead, breach of contract or warranty, termination for convenience, loss of use and loss of profit. Our attorneys handle these issues in a variety of approaches, including through mediation, arbitration and litigation.

## **Cargo Claims**

Liskow & Lewis lawyers represent both carriers, shippers, and owners in a variety of local and international disputes involving cargo claims. Notable achievements in this area include the successful defense of cargo shortage and cargo damage matters.

## **Experience**

The firm's successful involvement in a number of unique cases of major importance contributes to our powerful reputation in maritime, oilfield and insurance issues. Such noteworthy cases are:

- The Piper Alpha explosion in the North Sea
- A class action suit involving gasoline claims in four Southern states
- The sinking of the drilling rig Ocean Ranger off the coast of Canada

- Ongoing litigation from a Filipino ferry collision with extensive loss of life
- The Mobile Bay Block 861 blowout
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- Numerous significant construction disputes
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