



Neil

Neil C. Abramson

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Overview

Neil Abramson is a Louisiana litigation attorney representing businesses in difficult cases involving toxic torts, class action litigation, insurance coverage and defense litigation, maritime personal injury and products liability. His clients are often chemical manufacturers facing high-stakes class action cases involving the release of chemicals.

Companies in the manufacturing, energy and product sectors rely on Neil. For example, he regularly defends petroleum companies, chemical manufacturers and product developers in personal injury and property damage claims, including short term toxic exposures, long term occupational chemical exposures and product liability claims and has also counseled and represented clients regarding indemnity and insurance coverage matters.

Here are two recent cases that illustrate Neil's creative, efficient, business-focused approach to litigation:

- A chemical manufacturer was facing a class action certification in Louisiana state court in a chemical release case. Neil helped get the case removed to federal court, where he whittled down the claim through motion practice. Eventually, the class certification was defeated, and that lawsuit was withdrawn by the plaintiff.
- When an employee was injured due to an allegedly defective product, it sued the manufacturer – as well as the distributor of the product. Neil devised a strategy to obtain the dismissal of the distributor, although it was not his client, because it would set the stage for the subsequent dismissal of his client. Once the distributor was dismissed, Neil successfully argued that the statute of limitations had then lapsed against the manufacturer who was then dismissed. As Neil put it, "I look for unique approaches that get my client out of the case without getting bogged down in the typical expensive litigation blueprint. In addition to hiring a good lawyer who will fight for them, I understand that many clients are looking for their lawyer to be creative in seeking economic, business-oriented solutions to their cases."

In the indemnity and insurance-related portion of his practice, Neil has represented small and large businesses both in defense of and in prosecution of claims involving defense, indemnity and insurance relating to both personal injury and property damages cases. He has also represented domestic and

Practice Areas

Toxic Tort & Environmental Litigation
Business Litigation
Maritime, Oilfield & Insurance Litigation
Product Defense

Bar Admissions

Louisiana, 1992

Education

Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University, J.D., 1992

- Order of the Coif
- Editor-in-Chief, *Louisiana Law Review*

Dartmouth College, B.A., 1989

Clerkship

Served as a judicial clerk for The Honorable Frank J. Polozola, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana

foreign insurance companies both in defense of and on coverage issues relating to personal injury and property damages. He has also defended:

- A nationwide retailer facing personal injury and property damage claims in Louisiana
- A statewide class action by policyholders asserting breach of contract, detrimental reliance and unjust enrichment claims
- A suit by a Louisiana legislatively-created body asserting claims for breach of statutory obligations and fraud
- Direct action claims by plaintiffs asserting coverage for property damage and personal injury claims involving residential and commercial construction, including defective design allegations and water and mold damage.

From 2008 to 2020, Neil served as the State Representative for the 98th District of Louisiana. Prior to his public service, he was an attorney with Phelps Dunbar and served as a judicial clerk for The Honorable Frank J. Polozola, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana.

Experience

Neil has recently represented the following clients and matters:

- Chemical manufacturing companies in defense of class action cases involving the release of various chemicals. These incidents generally result in thousands of individual claims for personal injury, property damage, business interruption and inconvenience.
- Insurance companies - domestic and foreign - in defense of Hurricane Katrina claims, including issues involving the water damage exclusion, Valued Policy Law (VPL) and adjustment practices.
- Oil and gas companies in legacy suits involving claims of property and groundwater contamination.
- A petroleum company in defense of tort and maritime personal injury and property damage claims, including long-term, occupational chemical exposures. Also provided counseling on oilfield indemnity and insurance coverage matters.
- Nationwide retailer in defense of personal injury and property damage claims in the State of Louisiana.
- Insurance company in defense of a statewide class action by policyholders asserting breach of contract, detrimental reliance and unjust enrichment claims.
- Insurance company in defense of a suit by a Louisiana legislatively-created body asserting claims for breach of statutory obligations and fraud.
- Insurance companies in defense of direct action claims by plaintiffs asserting coverage for property damage and personal injury claims involving residential and commercial construction, including defective design allegations and water and mold damage.
- Dock and terminal owner in defense of two class action cases arising out of separate releases of crude oil fumes. These cases involve several thousand individual claims for personal injury, property damage and inconvenience.
- Recreational watercraft manufacturer in defense of maritime personal injury and products liability claims. Neil also represents the company in defense of claims for rescission of sale and property damage.
- A railroad company in defense of three class action cases involving claims for personal injury, property damage, business interruption, inconvenience and environmental damage. The first case involved potential claims by 20,000 individuals and businesses arising out of the derailment of a train containing hazardous material. The second case involved claims by a nationwide group of employees for alleged chemical exposure in the workplace. The third case involved claims for alleged exposure to hazardous substances by residents living near a soil-blending facility on railroad property.
- Chemical manufacturer for toxic tort, class action, occupational exposure, and asbestos cases.
- Dock and vessel owner in defense of maritime personal injury and property damage claims.
- Vessel operators in defense of maritime personal injury and property damage claims.

- Office products manufacturer in defense of product liability/personal injury claims involving allegations of manufacturing defects and failure to warn.
- Professional hockey team, in defense of personal injury and premises liability claims.
- Corporate owner of local restaurant franchise on matters involving personal injury, property damage, insurance coverage, and contract counseling.
- International product manufacturers in product liability litigation involving serious personal injuries.

Involvement

Professional

- Louisiana State Bar Association – Member
- New Orleans Bar Association – Member
- American Bar Association, Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, Toxic Tort and Environmental Law Committee – Vice Chair
- Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit – Member
- Louisiana State Law Institute – Legislative Appointment by Speaker of the House
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel – Member
- State Representative for District 98, 2008 to date – House Ways & Means Committee, Current Chairman; House Civil Law Committee, Former Chairman; Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Committee, Original Chairman; Louisiana Legislative Audit Advisory Council, former member; Hurricane Katrina Memorial Committee, Former Member

Community

- World Trade Center of New Orleans – Former Member
- Fleur de Lis Ambassador for the City of New Orleans
- Audubon Nature Institute
- Unity of Greater New Orleans

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2021
- *New Orleans Magazine's* List of "Top Lawyers," 2015–2016, 2019
- *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, 2013–2015

Presentations

- "Summary Judgments – The New Article 966," LSBA "Motions" CLE, New Orleans, December 5, 2016
- "Trends in Legislation: Selected Legislation for the Civil Practitioner," CLE Legislative Legal Seminar, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, December 3-4, 2015
- "Louisiana Legislature," Continuing Legal Seminar State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, December 6, 2013
- "Legislative Updates," Back to Basics: LSBA Annual Meeting and LSBA/LJC Joint Summer School, June 10, 2016
- "Trends in Legislation and Recent Changes in Motion for Summary Judgment Practice," Louisiana Association for Justice's CLE a la Carte program, December 29, 2015
- "Trends in Legislation: Summary Judgment Law," Louisiana Association for Justice's CLE a la Carte Seminar, Windsor Court Hotel, December 29-30, 2015
- "Legacy Law Developments and Pending Legislation," Liskow & Lewis Oilfield Indemnity and Insurance Seminar, October 30, 2014, Houston, Texas

- “Trends in Legislation,” Louisiana Judicial Annual Torts Seminar, December 13, 2013
- “Legislative Preview,” Joint Session with Louisiana Judicial College and Representative John Bel Edwards, LADC Defense Lawyers’ Seminar, December 13, 2013
- “Legislative Updates and Trends,” 21st JDC Bar Association CLE Event with Representative John Bel Edwards, December 13 & 14, 2013
- “Trends in Legislation,” Louisiana Association for Justice’s CLE a la Carte Seminar, Windsor Court Hotel, December 27-28, 2012
- “Selected Legislation from the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature,” Louisiana House of Representatives, December 7, 2012
- “Selected Legislation for the Civil Practitioner,” CLE Legislative Legal Seminar, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, LA, December 6-7, 2012
- “Trends in Legislation,” 21st Judicial District Court Bar Association CLE Event, New Orleans, LA, December 14, 2012
- “Public Policy,” New Orleans Regional Leadership Institute (NORLI), Wednesday, November 14, 2012
- “Legislative Developments and Future Expectations,” Louisiana Lobbyist Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 12, 2012
- “Opening Remarks and Legislative Developments,” American Tort Reform Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 12, 2012
- “Louisiana Legislature: Fiscal Issues, Geymann Rule, and The Budget,” Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, June 28, 2012
- “Great Debate: Legislation - Yesterday’s Developments & Tomorrow’s Trends,” LSBA Annual Meeting and LSBA/LJC Joint Summer School, June 8, 2012
- Speaker at CLE Conference on Human Trafficking at Loyola University, New Orleans, LA, October 27, 2012
- “Trends in Legislation,” Louisiana Association for Justice’s CLE a la Carte Seminar, Windsor Court Hotel, December 29, 2010
- “Trends in Legislation,” Louisiana Association for Justice’s CLE a la Carte Seminar, Windsor Court Hotel, December 28-29, 2011
- “Trends in Legislation,” Louisiana Association for Justice’s CLE a la Carte Seminar, Windsor Court Hotel, December 30, 2009
- Speaker at New Orleans Bar Association’s Annual Dog & Pony Show: Review of the 2009 Legislative Session, September 16, 2009

After Hours

Neil coaches his son’s basketball and football teams.

News/Insights

NEWS

8.20.20

Sixty-Two Attorneys Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America, BL Rankings, LLC, 2021 Edition

NEWS

11.7.19

Forty-Two New Orleans Liskow Lawyers Named “Top Lawyer” by New Orleans Magazine

NEWS

11.10.16

Forty-Four Liskow Lawyers Named "Top Lawyer" by New Orleans Magazine

NEWS

8.28.15

Forty Liskow Attorneys Named "Top Lawyer" by New Orleans Magazine

NEWS

1.9.15

Liskow & Lewis Attorneys Named to *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, Thomson Reuters 2015