

New Orleans City BUSINESS

THE BUSINESS NEWSPAPER OF METROPOLITAN NEW ORLEANS

May 26, 2017

FIRM - ASSOCIATED

Tad Bartlett

For the last four years, Tad Bartlett has worked on a high-profile case that he said is the reason he went to law school – it blends his love for both environmental law and his love for Louisiana.

Since July 2013, Bartlett, a member of Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison LLC, has worked on behalf of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East to file suit against nearly 100 oil, gas and pipeline companies to hold them accountable for coastal land loss. The lawsuit alleges that the companies broke their obligations to restore the land they worked on, contributing to Louisiana's coastal land loss and in turn making the state's population more vulnerable to hurricanes.

In March, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the district court's ruling dismissing the SLFPA-E's lawsuit. Jones Swanson and co-counsel are currently pursuing review of that three-judge decision.

"It's been a long, four-year fight, but it's the kind of case that wraps all my passions together. Environmental litigation has always been near and dear to me on a substantive level, and Louisiana is my home, so I have had the honor of representing the levee authority to fight to restore the disappearing coastline," Bartlett said.

Bartlett practices in complex commercial litigation, land damage litigation and appellate advocacy. He directs Jones Swanson's appellate-related matters for both the commercial and environmental litigation groups, as well as briefing in the firm's international arbitration practice. He previously practiced for Liskow & Lewis; Krebs, Farley & Pelleteri; and as a solo appellate practitioner before joining Jones Swanson in 2009. He is ranked among the Louisiana Super Lawyers in business litigation.

In 2007, Bartlett received the Pro Bono Publico Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association and a Distinguished Service Award from The Pro Bono Project for his work helping families return to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Through more than 700 hours of pro bono work in two years, Bartlett helped create a new nonprofit entity to manage funds from the country of Qatar to spur a \$3 million program of rebuilding close to 100 homes in the Tremé/Lafitte neighborhood.

"I have been involved in pro bono work through The Pro Bono Project since law school, and the work for the Tremé neighborhood was one of my prouder moments in practicing law," Bartlett said. "When it was all completed, it helped rebuild a neighborhood and bring families back to the city."

Bartlett is a founding member of Peauxdunque Writers Alliance, which started in 2007 with 10 writers and has grown to 43 writers across six states. Bartlett's short stories and non-legal writings are published online and in literary magazines in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

"I have always enjoyed marrying my creative writing with my legal writing career, and look forward to continuing to pursue both," he said.

— Tommy Santora

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