

The FIRM LINE



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It's 10 Years after Katrina... So What Have We Fixed?

After Hurricane Katrina tore our state apart, the people of Louisiana became wiser. We became more vigilant. We started asking more from the members of our own communities. We started demanding that our government representatives tell us how, exactly, they will protect our families and our property from hurricanes and floods in the future.

And yet, we still have so many questions, starting with the most important one: is it safe to live here now?

Below is a list of links to articles that consider some of the crucial questions and issues regarding life in our state, 10 years after Katrina. At the top of the list are an article and an update regarding our firm's lawsuit on behalf of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East (SLFPA-E).

[The Most Ambitious Environmental Lawsuit Ever](#)

The New York Times Magazine, 10/3/14

"There's nothing out there like this - not in the extent of the damage or the extent of the compensation claimed."

-Oliver Houck, Professor, Tulane University Law School

[The Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East, et al., v. Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, LLC, et al.](#)

Reforms following Hurricane Katrina created the SLFPA-E and charged that body with operating and maintaining the extensive system of levees, floodgates, seawalls, and jetties that protect the greater New Orleans area from storm surge and hurricane flooding. On July 24, 2013, the SLFPA-E filed a lawsuit asserting that decades of activities by nearly 100 oil, gas and pipeline companies contributed significantly to the loss of coastal lands that buffer the New Orleans flood protection system. The lawsuit asserts that the loss of those lands has increased the risk of storm surge and hurricane flooding to the New Orleans area and that the defendant companies are obligated by law to restore the coastal lands they have damaged. The SLFPA-E is represented in its lawsuit by Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison, LLC; Fishman Haygood Phelps Walmsley Willis & Swanson, L.L.P.; and Veron, Bice, Palermo & Wilson, LLC. On February 13, 2015 Judge Nanette Jolivet-Brown of the United States District Court for the Eastern District dismissed the SLFPA-E's lawsuit. Appeal of that decision is pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

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BATON ROUGE
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Is New Orleans Safe?

The New York Times, 8/1/15

"The question is whether the ocean will engulf the city - whether the city can continue to exist. The answer is complicated."

-John Barry, Author

New Orleans Area's Upgraded Levees Not Enough for Next 'Katrina,' Engineers Say

The Times Picayune, 8/18/15

"We cannot be complacent that the current system is 'good enough.'"

-U.S. Rep. Garret Graves

New Orleans' Future Depends on Coastal Restoration, but Where's the Money?

The Times Picayune, 8/11/15

"There's still a shortfall of between \$200 and \$300 million a year needed for the restoration half of the Master Plan, officials say."

Offshore Oil and Gas Industry Adapts, but Risks Remain 10 Years After Katrina

The Times Picayune, 8/19/15

"Few rules push operators to actively make plans for the next, invariably stronger storm...It's called waiting for the next failure."

-Robert Bea, former Chief Offshore Civil Engineer, Shell Oil Company

How To Save a Sinking Coast? Katrina Created a Laboratory

The New York Times, 8/7/15

"The lessons from Hurricane Katrina, laid out in concrete, steel, earth, marsh, and in the ambitious master plan, are being watched with interest from New York to Florida and the Texas Coast. People within sight of any coast want a wall to call their own."

Candidates for La. Governor Back Plans to Divert River Water

Daily Comet, 8/18/15

"The four candidates competing to become the next Louisiana governor said they supported moving ahead with controversial plans to divert Mississippi River water into disappearing estuaries to help address the state's land loss issues."

Heroes of the Recovery

New Orleans Magazine, 8/15

"New Orleanians went from mourning the loss of our city to rage about what really happened to hope for the future and taking action."

-Ruthie Frierson, Founder and Chair Emeritus, Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans

"We knew we had an enormous search and rescue and logistics operation and got to work."

-Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, Joint Task Force Katrina, U.S. Army

"The city could have survived the storm, but what really caused the flooding and destroyed 200,000 homes was the failure of the levee system and the collapsing of the flood walls. "

-Sandy Rosenthal, Founder and Executive Director, Levees.org

Why New Orleans' Black Residents Are Still Underwater after Katrina

The New York Times Magazine 8/18/15

"Where you saw water up to the rooftops? That's where most of the city's black people lived. That's where my customer based lived. My employees lived out there...Hell, that's where I lived."

-Alden J. McDonald, Jr., President and Chief Executive,
Liberty Bank and Trust Company

Why I Came Back: Circle Food Store

WWL-TV

"You know what? This is bigger than us."

-Brooke Boudreaux, Manager, Circle Food Store

Ten Years of Growth: Tourism Flourishing in the Decade since Katrina

Biz New Orleans, 8/15

"The devastation of the levee failures brought international attention to New Orleans and a new kind of 'disaster-tourism' we had never experienced. But in the years since, we have shown the world why our culture thrives and our hospitality is legendary."

The New Orleans Restaurant Bounce, after Katrina

The New York Times, 8/5/15

"We had always said our biggest competitors were home cooks...The whole game is different. These guys just start on a shoestring and go for it and people flock there."

- Ti Adelaide Martin,
Proprietor of the restaurant family that runs Commander's Palace

Jones Swanson Welcomes Two New Attorneys

Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison, LLC is delighted to announce the addition of attorneys Lindsay E. Reeves and Maurice Ruffin

Lindsay E. Reeves has been practicing law since 2009 in the fields of commercial litigation, environmental litigation, trusts and estates litigation, and oil and gas litigation. Joining the firm's commercial litigation practice group, she brings her experience in a variety of complex business disputes, including those involving construction contracts, corporate tax issues, personal injury, and complex claims processing. Lindsay also is experienced in mediation and arbitration. She has represented regional and local businesses, as well as landowners and financial institutions.



Maurice C. Ruffin has more than 12 years experience practicing law. He has worked on contract disputes, mediation and arbitration matters, and corporate compliance matters. His cases have involved construction and surety issues, pharmaceutical litigation, and transportation law. He also has a focused practice in appellate law. Maurice has extensive courtroom experience, as part of large trial teams as well as serving as his clients' primary legal counsel. At Jones Swanson, he will use his broad set of legal skills to work with both the firm's commercial litigation and its environmental practice groups.



Jones Swanson Attorneys Named "2016 Best Lawyers"

We are pleased to announce that five Jones Swanson attorneys are named in *2016 Best Lawyers*, a prestigious attorney peer-review publication trusted worldwide.

[Emma Daschbach](#) - Litigation - Environmental
[Kevin E. Huddell](#) - Litigation - Environmental
[Gladstone N. Jones III](#) - Mass Tort Litigation / Class Actions
[Katie E. Lasky](#) - Commercial Litigation
[Lynn Swanson](#) - Commercial Litigation



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ABOUT THE FIRM

Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison, LLC, is a boutique litigation law firm based in New Orleans, with a second office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The firm primarily handles complex commercial and environmental/property disputes. In those litigation arenas, the firm has a strong nationwide presence, continues to represent many of Louisiana's and the Southeast's largest and most active business entrepreneurs and landholders, and retains a sharp focus on the customized representation of smaller businesses and individuals. Jones Swanson has served as lead counsel in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, California and Texas, as well as in Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana.

The Firm Line is a newsletter designed to inform our clients and friends about legal issues that may impact their lives and businesses, developments at the firm, and other items of interest. Our intention is to keep the information we provide in this newsletter concise. We welcome further discussion on the topics addressed herein, as well as ideas and suggestions as to topics of interest that we could cover in future issues, and thoughts as to how we can deliver better, more insightful information to our readership. Above all, we hope that The Firm Line proves interesting and noteworthy.

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