

The Firm Line

Welcome to *The Firm Line*, a newsletter designed to inform our clients and friends about developments at the firm, legal issues that may impact your lives and businesses, and other items of interest. Our intention is to keep the information we provide to you in this newsletter concise. We welcome any further discussion on the topics addressed herein and hope that *The Firm Line* will provide you with interesting and noteworthy information about the law and our firm.

Louisiana Patients May Now Challenge Health Care Entities for Violations of the Balance Billing Act

In a ruling with broad repercussions for health care providers, patients and insurers, the Louisiana Supreme Court recently held that patients can sue health care providers directly for violations of the state's Balance Billing Act (La. Rev. Stat. 22:1871 et. seq.). The Balance Billing Act prohibits health care providers, including doctors and hospitals, from collecting or attempting to collect from an insured patient any amount owed by the health insurer or amounts in excess of the contracted reimbursement rate between the patient's insurance company and the provider. In the case of *Anderson v. Ochsner Health System*, the plaintiff, Yana Anderson was injured in an automobile accident caused by another driver and received medical treatment at an Ochsner facility. At the time she sought treatment at Ochsner, Ms. Anderson was insured by UnitedHealthcare and Ochsner was a "contracted health care provider" (also known as an in-network provider) with UnitedHealthcare. As a contracted health care provider, UnitedHealthcare had contracted with Ochsner for discounted rates for certain procedures and services for its insureds. However, instead of billing UnitedHealthcare for Ms. Anderson's care, Ochsner sent a letter to Ms. Anderson's attorney asserting a medical lien for the full amount of Ochsner's charges, without any discount, on any recovery Ms. Anderson received from the lawsuit related to the underlying automobile accident. Ms. Anderson filed suit against Ochsner individually and on behalf of a putative class asserting that this practice violated the Balance Billing Act.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

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Suggestions

Please provide us with ideas and suggestions for topics that you would like to read about in the future, as well as any thoughts you may have that will help us deliver better, more insightful information to you.

Contact Us

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Lynn Swanson Selected for Inclusion in 2015 *Best Lawyers*® *Recognized by Peers for Commercial Litigation*

[Lynn E. Swanson](#) of Jones, Swanson, Huddell & Garrison, L.L.C is named in *Best Lawyers*, a prestigious attorney peer-review publication trusted worldwide. Ms. Swanson was named a leading attorney in the area of Commercial Litigation.

To read the full press release, [click here](#).



Losing Ground: An Interactive View of the Louisiana Coast Being Destroyed

We applaud Bob Marshall of *The Lens*, and Brian Jacobs and Al Shaw of *ProPublica* for putting together this remarkable visual and timeline of the Louisiana Coast.

View the site [here](#).



Jones Swanson Attorneys Participate in the Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS Awareness

To watch the video, [click here](#).

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, which primarily handles complex commercial and environmental/property disputes. In the commercial and environmental litigation arenas, the firm has and continues to represent many of Louisiana's and the Southeast's largest and most active business entrepreneurs and landholders, while also retaining a sharp focus on the 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.



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