



COX COX FILO CAMEL & WILSON

337-800-8888

www.coxcoxfilo.com



723 Broad Street, Lake Charles

Brothers James and Will Cox founded what is today the law firm of Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson L.L.C. in 1969, with a passionate sense of civic duty and a desire to champion client rights. The two lawyer brothers were active in the community from the beginning, marching for civil rights and fighting for unions.

Each of our Lake Charles attorneys today continues this sense of community and continuity. We apply our combined 135 years of experience to achieve great success for our clients.

Photographed from Left to Right: Richard E. Wilson, Somer G. Brown, Thomas A. Filo, Michael K. Cox, Paul J. Cox, Kevin L. Camel, Tina L. Wilson, and Jason R. Bell



THOMAS A. FILO

Partner

A graduate of Louisiana Tech University and LSU Law School (where he was a member of Louisiana Law Review and Order of the Coif), Tom clerked for United States District Judge Earl Vernon before entering private practice.

After practicing with two large defense firms, Tom joined the firm in 1991 and is now the firm's senior partner. Tom has handled numerous multimillion dollar cases ranging from automobile defect cases to toxic tort and environmental exposure cases to securities lawsuits for defrauded investors, just to name a few.

Tom has developed an expertise in class actions and has spearheaded medical provider litigation, which has to date resulted in recovering over \$300 million via judgments and settlements in favor of Louisiana healthcare providers who have been underpaid for their services. Tom has also handled thousands of workers' compensation claims as well as a wide variety of plaintiff personal injury and commercial litigation matters.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 1988
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 1988
U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1991

EDUCATION

- Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
J.D. – 1988
Honors: With Honors
Honors: Order of the Coif
Law Review: Law Review, Member
- Louisiana Tech University, Ruston, Louisiana
B.S. – 1985
Major: Business Finance

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Gunderson v. F.A. Richard, 44 S.3d 779 (La. 3d Cir. 2010)
Stutes v. Koch Services, 629 S.2d 987 (La. 3d Cir. 1994)

MICHAEL K. COX

Partner

Michael grew up in Lake Charles, where he graduated valedictorian of Barbe High School in 1984. He obtained a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin in 1989. In 1992, He graduated from Arizona State Law School earning his degree of Juris Doctor. Michael is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, and Louisiana Association for Justice.

In addition to settling thousands of personal injury cases, Michael has successfully tried over one hundred cases in state and federal courts, including approximately 30 jury trials. In one such case, a jury awarded his client the largest individual personal injury verdict reported in the state of Louisiana, over \$26 million. In another case a jury awarded his client over \$10 million.

Michael has obtained judgments totaling over \$250 million dollars on behalf of his clients in cases in which he served as lead counsel or co-counsel. Michael had been rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell®. This peer review rating is the highest and most prestigious rating awarded to lawyers for legal knowledge and ethics in practice.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 1993 | Texas, 2003
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana
U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

- Arizona State University, College of Law, Tempe, Arizona | Juris Doctor – 1992
- University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
Bachelor of Business Administration – 1989
Major: Finance

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Duncan v. Kansas City Southern Railway Co., 773 So.2d 670 (La. 2000) | Bertrand v. Air Logistics, Inc., 820 So.2d 1228 (La. App. 3 Cir 2002) | Gunderson v. F.A. Richard Associates, 44 So.3d 779 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2010) | Aguillard v. City of Lake Charles, 966 So.2d 722 (La. App. 3 Cir. 2007)



AREAS OF PRACTICE

100% Plaintiffs Personal Injury

LITIGATION PERCENTAGE

100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

HONORS AND AWARDS

Top Lawyers of Acadiana Personal Injury Litigation- 2015

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

American Association of Justice, 1992 – Present

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, 1992 – Present

American Inns of Court, 1995 – Present



PAUL J. COX

Partner

Paul has devoted his practice to helping families get their lives back on track by recovering the compensation they deserve. For Paul, every case is taken and prepared as if it is going to trial. Because of his determination and hard work, Paul is able to settle his cases quickly, fairly, and for significant value.

Paul is credited with winning the highest general damage wrongful death award in Calcasieu Parish history. Paul has successfully handled over 200 commercial trucking cases. Paul handles all types of personal injury cases

Paul was born and raised in Lake Charles. In 1990 he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin where he received a degree in History. Paul was awarded his law degree at Louisiana State University Law Center in 1994. Paul and his wife, Cristi, have two children, Nathan and Leah.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

All Personal Injury
18-Wheeler & Truck Accidents
Auto Crashes | Construction Injury
Maritime Law | Workers' Compensation
Windstorm Damages Law | Fall Down Injury

LITIGATION PERCENTAGE

100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

HONORS AND AWARDS

Top Lawyers of Acadiana Personal Injury Litigation- 2015
Top Lawyers of Acadiana Admiralty & Maritime Law- 2015
American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys 10
Best Client Satisfaction Award- 2015
The National Trial Lawyers: Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Trial Lawyers

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Louisiana Association for Justice
American Trial Lawyers Association

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 1994
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 1995
U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 2007

EDUCATION

- Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
J.D. – 1994
- University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas
B.A. – 1990
Major: History

REPRESENTATIVE CASES

Barbara Landry v. Louisiana Citizens Property Ins. Co., 983 So.2d 66 (Supreme Court of Louisiana 2008)
James Sharp v. Landscape Management Services, 74 So.3d 1239 (3rd Circuit of Louisiana 2011)

KEVIN L. CAMEL

Partner

Kevin grew up in Baton Rouge and attended the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette). In 1987, he graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Kevin was awarded his Juris Doctorate from the Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans in 1992. He practiced law in New Orleans, primarily representing individuals and their families to recover damages for injuries.

In addition, Kevin prosecuted consumer class action cases and handled various commercial and construction litigation matters. Kevin also served as referral counsel for the NFL Players Association, representing New Orleans Saints players, as well as other professional athletes.

Since joining Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson in 1996, Kevin has obtained millions of dollars in damages for clients injured in automobile, maritime, Jones Act, and on-the-job accidents. Kevin also handles commercial and construction litigation and oilfield contamination cases. Kevin has received an AV Preeminent rating from Martindale Hubbell, for his legal ability and ethical standards. He has made presentations concerning his areas of practice for continued legal education programs.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 1992
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, 1992
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 1992
U.S. District Court Middle District of Louisiana, 1992
U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 1993

EDUCATION

- Loyola University New Orleans School of Law, New Orleans, Louisiana
J.D. – 1992
- University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, Louisiana
B.A. cum laude – 1987



AREAS OF PRACTICE

90% Plaintiff Personal Injury
10% Commercial Litigation

LITIGATION PERCENTAGE

100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

HONORS AND AWARDS

Top Lawyers of Acadiana Antitrust Law- 2014, 2015
Top Lawyers of Acadiana Personal Injury Litigation-2015
AV Preeminent rated attorney Martindale Hubbell 2014-2017
Superlawyers 2016-2017

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Louisiana Association of Justice, Board of Governors, 2011 – 2013
Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, 1995 – Present
American Association for Justice, Member
American Bar Association, Member



RICHARD E. WILSON

Partner

Richard was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, but moved to Louisiana in 1994. He attended law school at Tulane University, where he excelled in trial advocacy. Upon completion of law school in 1997, he served as a law clerk to the judges of the Fourteenth Judicial District court in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Since participating with The Cox Law Firm, he has handled Maritime, Personal Injury, Toxic Tort, and Workers' Compensation cases.

Richard is married to Dr. Guidry, a local OB/GYN. Richard and TriCia have three children. Richard has served the community of Lake Charles as the President of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Louisiana Center for Health Services, a member of the Civic Advisory Council for Life-Share Blood Center. He is also a charter member of 100 Black Men of Lake Charles, which was formed to mentor young African American men.

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Personal Injury

Mass Tort

Workers' Compensation

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Louisiana Bar Association

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 1999

U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana,
1999

EDUCATION

• Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana

J.D. – 1997

Honors: Moot Court

• Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia

B.S. – 1989

Major: Biology Pre-Med

TINA L. WILSON

Partner

Tina is a lifelong resident of Sulphur, Louisiana, graduating valedictorian from Sulphur High School in 1993. She graduated magna cum laude from McNeese State University in 1997 with a B.S. in Government. Tina received her Juris Doctorate from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in 2000, where she served as a member of the Louisiana Law Review.

Tina worked as a runner and legal assistant for the firm before attending law school. The firm was fortunate to retain Tina's services as a law clerk during the summers and between semesters while she attended law school, and was even more fortunate that she accepted the firm's offer to become an associate after graduation in 2000. Tina became a partner of the firm in January 2008. She handles personal injury, workers' compensation, and social security disability claims. Tina has served as the president and vice-president of the Workers' Compensation Section of the SWLA Bar Association.

Tina was a member of 1994 Southland Conference Champion McNeese Women's Softball Team and has volunteered as a softball coach for CARC and the Special Olympics. She is an active supporter of the athletic programs at both Sulphur High School and McNeese State University. Tina is married to Chance Brown of Westlake, Louisiana, and they have one son.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 2000
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 2000

EDUCATION

- Louisiana State University Law Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana | J.D. – 2000
Law Review: Louisiana Law Review, 1998 – 2000
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana
B.A. magna cum laude – 1997
Major: Government



AREAS OF PRACTICE

35% Workers' Compensation
35% Social Security Disability
30% Personal Injury

LITIGATION PERCENTAGE

100% of Practice Devoted to Litigation

HONORS AND AWARDS

American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys
10 Best Client Satisfaction Award- 2016

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

SWLA Bar Association, Workers' Compensation Section
President 2015
Vice President, 2010 – 2011
Louisiana Association of Justice 2000-present



SOMER G. BROWN

Partner

Somer was born and raised in Lake Charles, Louisiana, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English, summa cum laude, from McNeese State University in 2001. In 2004, she graduated magna cum laude from Baylor University School of Law, earning her degree of Juris Doctor.

During law school, Somer earned top oralist honors in numerous moot court competitions and was the Administrative and Texas Procedure Editor for the Baylor Law Review. She also completed a federal judicial externship for the Honorable Walter Smith.

Somer began her law practice in Houston, Texas, where she successfully handled oil and gas disputes, including both landowner royalty claims and claims involving drilling and production.

Somer joined Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson LLC in July 2012 and became a partner in the firm in July 2013. She focuses her practice on various types of plaintiff personal injury cases, and union labor disputes. She is a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, the Bar Association of the Federal Fifth Circuit and the Southwest Louisiana Bar Association.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 2008 | Texas, 2004
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Texas, 2008
U.S. District Court Northern District of Texas, 2008
U.S. District Court Southern District of Texas, 2008
U.S. District Court Western District of Texas, 2008
U.S. Court of Appeals 5th Circuit, 2011
U.S. District Court Eastern District of Louisiana, 2004
U.S. District Court Middle District of Louisiana, 2004
U.S. District Court Western District of Louisiana, 2004

EDUCATION

- Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas
Juris Doctor magna cum laude – 2004
Law Review: Baylor Law Review, Administrative Editor
- McNeese State University
Bachelor of Arts summa cum laude – 2001

JASON R. BELL

Partner

Jason grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana. He attended McNeese State University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and an Associate of General Studies degree in Latin.

Upon graduating from McNeese State, Jason and his wife, Melanie, moved to Montgomery, Alabama, and Jason attended Jones School of Law at Faulkner University.

After finishing law school, Jason returned to Lake Charles and joined Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson as an Associate Attorney in May 2007.

Jason is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Justice, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Jason primarily handles Workers' Compensation and Personal Injury cases for the firm.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Louisiana, 2007

EDUCATION

- Faulkner University, Jones School of Law, Montgomery, Alabama
J.D. – 2006
- McNeese State University, Lake Charles, Louisiana
B.A. – 2002
Major: English



AREAS OF PRACTICE

75% Workers' Compensation
25% Personal Injury

HONORS AND AWARDS

Top Lawyers of Acadiana Workers Compensation Law- 2014

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Louisiana Association for Justice, 2007 – Present
SWLBA Executive Council, 2011 – Present



PERSONAL INJURY

Accidents and the resulting injuries can have a profound effect on your emotions, finances, and physical abilities. Their life-changing potential makes them a source of stress and anxiety for millions of Americans.

When you are injured because of someone else's negligence, you shouldn't have to suffer the financial consequences. The at-fault party should take responsibility for the medical bills from your injury. Unfortunately, this rarely happens.

At Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson L.L.C., we've helped injured victims seek the compensation they deserve, no matter how challenging the case may be. We'll take the burden off your shoulders by handling your case from start to finish.

What is a Personal Injury?

Personal injuries are any injury caused by the negligence of another. Negligence where someone fails to act as any reasonable person would in the same situation.

Preventable or not, personal injury accidents are caused by carelessness. That's why victims of negligence can seek funds to cover their pain, suffering, and medical expenses.

There are a number of things you can receive compensation for after an accident. It depends on the details surrounding your injury but, in general, victims receive compensation for:

- Lost wages
- Disability
- Loss of future earning abilities
- Emotional distress
- Disfigurement/mutilation
- Therapy costs
- Medical treatment
- Funeral costs
- Wrongful death

Everyone knows that workers get hurt on the job, and we have a system of workers' compensation to help those injured in workplace accidents. But did you know that:

- You don't have to be at your job site for your injury to qualify.
- Getting sick from chemical exposure qualifies as an injury.
- You can choose your own doctor.

There are many twists and turns in Louisiana workers' compensation law and how it is administered. If you have been injured, you may need an experienced workers' comp lawyer like Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson L.L.C. to defend your rights.

This is a short list of compensable worker injuries:

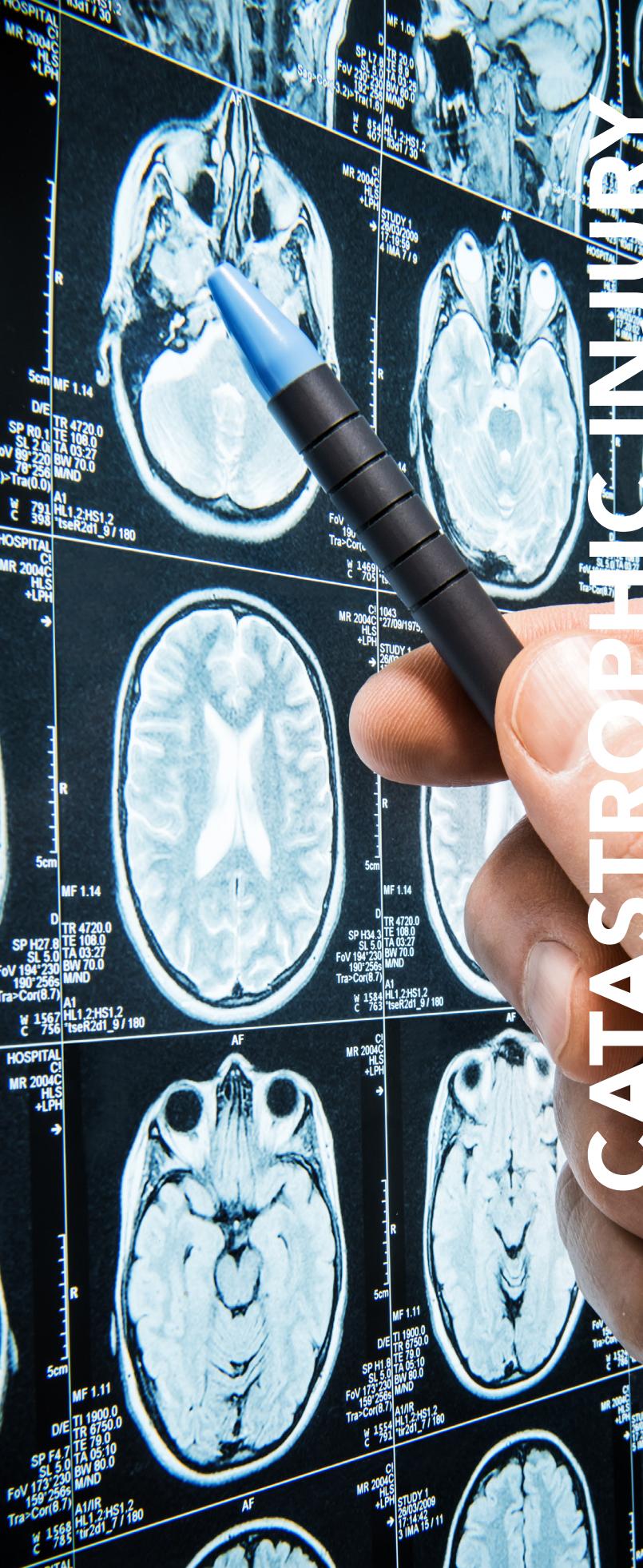
- Back and neck injuries
- Spinal cord injuries
- Brain and open head injuries
- Electrical injuries and burns
- Occupational illnesses
- Repetitive stress injuries
- Loss of vision and hearing
- Chemical poisoning

Louisiana workers' compensation law pays disability benefits for both temporary and permanent injuries. In most cases, benefits equal two-thirds of the employee's average weekly wages. In permanent, total disability, benefits may be paid for life.

The law is supposed to protect workers, but it often wrongly denies benefits. Oftentimes, workers need an experienced workers' comp attorney like Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson to stand by them and insist that proper compensation is made.

WORKERS COMPENSATION





As we age, we hope we can avoid major tragedies. But sometimes we're dealt a hand that changes our lives forever- a catastrophic injury. In some cases, wounds heal, bodies and minds mend, and the once devastating event becomes something that made you stronger.

In other situations, however, there is no healing, no cure, and no opportunity to resume life as it was before. These situations are usually caused by catastrophic injuries and can result in a complete lifestyle change that may require round the clock medical care and the need to supplement lost income.

Types of Catastrophic Injuries

In legal terms, a catastrophic injury permanently disables an individual, preventing them from supporting themselves and their family by means of regular gainful employment. The range of catastrophic injuries can be quite broad and can include illnesses or injuries incurred while on the job or injuries from an accident.

Here are some of the injuries that could be catastrophic given their circumstances:

- Amputation or loss of limb
- Vision/eye loss
- Hearing loss
- Bone, tissue, or joint injuries
- Traumatic brain injuries (TBI)
- Spinal cord injuries
- Paraplegia/quadriplegia
- Burns
- Psychological disorders resulting from trauma
- Neck and back injuries
- Cancer
- Internal organ damage
- Fatal Injuries

Our history is rife with examples of corporations taking advantage of their employees, carelessly exposing them to harmful substances, poor working conditions, and products with dangerous side effects. Individuals are bullied into silence by being threatened with job loss or demotion, ensuring that the damaging factors affecting them, their staff, or their customers are unaddressed.

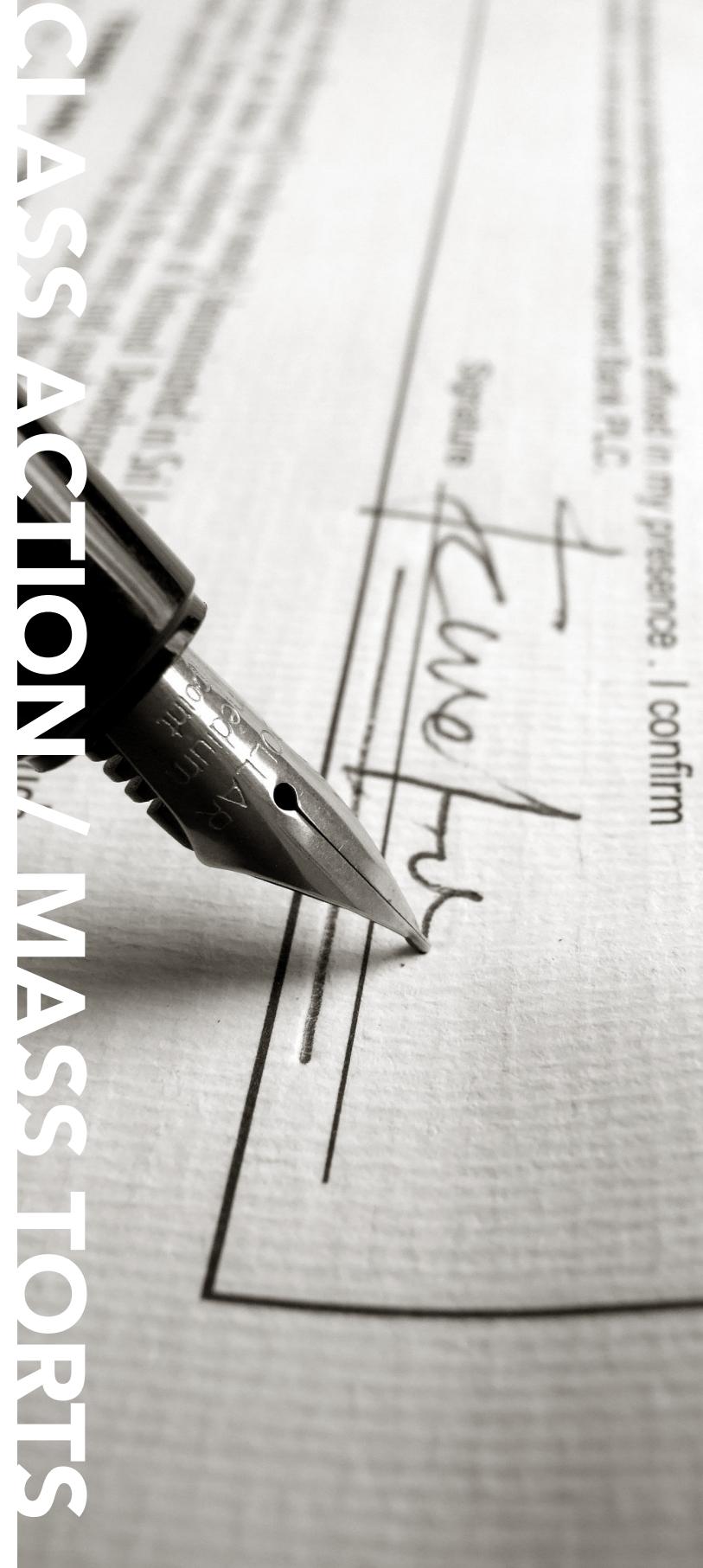
A class action lawsuit is a claim filed on behalf of a group of people who were harmed because of a specific situation they were put in or a product they were exposed to, such as becoming ill from asbestos exposure on job sites. Class action lawsuits can be powerful agents of needed change in company policies, especially with corporations that regularly put their employees at risk. Mass Torts are processed differently, and are primarily lawsuits brought by a large group of people who were harmed on a larger scale, such as an oil spill or defective medication.

A mass tort is a lawsuit in which multiple plaintiffs band together to sue a corporate defendant. Mass torts are the kind you hear about in the wake of a destructive storm, an environmental spill, or a product that injures a number of people. They also arise from instances of occupational exposure. Most toxic tort cases have arisen either from people harmed by using pharmaceutical drugs or by exposure to occupational hazards, like asbestos.

Our experienced team can help you navigate negligence from a company or manufacturer and clarify whether a class action suit or a mass tort would be most effective method of seeking restitution. We are committed to educating our clients on their legal rights, as well as their options for moving forward.

With our incredibly successful background in mass litigation, we are confident that we can help you create a solid case. We will work on a contingency basis, meaning that we refuse to take any of your hard-earned funds until you are rightly compensated for the impact the company has had on your life.

- Chemical Exposure & Toxic Torts
- Mass Torts
- Class Actions





Everyone in the United States who works also contributes to Social Security. The money goes into one fund and is granted to individuals who are either unable to work due to a debilitating medical condition or who have reached an age where working is no longer possible. These funds go a long way towards improving the quality of life for those with disabilities or those who have been seriously injured.

SSDI and SSI: What's the Difference?

By the Social Security Administration's standards, any physical or mental condition that prevents you from being gainfully employed can be classified as a disability. If your disability is one that is long-term or permanent, there are two programs run by the SSA that might be able to help: Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) only applies to workers who have been working for at least 5 out of the last 10 years before you were disabled.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is managed both by your state's government and the Social Security Administration. Its purpose is to provide financial aid to disabled and elderly individuals who have little or no income and few assets. Remember that SSI laws vary state to state. Spend time doing some research into your state's specific SSI rules and laws.

The rules for granting Social Security Disability Benefits are strict. Only 30% of all claims that are submitted get approved. If you're denied, you have two choices: appeal the denial decision or give up, and find another option. The appeals process is where things can start to get a little more complicated. This process can be long, and is often one best handled by a Social Security Disability Claims Attorney who is familiar with both Federal and Louisiana Law. The attorneys at Cox, Cox, Filo, Camel & Wilson L.L.C. can help with any of the four levels of appeals. We can evaluate your case to see which appeal best suits your situation.

The life of a maritime worker can be treacherous. Workers on offshore oil rigs, natural gas wells, and support vessels face harsh conditions and are often far from first responders and other emergency services.

Offshore and maritime positions are among the most dangerous in the world, but they're an important part of Louisiana's culture and economy. Our experienced maritime accident lawyers understand the relevant laws and state statutes that protect Louisiana's maritime workers.

Occupational Hazards and Louisiana Workers

A maritime accident can be devastating to an individual and his or her family. According to a report conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), onshore and offshore oil and gas extraction industries have a collective fatality rate seven times higher than all other U.S. workers.

According to the most recent maritime accident statistics, between 2003 and 2010, 128 maritime workers were killed in activities related to offshore oil and gas operations. Many of these deaths were transportation related, often involving an aircraft; all but one of these fatalities occurred near Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico.

i. Maritime law, or admiralty law, is a broad legal term used to describe a body of regulations that govern U.S. and international contracts, torts, injuries, and offenses that occur on the water. Maritime workers are protected by general maritime law, which includes provisions such as maintenance and cure, personal injury, and piracy.

ii. In the event a fellow crew member or ship owner is the cause of an accident, the Jones Act enables a seaman, or his surviving spouse or dependents, to peruse a claim against the employer or vessel owner. The Jones Act, historically known as the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, is a U.S. federal statute that allows seamen to sue their employer for negligence damages.

OFFSHORE & MARITIME





VERDICTS & SETTLEMENTS

- Multiple cases of class action settlements for Hospital bill pay litigation against bill Review Company totaling over \$338 Million dollars.
- \$3.75 Million for on the job injury: oil field worker injured on the job sustaining numerous broken bones after being crushed by a load weighing several thousand pounds, which fell from a forklift.
- \$10.8 Million Dollar Jury verdict: hired by a woman who was rear-ended by a delivery truck driver. Our client suffered spinal cord injury, paraplegia, and other catastrophic injuries because of the accident.
- \$1.75 Million Motorcycle Accident: Our client was hit by an automobile who ran a stop sign. Our client suffered several major injuries, including multiple major lower extremity injuries.
- \$5.56 Million dollar Judgement: Dispute ruled against local Stevedoring Company in commercial breach of contract.
- \$26 Million jury verdict: Our eleven-year-old client rendered quadriplegic when a train broadsided the van in which she was the passenger. The jury awarded her over \$26 million. The Louisiana Supreme Court reduced the damages to \$16,528,722. Even after the reduction, this award is the highest personal injury award reported in Louisiana history.
- \$3.4 Million dollar jury verdict: awarded against a construction company after \$800,000 offer was rejected at trial by the family.
- \$23 Million toxic tort settlement Our firm represented 57 workers exposed at the same dock facility during cleanup operations for a chemical spill.
- \$10.5 Million settlement for offshore commercial dive tender: The dive tender was crushed between the crane and an air-winch, and suffered injuries to his rectum, perineum, hips, and abdomen.
- \$7.9 Million jury verdict: Our client was exposed to a chemical agent while working for a contractor providing construction services to a dock facility.
- \$6.5 Million recovered for defrauded investors: The firm represented thirty investors who lost money on annuity contracts due the misrepresentations of a stockbroker.
- \$2.9 Million settlement for firefighters' underpaid wages: Our firm served as class counsel for Lake Charles firefighters. The firm obtained a judgment from the trial court that the City of Lake Charles had unlawfully terminated supplemental pay to the firefighters.