

GJTBS | Mass Tort & Class Action Litigation Law Firm

For 25 years, the class action attorneys at GJTBS have represented local, national and international corporations and insurers in complex, multi-party claims and class actions involving thousands of claimants. We have defended claims for short-term and long-term exposure to hazardous materials, toxic substances, silica, and asbestos, as well as products liability involving the sale of hazardous and other substances. Our experience in mass tort litigation and class action law includes a vast array of claims for personal injuries, property damage, and economic losses in industries involving petroleum products, chemical products, building products, and industrial equipment.

Our law firm has the experience, people-power, resources, and technology to aggressively defend multi-party, mass tort litigation. As a sign of the confidence that our clients and co-counsel have in our ability to handle such cases, we have been appointed liaison counsel and steering committee members on behalf of various joint-defense groups in complex class actions. Our technological resources also provide the necessary infrastructure for managing and litigating mass tort and class action matters in courts across the country.

OUR COMPLEX LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

MDL-2179 In re Oil Spill by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig

The firm is retained by the Louisiana Attorney General to represent the State of Louisiana in this multi-district litigation consolidated before Judge Carl Barbier in the Eastern District of Louisiana. The State of Louisiana has asserted state and federal claims against BP, Transocean and several other defendants.

MDL-2047 In re Chinese Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litigation

The firm represents a distributor who purchased drywall from manufacturers in China and is named in hundreds of suits. This litigation consists of federal multi-district litigation consolidated before Judge Fallon in MDL-2047 in the Eastern District of Louisiana and state law litigation in Alabama. A shareholder in our New Office has been appointed by Judge Fallon to the defense steering committee and federal-state liaison committee.

In re Katrina Canal Breaches Consolidated Litigation

This litigation consists of claims for damage arising out of the levee failures during Hurricane Katrina which were consolidated before Judge Stanwood Duval in the Eastern District of Louisiana. The firm represented CRPCCI, a contractor that was sued in over 20 different class actions. All claims against our client were dismissed on summary judgment.



In re FEMA Trailer Formaldehyde Products Liability Litigation (continue)

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. On October 24, 2007, the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ordered that these formaldehyde actions be consolidated before Judge Engelhardt in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Since that time, over five thousand actions have been transferred to the MDL, involving cases arising out of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama. We represent a couple of different entities in this case: one, which contracted with FEMA to administer and coordinate maintenance for several FEMA trailers; and the second, a trailer manufacturer which has been sued by plaintiffs in multiple suits in the MDL proceeding.

Maurice de la Houssaye, et al. v. The Parish of Jefferson, et al.

24th Judicial District Court, Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana. Following Hurricane Katrina, a class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of business owners, property owners and residents of a portion of Jefferson Parish alleging flood damage, economic losses and personal injuries as a result of the storm. The potential claims totaled in the millions, if not billions, of dollars. The representative Plaintiffs argued that the number of potential claimants was in the thousands and sought certification of the claims on a class-wide basis. The Defendants in the case included various state and local government entities. We filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on behalf of the State of Louisiana to have the class action denied, arguing that the Plaintiffs failed to satisfy the requisite class certification criteria. The Court agreed and denied the class action in one of the first state court decisions involving class action claims for flood damage following Hurricane Katrina.

Claudia Acevedo, et al. v. Eric B. Eidson, et al.

24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana. Over 200 residents filed a mass joinder action against various individuals and government entities for alleged personal injuries and other damages arising from sewage backups in and around several apartment complexes in Harvey, Louisiana. After filing a Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment, we obtained the dismissal of all claims by the residents against our client, a state entity.

John Paul DeHart, Jr. v. BP America, et al.

United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana. Following a platform decommissioning project in the Gulf of Mexico after Hurricane Katrina, a class action was filed on behalf of over 100 seamen and maritime workers alleging exposure to Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM). On behalf of one of the defendants named in the suit, we filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment to have the class action denied, arguing that the representative Plaintiff failed to establish that common or typical issues would predominate, that he could adequately represent the class, or that the class proposed was sufficiently numerous to warrant hearing the matter on a class-wide basis in the first place. The Court agreed and denied the class action, holding that the Plaintiff failed to establish that the predominance requirement could be satisfied, as any claims would necessarily involve individualized issues rendering class-wide adjudication inappropriate. Further, the Court also noted that the other factors required for class certification likely could not be satisfied either.

Susan Laurendine, et al. v. Orleans Levee District, et al.

Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana. This class action, filed in Orleans Parish, Louisiana represents several consolidated class action cases in which plaintiffs assert claims against the State of Louisiana and several local political subdivisions for flooding caused by Hurricane Katrina. Plaintiffs assert that the defendants' failure to properly build, inspect, maintain and operate several flood control structures caused flooding damage to their homes. The firm is retained to represent the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.



GALLOWAY
JOHNSON
TOMPKINS
BURR AND
SMITH

Foreclosure Fraud/Fair Debt Collections Act

This was a Florida state court multi-million dollar class action on foreclosure fraud and Fair Debt Collection Act violations with thousands of putative class members.

Well operator causes power outage

We represented a well operator that was drilling a land well in south Louisiana. The well blew and hit a power line, causing a power outage in the area. Litigation included a class action for about 2500 of the residents and a \$30 million land remediation claim by the local government.

Chemical Spill on Interstate

After a chemical spill on the Interstate, about two hundred fifty people asserted claims for everything from property damage to a wide range of health problems associated with exposure to the chemicals in the spilled sludge, which included benzene.

Asbestos litigation

We have litigated thousands of asbestos cases for many years, and have tried numerous cases in both state and federal courts.

Dragon v. Cooper T/Smith

Orleans Parish, State of Louisiana. This was a proposed class action of Jones Act asbestos exposure cases.

Sunrise Homes litigation

Jefferson Parish, State of Louisiana. This litigation involved about 45 cases filed in Jefferson Parish alleging settlement problems with the foundation. The cases were consolidated for discovery and pretrial purposes.

Shimon consolidated cases

This federal court litigation involves claims by hundreds of property owners including a pending class action.

US ex rel Rigsby v. State Farm, et al.

Southern District of Mississippi. This ongoing Qui Tam litigation involves a whistle blower suit over alleged fraudulent payment of flood damage claims by State Farm.

Aguilar/Palmer v. Sewerage Board of New Orleans, et al.

Plaquemines Parish, State of Louisiana. Here plaintiffs filed a Class Action Petition on behalf of about four hundred fifty landowners asserting claims that discharge from the treatment plant caused various injuries and ailments. We represented the engineer who designed much of the plant.

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH LARGE ECONOMIC LOSS CASES

Our attorneys have substantial experience litigating and valuing complex business interruption and economic loss claims. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the firm litigated hundreds of such cases across the Gulf Coast.