



Couhig Partners LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
SOQ 21-006
FOR LEGAL SERVICES
FOR JEFFERSON PARISH
RESOLUTION No. 137052

Submitted by:

BLAIR C. CONSTANT, Of Counsel

COUHIG PARTNERS, L.L.C.
1100 Poydras St., Suite 3250
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163
(504) 588-1288

April 29, 2021



CENTRALBIDDING
FROM CENTRAL AUCTION HOUSE

SOQ 21-006 Soliciting for firm or individuals interested in providing various professional legal services to the Parish.
Jefferson Parish Government

Project documents obtained from www.CentralBidding.com

29-Apr-2021 08:25:08 AM

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire Instructions

- The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire shall be used for outside legal services.
- **The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire must be completely filled out. Complete ALL sections. Insert "N/A" or "None" if a section does not apply or if there is no information to provide.**
- Questionnaire must be dated and signed by an authorized representative of the Firm.
- All subcontractors must be listed in the appropriate section of the Questionnaire. All subcontractors must provide a fully completed copy of this questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement.
- If additional pages are needed, attach them to the questionnaire and include all applicable information that is required by the questionnaire.
- Failure to properly complete this Professional Legal Services Questionnaire will result in the proposal being deemed not qualified pursuant with Section 2-928(a) of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, and the proposal will not be evaluated or scored.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

A. Person or Firm Name & Principal Address:

Couhig Partners, LLC
1100 Poydras St., Suite 3250
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163

B. Name, Title, & contact information of Firm Representative, as defined in Section 2-926 of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, who is licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana with a minimum of five (5) years' experience:

Blair C. Constant
(504) 599-5786
bconstant@couhigpartners.com

C. Location of the principal office where work will be performed:

1100 Poydras St., Suite 3250
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163

D. Please check the legal field or fields in which Firm is qualified to perform services for Jefferson Parish and include the number of years of experience in that particular field.

<input type="checkbox"/> Bond Services (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Elections (Years: <u> </u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Regulatory (Years: <u>20</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antitrust Law (Years: <u>35</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Law (Years: <u>45</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice (Years: <u>10</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dispute Resolution (Years: <u>20</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental, Energy & Resources (Years: <u>25</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Health Law (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> International Law (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment Law (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Contract Law (Years: <u> </u>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology Law (Years: <u> </u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State & Local Government Law (Years: <u>7</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Taxation (Years: <u> </u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tort Trial & Insurance Practices (Years: <u>35</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complex Litigation (including asbestos litigation) (Years: <u>45</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Securities (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Law (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Matters (Years: <u> </u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights & the Constitution (Years: <u> </u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Representation (including liability & intergovernmental conflicts) (Years: <u>7</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement Matters (Years: <u>7</u>)
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Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Law (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property (Years: <u>45</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust & Estate Law (Years: <u>35</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Other/specific project as required by the advertisement (Years: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil Spill Litigation (Years: <u>10</u>) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Finance (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use, Planning & Zoning Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Law (Years: <u>30</u>)
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E. List all subcontractors anticipated for this Project. Please note that all subcontractors must submit a fully completed copy of this questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement. See Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-928(a)(3). Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Name & Address:	Specialty:	Worked with Firm Before (Yes or No):
1. N/A	N/A	N/A
2.		
3.		
4.		

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

F. Professional Training and experience in relation to the type of work required for the outside legal services.

As set forth more fully in Sections G(ii) and J, Couhig Partners, LLC has significant experience in each of the legal fields selected above. Our partners have experience ranging from 50 years of litigation practice for our most senior partner to 11 years for our most junior partner. Our youngest associate was licensed to practice in 2018.

The firm has extensive experience representing and advising government entities and other public bodies, including the State of Louisiana, St. Bernard Parish, the City of Bogalusa, and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

G. Size of Firm and capacity for timely completion of newly assigned work considering the number of professional and support personnel required to perform the type of outside legal services tasks and the Firm's current unfinished workload.

Couhig Partners, LLC has 13 lawyers and 5 staff members, all of whom have the present ability to accept newly assigned work. Blair Constant, Jason Cavignac, and Rob Couhig III would be the primary lawyers working on and directing associate work on Jefferson Parish matters, with assistance from other lawyers in cases which their specific experience or expertise is needed. The firm has the ability to handle large, complex matters in addition to its current unfinished workload.

Further, the firm has a history of quickly ramping up to handle unscheduled emergency matters, including temporary restraining orders, injunctions, and mandamus proceedings, while at the same time maintaining its normal caseload.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

i. Please specify the total number of support staff that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above: 5

ii. List any attorneys that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above. If necessary, please attach additional documentation that demonstrates the employment history and experience of the Firm's attorneys that may assist in the completion of this Project (i.e. resume). Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Name:	Legal Field:	Years of Experience in Legal Field:
1. Please see attached Sheet G(ii)		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

H. Past performance by person or Firm on Parish contracts. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

N/A

I. Adversarial legal proceedings between the Parish and the person or Firm performing professional services, in which the Parish prevailed, and excluding those instances or cases where the person or Firm was added as an indispensable party, or where the person or Firm participated in or assisted the public entity in prosecution of its claim. In the event that the person or Firm fails to provide accurate and detailed information regarding legal proceedings with the Parish, including the absence of legal proceedings, the person or firm shall be deemed unresponsive with regard to this category, and zero (0) points shall be awarded. Please attach additional pages if necessary.

In 2008, the firm represented Beverly Construction, LLC in a dispute with Jefferson Parish over the interpretation of a public bid package submitted by Beverly and disqualified by the Parish. The district court ruled in favor of the parish in a matter submitted on briefs, and the Fifth Circuit affirmed the ruling in favor of Jefferson Parish.

In 2010, Couhig Partners represented Rathborne Properties, LLC in the resolution of several Code Enforcement citations. While most citations were resolved after meeting with the agents who issued the citations, a small number of the citations were resolved during or after a hearing with a Code Enforcement hearing officer.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

J. Prior successful completion of projects of the type and nature of legal services, as defined, for which Firm has provided verifiable references. (List no more than 10 projects.)

1.

Please see attached Sheets J and J-1

2.

3.

4.

5.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

K. Use this space to provide any additional information or description of resources supporting Firm's qualifications for the proposed project.

Couhig Partners has significant experience in all of the legal fields included in this application. The firm also has a demonstrated history of effectively and efficiently representing and advising state and local government entities.

Additionally, members of the firm have had significant involvement in Jefferson Parish over the years. Prior to starting the firm, Rob Couhig Jr. worked closely with Jefferson Parish Government to bring minor league baseball to the parish. Our newest lawyer, Blair Constant worked for 10 years in the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office. Most of our lawyers have cases in the 24th Judicial District Court and are active in the Jefferson Bar Association.

L. To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is an accurate statement of facts.

Signature: Blair C. Constant Print Name: Blair C. Constant

Title: Of Counsel Date: April 29, 2021

ATTACHMENT – RESPONSE TO SECTION G(II)

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

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Attachment – Section G(ii)

List any attorneys that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above. If necessary, please attach additional documentation that demonstrates the employment history and experience of the Firm's attorneys that may assist in the completion of this Project (i.e. resume). Please attach additional pages if necessary.		
Name:	Legal Field:	Years of Experience in Legal Field:
1. Blair C. Constant	Criminal Justice	10
2. Robert E. Couhig Jr.	Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation	40
3. Gary Rouse	Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Property Trusts & Estate Law Construction Law	45
4. Don Massey	Administrative & Regulatory Antitrust Law Business Law Dispute Resolution Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation	30
5. Ralph Wall	Administrative & Regulatory Antitrust Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation	20
6. Jason Cavignac	Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Oil Spill Litigation Construction Law	19
7. Rob Couhig III	Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Property Oil Spill Litigation Construction Law	15
8. Jonathan Lemann	Antitrust Law Business Law	22

	Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation	
9. Claire Pontier	Business Law Dispute Resolution Trusts & Estates Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Construction Law	10
10. Jeff Pastorek	Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Construction Law	8
11. Lisa Maher	Antitrust Law Business Law Environmental, Energy & Resources Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Complex Litigation Oil Spill Litigation	25
12. Cory Grant	Administrative & Regulatory Business Law State & Local Government Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices Construction Law	5
13. Robert Martin II	Business Law Tort Trial & Insurance Practices	2

ATTACHMENT - RESPONSE TO SECTION J

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

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Section J

1. *Represent and Advise City of Bogalusa*

Couhig Partners served as Special Counsel to the City of Bogalusa and helped successfully resolve a complex, decades-long dispute between the City and Washington Parish regarding their joint ownership of the Choctaw Landfill.

2. *St. Bernard Parish and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District v. United States*, United States Court of Federal Claims, Nos. 15-103C and 15-518C

Couhig Partners represented St. Bernard Parish and the Lake Borgne Levee District in successfully recovering more than \$4.4 million in a breach of contract suit against the federal government. The judgments compensated St. Bernard and the Levee District for the federal government's failure to indemnify them for judgments awarded to landowners in state court for property taken by the federal government through the local entities to repair levees after Hurricane Katrina.

3. *Olivier Plantation, L.L.C. v. Parish of St. Bernard*, 34th JDC for the Parish of St. Bernard, No. 109-272, Division "B"

Before the firm was hired by St. Bernard Parish to pursue the above-cited case, Couhig Partners represented a landowner in a suit against the St. Bernard Parish in this takings case. The landowner was awarded \$2,449,930 for borrow material taken from its property after Hurricane Katrina, plus interest and attorney's fees. The matter was affirmed by the Louisiana Fourth Circuit in *Olivier Plantation, L.L.C. v. St. Bernard*, 2013-0497 (La. App. 4 Cir. 10/30/2014); 151 So.3d 965. St. Bernard Parish subsequently hired Couhig Partners to recover the amounts awarded to Olivier Plantation from the federal government.

4. *Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District, et al. v. BFS Diversified Products, LLC, et al.*, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, No. 2006-8927

In this construction case, the Louisiana Stadium & Exposition District sought more than \$150 million in damages for the destruction of the Superdome roof during Hurricane Katrina. Couhig Partners represented the surety that bonded roof contractor who installed the roof. The firm originally secured the surety's dismissal by summary judgment, but the dismissal was reversed by the Fourth Circuit. We were later able to successfully negotiate a settlement that protected both the surety and its principal from the possibility of a runaway damage award at a jury trial.

5. *Moore v. Tangipahoa Parish School Board*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 65-15556, Section B(1)

In 2014, Don Massey was appointed as Court Compliance Officer in this matter, which is one of America's longest-running desegregation suits and possibly the oldest continuous litigation existing in the State of Louisiana. With Don's help, the parties presented a proposed resolution to the Court in late 2019, and after Covid-related delays, the Court issued a ruling on March 30, 2021 that paves the way for resolution of this matter that has been pending since 1965.

6. *HG New Orleans Retailers Joint Venture v. The City of New Orleans*, Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans, No. 2017-6263, Section 10.

In this Public Bid challenge case, Couhig Partners intervened on behalf of the winning bidder in a lawsuit by another bidder against the City of New Orleans for a contract award for construction at the North Terminal of the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The firm successfully argued that plaintiff was not entitled to an injunction as the bid had been validly and impartially awarded by the City.

7. *Texaco Exploration and Production, Inc. v. Amclyde Engineered Products Company, Inc.*, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 99-3623, Section B(5)

At the same time the Superdome litigation was going on, Couhig Partners was also in the middle of this matter, known as the Petronius Case. In the case, the firm successfully represented a crane manufacturer in a complex offshore products liability claim involving economic loss claims for hundreds of millions of dollars.

8. *St. Bernard Parish Government v. CDM Smith, Inc.*, 34th JDC for the Parish of St. Bernard, No. 2017-0454 and *CDM Smith, Inc. v. St. Bernard Parish Government*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, No. 18-5392

In these companion cases, Couhig Partners represented CDM Smith, Inc., an international engineering firm, in multiple multi-party disputes arising from wastewater utility work in St. Bernard Parish. The firm was able to secure a dismissal of claims against its client in state court while at the same time recovering amounts owed to the client in federal court, which amounts had been withheld for years.

9. *University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc. v. JPI Apartment Development, L.P., et al.*, 4th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Ouachita, No. 2011-3340, Judge Sharp

In this Private Works Act case, Couhig Partners successfully defended Continental Casualty Company, the performance bond surety, against an untimely bond claim. Jason Cavignac argued the case before the District Court and the Louisiana Second Circuit, which affirmed the dismissal in *University of Louisiana Monroe Facilities, Inc. v. JPI Apartment Development, L.P.*, 49,148 (La. App. 2 Cir. 10/8/14); 151 So.3d 126.

10. *Fraday Excavating & Transport, LLC v. Coordination Specialists, LLC*, 24th JDC for the Parish of Jefferson, No. 663-513, Division “J”

Couhig Partners represented the main defendant and one of the company’s owners in a claim for amounts allegedly due to plaintiff for work on post-Katrina debris hauling contracts. The matter proceeded to a jury trial before the Hon. Stephen Grefer, who granted the firm’s directed verdict in favor of the individual defendant. Plaintiff then reached a settlement with the company at the conclusion of the trial.

J-1
References

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ATTACHMENT – ATTORNEY BIOGRAPHIES

COUHIG PARTNERS, LLC

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Couhig Partners LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Firm Brochure

APRIL 2021

Couhig Partners has a simple mission: to provide our clients with exemplary legal services in an efficient and cost effective manner that is consistent with and facilitates attainment of the client's overall business goals.

Our Firm



Redefining the Relationship Between a Business and Its Lawyers

Our founding partner, Rob Couhig, practiced law at one of the largest firms in the South for thirty years before deciding that a smaller, more specialized firm could better serve businesses. Rob assembled a group of like-minded lawyers from top firms who were similarly frustrated with the constraints of their practices. Each lawyer at Couhig Partners shares Rob's vision and passion for helping businesses realize their full potential and achieve success. Additionally, the lawyers at Couhig Partners are business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs themselves. As both lawyers and businesspeople, our attorneys are in a unique position to give our clients practical advice, as we have personally dealt with many of the same issues our clients face.



Litigation

The litigation team at Couhig Partners aggressively represents clients in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana, Texas, and beyond. Our lawyers are seasoned litigators who have participated as lead counsel in hundreds of trials and have extensive appellate experience in Louisiana's state courts, many federal appellate courts, and the United States Supreme Court. With numerous reported decisions, we provide our clients with real experience and insight.

Couhig Partners puts its experience to work by providing our clients with early case analysis and by concentrating our efforts to bring litigation to a prompt and satisfactory conclusion. From the outset of each file assignment, we work hand in hand with our clients to gain a fast mutual understanding of the facts, legal issues, and risk profile presented. Where pretrial dismissal isn't possible, we bring decades of experience trying many hundreds of cases collectively, and we truly enjoy trying cases. However, we have settled many thousands of legal disputes. We know that resolving disputes by trial is rarely a preferable solution. We are committed to promptly informing our clients of the facts, law and risks presented, obtaining client direction, and authority early on, and advancing each case as our clients direct. We work with our clients to achieve concrete results, but we know how to do so in a cost-effective manner.

Rob Couhig

During his career, Mr. Couhig has been the responsible attorney on thousands of contested matters in 20 states. He has served as trial counsel in over 200 trials, including 100 jury trials. He is a member of the Louisiana, Texas, Colorado and District of Columbia Bars and has also been admitted to Federal Courts to handle matters in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and California.



Mr. Couhig has extensive appellate experience. He has argued in every Louisiana appellate court, four United States Court of Appeals, and both the Louisiana Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. He has served as national counsel in commercial interests and as lead counsel in commercial class actions in five states. Mr. Couhig has also been responsible for setting the law in several areas through judicial decisions. Although Mr. Couhig is a true generalist, he has a great deal of experience handling personal injuries, commercial disputes, products liability cases, maritime law and contested property matters. In addition, Mr. Couhig has served pro bono on several capital cases.

Rob Couhig graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Economic Affairs from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1971. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from Tulane University in 1975. He began his legal career with Adams and Reese in 1975. At that time, the firm had 18 lawyers and concentrated its practice on insurance related matters. When he left, the firm had grown to a full-service law firm with more than 200 lawyers in six cities. In addition to growing his own law practice, Rob served as the firm's first marketing partner, as a section leader and on the firm's management committee.

In September 2003, he left the firm and founded Couhig Partners with one other lawyer. The firm has grown to twelve attorneys with a primary focus on business development and litigation. In addition to his nearly 45 years in the legal practice, Rob has been a long-time businessman and entrepreneur. In 1988, he bought out his partners in a small pest control company located in Metairie, Louisiana. He then succeeded in developing the company so that when he sold Couhig Environmental Services of New Orleans in 2001, it was one of Louisiana's largest private pest control companies. In 1993, he was responsible for moving baseball's Triple A Zephyrs to New Orleans. In 1995, he led a group of local investors in the acquisition of the team from its Denver-based owner and created the public-private partnership that built the new baseball park. From the time of the opening of the ballpark until Rob sold the controlling interest in 2000, the organization was one of the most successful in baseball. He served as President of the organization from 1993 – 2000.

Most recently, Rob and his partners successfully purchased the Wycombe Wanderers Football Club which plays in League One of the English Football League.

Gary Rouse

Gary J. Rouse received his legal education at Louisiana State University, graduating with a Juris Doctorate degree in 1970. Subsequent to graduating, Mr. Rouse served as Senior Law Clerk to Honorable Nauman F. Scott, United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana. Mr. Rouse has focused his professional efforts in the areas of Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, Fidelity and Surety Defense, Director and Officer Liability Defense, Real Estate Development, and Appellate Practice.



Throughout his nearly 50 year legal career, Gary has represented business owners in a wide variety of matters. He is experienced in drafting and negotiating sales, lease, license and other commercial agreements. He is also a sought out advisor on corporate structuring.

In addition to his commercial practice, Gary has represented owners, developers, contractors, subcontractors, surety companies, banks, savings and loan institutions, and various insurance companies. He has prepared documentation for real estate development and construction projects, including financing packages, and other project related documents for real estate development projects having a cumulative value of hundreds of millions of dollars.



Jonathan Lemann

Jonathan P. Lemann is a life long New Orleanian who received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Tulane University, Cum Laude, in 1996. He received his Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School Cum Laude and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1999. He was admitted to the Texas Bar in 2006. Mr. Lemann is a general litigator with a focus on commercial disputes.

Mr. Lemann was a member of the Law Review and saw his comment, "Big Brother and Gambling Company: The Federal Regulation of Louisiana's Gaming Industry Under the Mail Fraud Statute" published in the Winter edition of 1999. Mr. Lemann has practiced extensively in the commercial litigation area. He has experience representing parties in cases involving directors' and officers' liability, fiduciary duty, insurance coverage issues, intellectual property, business torts, shareholder disputes, construction claims, corporate and partnership law, creditor's rights, and professional malpractice. Mr. Lemann is experienced in trying cases in both federal and state court.

Jason Cavnignac

Jason A. Cavnignac joined the firm in 2006. He is primarily engaged in a litigation practice, with an emphasis on business representation, and construction and surety law. Jason is also an NFLPA Certified Contract Advisor and the owner of the Cavnignac Sports Agency. Jason advises and counsels clients in the formation of business entities, drafts contracts, and represents businesses in court and before administrative agencies. Jason also has appellate litigation experience in both federal and Louisiana state courts.



Jason graduated Cum Laude from the University of Southwestern Louisiana with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications / Broadcasting. While in college, he was an intern in the newsroom at the ABC affiliate in Lafayette, Louisiana. Upon graduation, Jason was hired to produce the morning news show. While still a producer, he began writing and shooting feature news stories and subsequently became a full-time news reporter and fill-in anchor.

After spending two years in broadcast journalism, Jason enrolled in the Tulane University School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate. During law school, Jason competed in the appellate moot court competition, worked with the Tulane Legal Assistance Program, and did community service work with the New Orleans Legal Assistance Corporation. Jason is the President of the Jefferson Bar Association, and a member of the Louisiana Bar Association, the Judge John C. Boutall American Inn of Court, and the New Orleans Bar Association. He formerly served on the Board of Archbishop Philip M. Hannan High School and is currently an active member of the St. Edward Association of Men.



Donald Massey

Don has practiced law for 31 years, and he has a true generalist's perspective. As trial counsel in well over 100 trials (mostly jury trials), Don understands litigation. He has served as lead lawyer, liaison counsel, special master and an expert witness in class action and complex litigation matters. Don frequently is asked to lecture on ethics, professionalism, corporate law and litigation topics.

He is presently serving a second six year commitment as a hearing committee chair person for the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board. Don serves as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel of Delta SubSea, LLC. He continues his rich history of representing clients in a broad range of matters, including litigation, oil and gas transactions and general advices as Of Counsel with Couhig Partners. Don said: "I'm thrilled to be working with old friends and new ones at Couhig Partners, where we have a great mix of youth and experience. We focus on partnering with our clients, including flexible and creative alternative fee arrangements, mutually constructed to tie value to efficiency, performance and results."

Ralph Wall

For almost 30 years, Ralph has maintained a diverse and evolving practice, but he has never deviated from the core mission of providing excellent service to his clients in a professional and respectful manner. Primarily, Ralph has served as a litigator. Much of his career has involved representing parties in cases as wide ranging as automobiles accidents, toxic torts, medical malpractice, nursing home liability, products liability, premises liability, and general casualty matters.

He has also litigated matters involving insurance coverage disputes, construction disputes, breach of contract, and detrimental reliance claims. His insurance coverage experience includes first party coverage disputes, first part and third party commercial general liability disputes and fiduciary institutional coverage disputes. Ralph also has experience in class action litigation involving an array of cases including, antitrust, wage and benefit disputes, and toxic exposures. In recent years, Ralph has had a concentration in administrative law issues. He also advises a trade associations on antitrust issues. Ralph has also assisted in the insurance industry in creating new insurance products by participating in the creation of various policy forms used in the oil and gas insurance market, as well as interfacing with state regulators on insurance policy issues.

A 1993 graduate of Loyola University School of Law, Ralph served on the Moot Court Board. Ralph worked his way through law school attending night courses while working full time for State Farm Insurance Company. While at Tulane University, Ralph was a three-year letterman in football, graduating from the A. B. Freeman School of Business with a Bachelor of Science in Management in 1987. Ralph is married to Thea Crosley Wall and has three children. Ralph focuses his community service efforts on children, and after graduating from the Jefferson Leadership program, began serving as a Board Member of JCFA, an alternative charter high school that serves children that face challenges in a traditional school setting. While on the JCFA Board Ralph served in several leadership positions, including Chairman of the Board for many years. When not working in the community or representing clients, Ralph likes to do woodworking, whitewater rafting, fishing, and he plays an occasional round of golf.



Robert Couhig III

Robert E. Couhig, III graduated from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 2000. After working on several political campaigns in both Louisiana and around the country, he attended LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center where he received his Juris Doctorate / Bachelor of Civil Law in 2005.

During his career, he has represented numerous clients in both corporate and litigation matters. His clients include a number of start-ups and small businesses who he advises on both legal and commercial matters. In addition to his legal practice, Rob has invested in, and consulted for, a number of companies including a logistics company, a healthcare app, and a real estate development project in New Orleans' Warehouse District.

Claire E. Pontier

Claire Easterling Pontier joined Couhig Partners in 2008, and was named a partner at the firm in January 2015. She earned her Juris Doctor with certificates in Civil Law and International Law from Loyola University College of Law in 2008. During law school, Claire externed for Chief Judge Dee Drell of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. She was also actively involved in the Saint Thomas More Society and the Mediation Clinic.



Since graduation, Claire has maintained a diverse commercial litigation and business practice. She has successfully litigated cases throughout the Gulf Coast and Colorado, including business disputes, contract disputes, public and private construction project disputes, products liability claims, general tort claims, and claims for property damage, among others. Claire is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the State Bar of Texas. She has been admitted pro hac vice to federal and state courts in Mississippi and Colorado. Claire is also a trained mediator.



Jeff Pastorek

Jeff Pastorek joined Couhig Partners in 2015. He earned his J.D. cum laude from Tulane University Law School in 2010. While in law school, he externed for Chief Justice Catherine Kimball of the Louisiana Supreme Court and won Tulane's 2010 Bell, Ryniker & Letourneau admiralty writing competition. Mr. Pastorek is admitted to practice in all Louisiana State and Federal Courts, as well as the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association, and the New Orleans Bar Association. Mr. Pastorek's practice has been primarily focused on Construction Law, Admiralty/Maritime Law, and Education Law.

Mr. Pastorek was selected to the Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Stars List for 2015 through 2020. He co-authored, "Analysis of *Alexander v. Norfolk Southern Corporation*," Westlaw Journal, Vol. 30, Issue 9, June 2012.

Lisa L. Maher

Lisa L. Maher received her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola University School of Law and was admitted to the Bar in 1991. At Loyola, Lisa was a member of the Moot Court Board and participated on the Moot Court Team.

Lisa has over 30 years of experience in insurance coverage and general litigation. Lisa has represented both insurance companies as well as insureds in coverage disputes and in bad faith litigation. In addition to insurance coverage, Lisa has experience with nationwide class action litigation and products liability litigation. Lisa has been a member of Couhig Partners from its inception in 2003 and was previously a partner at Adams and Reese Law Firm.



Blair C. Constant

Blair joined the firm in April 2021 as Of-Counsel. He practices commercial and general litigation.

Blair graduated from Louisiana State University in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications / Political Communication. While working full-time, Blair enrolled in the night program at Loyola University New Orleans, School of Law, where he received his Juris Doctorate. In 2013, Blair became a Graduate Fellow for the Loyola University Institute of Politics.

Blair worked ten years as an Assistant District Attorney for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, and he practiced in violent crime prosecution with the Felony Trials Unit, including homicides, armed robberies, and child sex cases. Before leaving the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office, Blair was the Deputy Chief of their Juvenile Unit and managed juvenile prosecution, Families in Need of Services cases, Child In Need of Care cases, IV D Child Support Cases, the Assistant District Attorney Training Program, and other administrative duties. Blair was also a member of the Louisiana District Attorney's Association and contributed to legislative agendas before and while briefly serving as the Legislative Liason for the Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office.

Blair is the Vice-President of the Jefferson Bar Association. Blair is also a member of the Louisiana Bar Association; an appointed representative for the Jefferson Parish Charter Advisory Board; and a member of the Board of Managers for LCMC/West Jefferson Medical Center. Blair is an elected member of the Jefferson Parish Executive Republican Committee, District 1, and he is a former elected member of the Louisiana Republican State Central Committee.

Cory S. Grant

Cory S. Grant is an associate attorney at Couhig Partners. Cory received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy from the University of Dallas in 2010, graduating cum laude. Cory received his Juris Doctor and Sports Law Certificate from Tulane Law School in 2013, graduating magna cum laude. At Tulane Law School, he was a member of the Moot Court Executive Board, participated on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Moot Court Team, acted as a Senior Editor on the Sports Law Journal, and served as a senator in Tulane's Graduate and Professional School Association.



Upon completing law school, Cory worked as an Assistant Parish Attorney for the Parish of St. Bernard, gaining valuable litigation experience early in his career. Cory is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Louisiana, as well as the Federal Court of Claims.



Tate Martin

Tate Martin joined Couhig Partners in 2018. He is primarily engaged in a litigation practice, with an emphasis on contract law, personal injury law, and business representation. Tate is also a NFLPA Certified Contract Advisor.

Tate received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Louisiana College in 2014 and received his Juris Doctor with a Certification in Sports Law from Tulane Law School in 2017.

While in law school at Tulane, Tate externed with the National Labor Relations Board, served as Co-Chair for the Tulane Pro Football Negotiation Competition, and served as Senior Articles Editor for The Sports Lawyers Journal.

Tate's comment, "Wake Up Call: How the Ray Rice Incident Opened the Public's Eyes to Domestic Violence in Professional Sports and the Need for Change", was published in the Spring 2017 edition of The Sports Lawyers Journal.

Tate was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 2018 and is admitted to practice in all state and federal courts in Louisiana.

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