

Brian M. LeCompte



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education

Loyola University New Orleans College of Law
(J.D., 2000)

University of Southwestern Louisiana (B.A.,
English, 1997)

admissions

Louisiana

honors

- *Martindale-Hubbell™* AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated Lawyer

affiliations

Professional

- American Bar Association
- Louisiana State Bar Association
- National Business Aviation Association
- New Orleans Bar Association
- Defense Research Institute, Aviation Committee

Community

- Epilepsy Foundation
- CASA: Court Appointed Special Advocates

My experience as an aircraft mechanic — including my understanding of human factors, safety, troubleshooting, systems integration, and cascading failures — uniquely positions me to successfully litigate highly technical products liability matters. Over the last 20 years, I have litigated complex products cases for all types of manufacturers from motorcycles to next-generation military aircraft. Clients rely on me to cut through the clutter to secure early dismissals when possible, negotiate prompt resolutions when appropriate, and win their most critical cases on the merits.

Brian LeCompte is the Chair of the firm's Aviation and Aerospace group and has litigated a wide range of aviation, products liability, and maritime cases throughout Louisiana, the continental United States, and Hawaii. He successfully defends fixed-wing, rotorcraft, and tilt-rotor aircraft cases. His

corporate defense clients include some of the largest aircraft, aerospace, and automotive manufacturers in the world.

In addition to aviation and products liability, Brian defends clients in a wide range of general litigation and liability matters, including:

- Toxic tort
- Medical malpractice
- Trucking
- Commercial and Government Contracts
- Premises liability

Before becoming a lawyer, Brian served for six years as Crew Chief on F-15 Eagles in the 159th Fighter Wing of the Louisiana National Guard where he was responsible for all aspects of his aircraft's maintenance, safety, and airworthiness. This experience, coupled with more than 20 years of litigating commercial, military, and general aviation cases, gives Brian unique insight into the business and legal challenges faced by his clients.

Aviation Defense

As Chair of the firm's Aviation and Aerospace group, Brian coordinates a wide range of litigation involving all types of aircraft (fixed-wing, rotary, tilt rotor, hot air balloons), airports (commercial and private), fixed base operators, commercial air carriers, and insurers. With in-depth knowledge of the mechanical, technical, and engineering issues underlying aircraft mishaps and incident lawsuits, Brian and his team defend aviation clients all over the continental United States and Hawaii.

Maritime Defense

Brian has represented vessel owners, rig owners, property owners, logistics companies, maritime suppliers, oil and gas companies, drilling contractors, government contractors, and brokers. As a member of the Louisiana maritime litigation and trial law team, he has handled various matters including:

- Defense and Indemnity
- Jones Act

- Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act
- Death on the High Seas Act
- Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
- Maritime collisions and fires
- Personal injury and wrongful death
- Product liability claims
- Ship and barge property damage

Representative Experience

Boyd et al v. Drug Fighter Enterprises, et. al., No. 2:19-CV-13803 (EDLA 12/7/2020). Representing manufacturing interests in the fatal stunt plane crash involving a local celebrity, successfully removed the case to federal court and secured the dismissal of client on jurisdictional grounds.

Chevalier v. Charles, et al., No. 2020-CC-0223, 295 So.3d 395 (La. 4/27/2020). Focusing on early claim resolution, defended a multi-national automobile manufacturer before the Louisiana Supreme Court for lack of personal jurisdiction in which Louisiana fell in line with recent U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

Kramer et al. v. Textron Aviation Inc., et al., (ED Tenn 1/28/2020). Successfully secured an early dismissal on motion practice for an airplane manufacturer in a suit that arose out of a fatal injury to the pilot from an alleged spontaneous ignition of the propeller during pre-flight inspection.

Andrus v. BMW of North America, LLC, et. al., No. 18-129566 (16th JDC, La. 01/31/2019). In a product liability action arising out of the crash of a high-performance motorcycle, team secured an early dismissal after showing plaintiff could not meet burden of proving a specific product defect under the Louisiana Products Liability Act.

Determan v. the Boeing Co; et al., 294 F.Supp.3d 1005 (D. Hawai'i 2018) affirmed 782 Fed.Appx. 657. Understanding the exigency for early claim resolution, worked closely with other manufacturing interests to move the case into a posture for dispositive motion practice; successfully obtained summary judgment for client dismissing all claims on the "government contractor defense." On appeal, the U.S. Ninth Circuit upheld summary judgment.

Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. vs. Louisiana Department of Economic Development, et al., Civ. Action No. 18-672-884 (19th JDC, La. 08/21/2018). Brought a declaratory action to protect client's contractual rights with the State of Louisiana which ultimately

facilitated a mutually agreeable alternative to the parties' cooperative endeavor agreement.

LeBlanc v. Panther Helicopters Inc., et al., No. 2:14-cv-01617 (EDLA 11/27/2018). Complex, multi-party litigation involving personal injury, wrongful death, and survival claims arising out of a helicopter crash into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Croucher v. Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., No. 10-19293 (38th JDC, La. 11/19/2018). Complex, multi-party litigation involving a fatal helicopter crash in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Estate of Campbell v. Southern Sea Plane, Inc., et al., No 61CI1:16-cv-00038 (Rankin County, MS 7/26/2017). Aviation group secured an early dismissal for clients based, in part, on a novel application of leap year.

Hammer, et. al. v. PHI, Inc., et. al., 2016 WL 7031774 (EDLA 12/01/2016). Perfected the removal of a multi-party action to federal court based on an extension of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a forced helicopter landing in the Louisiana marshland and ultimately secured an amicable dismissal of all claims.

Clark v. PHI Inc., et al., No. 2:12-cv-00411 (EDLA 12/21/12). In a helicopter personal injury crash, successfully defended client through early motion practice and the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994's statute of repose.

Yelton, et al. v. PHI, Inc., et al., No. 2:09-cv-3144 (EDLA 10/27/2011). Complex, multi-party litigation arising out of a fatal helicopter crash in Louisiana involving claims spanning from Texas to Florida.

Nabors Offshore Corporation v. Caterpillar Inc., et al., No. 2016-CA-0003, 204 So.3d 1068 (La. App. 4th Cir. 10/30/2016). Drilling barge fire implicating multiple parties and millions of dollars in claims.

Air Logistics et al. v. Bell Helicopter Textron Inc., No. 05-1334 c/w 05-1335 (WDLA 02/02/2009). Fatal helicopter crash occurring off the coast of Nigeria.