

## Ones to Watch: Law

By: Valerie Huntley, Market Research/Reporter | December 7, 2017 | 0

### ONES TO WATCH | Law



**Pastorek**



**Malish**



**Simonson**



**Frazier**



**Kadden**



**Bennett**



**Therio**

#### **Jeff Pastorek**

partner

Couhig Partners LLC

Jeff Pastorek's practice is focused on construction, admiralty/maritime and education law. On top of his successful legal career, he is also a painter and illustrator. He has created designs for Defend New Orleans, and his work has been featured in "Oxford American" and exhibited at The New Orleans Contemporary Arts Center, The Front and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Pastorek brings energy, attention to detail and a creative approach in both his legal work and artistic endeavors.

Pastorek has been selected to the Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Stars List from 2015 through 2018. He co-authored "Analysis of Alexander v. Norfolk Southern Corporation," Westlaw Journal, Vol. 30, Issue 9, June 2012. Born and raised in New Orleans, he attended Loyola University before receiving his juris doctorate from Tulane University.

**Jedd S. Malish**

of counsel

King Krebs & Jurgens PLLC

Jedd Malish is a skilled and experienced litigator who has represented clients throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. He has handled a wide array of maritime matters including collisions, allisions, sinkings, salvage, pipeline ruptures, pollution, commercial disputes, insurance coverage, subrogation, recreational boating accidents and defense of personal injury and wrongful death claims arising under the Jones Act, LHWCA and general maritime law. Malish has also counseled clients in the drafting and negotiation of master service agreements, marine transportation agreements, purchase order terms and conditions and warranty provisions.

Malish received his juris doctorate from Loyola University and his bachelor of arts degree in history from Tulane University. He is a native of Philadelphia and remains an avid Eagles fan.

**Eric Simonson**

member

McGlinchey Stafford PLLC

Eric Simonson is a member in McGlinchey Stafford's commercial litigation group. He is an experienced trial attorney, representing a variety of business entities in a wide range of commercial contract disputes, lease disputes and other related commercial litigation matters. He also represents numerous banks, mortgage lenders and mortgage loan servicers in an array of disputes with their customers and vendors. Simonson has represented clients in state and federal courts throughout Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, California, Ohio, New York, Arkansas and Oklahoma. And he has argued on multiple occasions before the Louisiana Fourth and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeal as well as the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal. He also has a construction litigation practice that involves both commercial and residential property, and has lectured on a wide range of litigation topics. Additionally, Simonson has represented companies in a variety of bankruptcy matters in Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Ohio and Massachusetts, with representation including the defense of Bankruptcy Rule 2004 examinations sought by the U.S. Trustee.

Simonson is a member of McGlinchey Stafford's management committee, and he is the section head for the commercial litigation practice in the firm's New Orleans and Cleveland offices. He also serves as a member of the firm's recruiting, diversity, technology advisory, member nominations and member compensation committees. He was recognized in the 2017 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers for both business litigation and class action/mass torts: defense. He received his juris doctorate from Loyola University and was a member of the Loyola Law Review, Loyola Moot Court board and National Moot Court team. He also received his MBA from the University of New Orleans and his bachelor of science degree in finance from LSU.

**Krystin Frazier**

associate

Kelly Hart LLP

Krystin Frazier is an associate in the energy/environmental law section in the New Orleans office and represents clients in oil, gas and energy litigation and transactions. She represents both oil and gas exploration companies, as well as land owners in various matters, including claims and disputes, environmental litigation, commercial litigation and environmental regulatory work. She also has considerable experience in cases involving breach of contract, premise liability, products liability, toxic torts and business disputes. Prior to joining Kelly Hart, Frazier worked for Forman Perry Watkins Krutz & Tardy law firm where she represented clients in toxic torts, asbestos and environmental litigation. Additionally, she was the responsible attorney for oilfield legacy litigation by landowners and public entities alleging environmental damage from oil exploration and production in New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi. Previously, she was an attorney with King, Krebs & Jurgens PLLC where she defended clients in oilfield litigation and environmental regulatory matters, as well as commercial litigation and business disputes.

Frazier is New Orleans program director for the Women's Energy Network and is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

She received her juris doctorate from Southern University Law Center and was the editor of the Southern University Law Review and the executive editor of the Public Defender Newspaper. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Grambling State University.

**Benjamin Kadden**

shareholder

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard

With more than a decade of experience, Benjamin Kadden has built a highly recognized legal career that is complemented by his dedication to bettering the community. From Lugensuhl's New Orleans headquarters, he has served as lead counsel in several complex Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases involving large companies in the marine and oil and gas sectors, which earned him recognition as a Leader in his Field in the 2017 Chambers USA Guide. He focuses on several practice areas including bankruptcy, restructuring and creditors' rights; corporate and commercial law; mergers and acquisitions; litigation; asset-based finance; and marine finance and vessel documentation.

Providing support and services for New Orleans military veterans and families with lifelong rehabilitative needs, Kadden serves as board secretary for the nonprofit Bastion Community of Resilience. He is an active member of the Turnaround Management Association, which works to help distressed businesses while preventing issues in healthy companies. He is also a member of Propeller's Pro Bono Professional Network, a nonprofit that incubates and launches socially minded ventures, and he was awarded the 2015 Louisiana State Bar Association Pro Bono Publico Award for his pro bono legal assistance with Clear Health Analytics. He also maintained a spot on the Louisiana Rising Stars list by Super Lawyers for the past four years. He received his juris doctorate from Tulane University and his bachelor of arts degree from LSU.

**Mary Nell Bennett**

associate

Smith & Fawer LLC

For the past six years, Mary Nell Bennett has worked as an associate attorney at the law firm of Smith & Fawer. She is currently a senior associate attorney and is responsible for representing landowners throughout Louisiana in the areas of eminent domain and property litigation. During her tenure with Smith & Fawer, she has helped the firm secure millions of dollars in verdicts against government entities for the taking of private property. She also practices generally in the area of complex commercial litigation. Prior to joining Smith & Fawer, Bennett handled multi-district litigation cases all over the country. During law school, she clerked at the U.S. Attorney's office and also for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office.

On several occasions, Bennett has presented a continuing legal education course on eminent domain for the Louisiana State Bar Association's annual summer school meeting. She also presented on the topic of experts in eminent domain litigation for a national landowners' organization, The Owners' Counsel of America, and on the topic of expropriations in Louisiana for the National Business Institute for Continuing Legal Education. Bennett is a member of the Louisiana Bar and New Orleans Bar Associations and a team member and on the advisory board for Hogs for the Cause. She received her juris doctorate from Loyola University and her bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Mississippi.

**Erica Therio**

associate

Barrasso Usdin Kupperman Freeman & Sarver LLC

Erica Therio practices in the fields of commercial and insurance coverage litigation at the firm. She is very active in professional and civic activities and previously served on the board of the Younger Lawyers Division of the New Orleans chapter of the Federal Bar Association and on committees for the Justice For All Ball, – Pro Bono Project's annual fundraising event – and for the New Orleans Museum of Art's Odyssey Ball. She is a member of the Youth Empowerment Project's 40 Under 40 and a member of the Tulane Law Review Alumni Association, the Association for Women Attorneys and the Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Associations. In the past, Therio assisted the Orleans Public Defender's office by representing indigent criminal defendants on a pro bono basis.

She received a bachelor of science in ecology and evolutionary biology from Tulane University and her juris doctor from Tulane Law School where she served as senior managing editor of the Tulane Law Review and as a senior fellow for the legal research and writing program.

### **WHO'S WATCHING YOU?**

To submit your name or a colleague's for "Ones to Watch," contact Valerie Huntley at [vhuntley@nopg.com](mailto:vhuntley@nopg.com) or 293-9273.

**To sign up for free CityBusiness Daily Updates, click [here](#).**