

Ones to Watch: Law

By: Valerie Huntley, Market Research/Reporter | February 14, 2018 | 0

ONES TO WATCH | Law



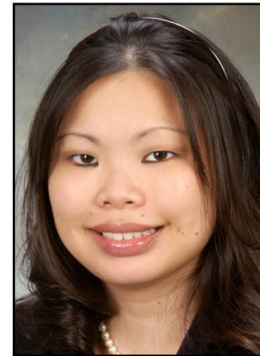
Schorr



Cavnac



Claverie



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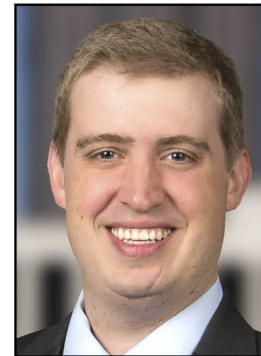
Centner



Abbott



Thomas



Savoie

Eric Schorr

partner

Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel LLC

Eric Schorr joined Sessions, Fishman, Nathan & Israel LLC in 2002 and practices primarily in the areas of trusts, estate planning and probate. He is certified by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization as a specialist in estate planning and estate administration. He advises clients in all aspects of estate planning and estate administration, and is recognized as an authority in the fields of special needs trusts and Medicaid planning.

Schorr is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and the New Orleans Estate Planning Council. He has received several awards for law excellence in the areas of federal taxation of wealth transmission and federal income taxation. Schorr is approved as a dispute resolution arbitrator by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and frequently serves on arbitration panels deciding cases of securities law violation and broker/dealer misconduct. He received his undergraduate degree from Tulane University and his juris doctor from Loyola University, where he served on the editorial board of the Loyola University Journal of Public Interest Law as articles editor. He also received his master of laws degree in elder law from the Stetson University School of Law.

Jason Cavignac**partner**

Couhig Partners LLC

Jason Cavignac joined the firm in 2006. He is primarily engaged in a litigation practice, with an emphasis on business representation, construction and surety law and personal injury representation. Cavignac is also a National Football League Players Association-certified contract advisor. He also has experience in all aspects of construction law on both public and private projects. He represents contractors, subcontractors and sureties in projects governed by the Louisiana Public Works Act and has filed and defended bid protests under the Louisiana Public Bid Law. In addition to representing owners, contractors, subcontractors and sureties in private works cases, Cavignac has appeared before the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors and assisted contractors with licensing issues. Additionally, he routinely holds seminars on lien law at the Home Builders Association of Greater New Orleans.

While in college, Cavignac worked as an intern in the newsroom at the ABC affiliate in Lafayette. Upon graduation, he was hired to produce the morning news show. While still a producer, he began writing and shooting feature news stories and became a full-time news reporter and fill-in anchor. Cavignac covered general news stories ranging from city council meetings and live breaking news events around Acadiana to traveling to Central America to report on the Louisiana military's role in rebuilding Honduras after Hurricane Mitch.

Cavignac is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Jefferson 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 and was recently elected to serve as vice president for the Jefferson Bar Association for 2018. Cavignac received his bachelor's degree in mass communications/broadcasting from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and his juris doctorate from Tulane University. During law school, he 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.

Philip deVilliers Claverie Sr.**senior partner**

Phelps Dunbar LLP

Philip deVilliers Claverie Sr. practices in the area of banking and commercial real estate law and specializes in business transactions, banking and real estate transactions and probate matters and he is also the co-author for Louisiana Commercial Financing Forms (Reid-Elsevier 1991).

Claverie was named board chair for Covenant House New Orleans. He has served on many New Orleans boards including chairman and trustee of the board of Children's Hospital, advisory board member for the World Trade Center, a member of the Rotary International New Orleans Club and chairman of the board for Isidore Newman School. He is also a member of the American Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association, among others. He received the New Orleans Bar Association's Presidents Award for business ethics and community service, the New Orleans Banking Lawyer of the Year from Best Lawyers in America and was listed in The Best Lawyers in America for banking and real estate and banking finance; real estate. He was also listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in American Law. He is a graduate of Metairie Park Country Day, Princeton University and Tulane Law School.

Kim Nguyen**partner**

Lowe Stein Hoffman Allweiss & Hauver LLP

Kim Nguyen maintains an active litigation practice where she concentrates on family law, counseling clients considering prenuptial agreements, divorce, child custody, support actions, property disputes and all other aspects

of family law. In addition to her work representing her clients, she is a frequent lecturer at Loyola University and she also lectures on family law topics at continuing professional education seminars.

Nguyen is a member of the Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association and A.P. Tureaud American Inns of Court where she serves on the executive committee. She also serves on the board of directors and acts as vice president of community relations for the Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association where she is a founding member. She is also a founding member of The Vietnamese American Bar Association. Nguyen is a member of the Junior League of New Orleans and currently serves on the Regional Committee of The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and is a member of the Young Leadership Council. She has been named by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star since 2012.

Nguyen earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of New Orleans, her doctor of jurisprudence from Loyola University and also attended the University of Vienna Law School where she studied international law. Upon graduation from Loyola, she served as a judicial clerk to Judge Kern Reese, Civil District Court for Orleans Parish. During law school, Nguyen also served as a judicial clerk to Judge Joseph Wilkinson Jr., magistrate, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. She was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 2004.

Dan Centner

attorney

Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard

Dan Centner specializes in developing and executing targeted, cost-effective resolution strategies in a variety of commercial litigation matters, including oil and gas-related disputes, insurance coverage, cybersecurity, directors and officers' liability, construction/surety and real estate litigation matters. He is also a contributor to the Lugenhuhl blog.

Centner is a member of the American Bar Association's business law and tort trial and insurance practice sections. Recently, he spoke at the ABA Fidelity and Surety Law committee's 2018 midwinter conference in Washington, D.C., presenting "The History of Arbitration." Centner has been named to the Louisiana Super Lawyers' Rising Stars list for the past two years in the field of business litigation. He graduated from Tulane University, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as senior associate editor of the Tulane Law Review.

Charles Abbott

partner

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP

Charles Abbott has been litigating toxic tort matters in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas his entire career. He leads the management of large dockets of asbestos cases on behalf of both premises and products defendants, including a Fortune 100 chemical company and Fortune 500 electronics company that had been heavily involved in the printing and paper industries. Abbott currently serves as national counsel for four separate clients in connection with their silica litigation, national counsel for another client in connection with its benzene and butadiene litigation. He serves as lead defense liaison counsel on behalf of a Fortune 100 company in connection with a putative class action filed in Orleans Parish, in a case involving allegations of improper sterilization of medical devices at a local hospital.

Abbott was selected as a Top 50 Super Lawyer in Louisiana for 2018, Martindale-Hubbell AV Peer Rated and Leadership in Law class of 2014 by New Orleans CityBusiness. He is a past board member and vice president of the Men's Club at St Paul's Episcopal School and also serves as an assistant bar examiner for the Committee on Bar Admissions of the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

Abbott is a graduate of Millsaps College with a bachelor of arts in Spanish and a Paul M. Herbert Law Center at LSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in civil law studies and a juris doctorate.

Georgia Kobos Thomas

managing partner

Seale & Ross, PLC – St. Tammany Office

Georgia Kobos Thomas' practice has an emphasis in the areas of business law, encompassing transactional work and commercial litigation as well as defense of governmental entities in casualty litigation. She assists small to medium sized businesses in organizing limited liability companies and preparing operating agreements. Thomas also maintains a thriving domestic litigation practice, handling matters related to premarital planning, prenuptial agreements, spousal support, child support, child custody/visitation, OCS matters, protective orders, adoption and community property issues. She also practices in the area of estate planning, preparing wills, medical powers of attorney, durable powers of attorney and living wills. She maintains a succession and interdiction practice where she represents executors of estates and curators as well as other potential succession heirs.

Prior to joining Seale & Ross in 2011, Thomas performed transactional work and commercial litigation in New Orleans and Metairie for 11 years with a regional law firm and a medium sized urban firm. She has been admitted to practice before all Louisiana state courts, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District and Middle District of Louisiana, as well as the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Thomas is an active member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the 21st and 22nd Judicial District Bar Associations. She is past vice president for the Association of Women Attorneys – New Orleans and past board member of the New Orleans Center for Speech and Hearing. In addition, she is the founder of the Russian Orphans Relief Foundation, which strives to make life better for children living in Russian orphanages. Thomas was selected to participate in Leadership St. Tammany for the class of 2014, which is a group of community leaders who participate in monthly meetings that bring about greater awareness of challenges facing St. Tammany Parish.

Thomas is the president of the North Shore Estate Planning Council, secretary of Leadership St. Tammany Alumni Foundation and secretary of BNI Chapter. She has been designated a Rising Star by Super Lawyers, 2013-2014 and is a tri-athlete, having competed in several sprint triathlons and is also an avid cyclist, training and completing the MS-150 Tour and other events. She graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in political science from William Carey College in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. She then earned her juris doctor degree from Loyola University.

Robert Savoie**member**

McGlinchey Stafford PLLC

Robert Savoie is a member of the consumer financial services compliance group and represents financial institutions with respect to banking and consumer financial services' regulatory compliance and cybersecurity concerns. He has significant experience working with consumer financial services companies, ranging from established lenders operating in all 50 states to FinTech startups to ensure their compliance with changing state and federal regulations and help them expand business operations. Savoie's clients include national mortgage lenders and servicers, marketplace lenders and other FinTech companies, automotive and personal property finance companies, small loan companies, national and state banks and companies engaged in merchant cash advance and factoring. He has particular experience assisting lenders and servicers with compliance with state and federal lending, licensing and debt collection laws and also advises financial services providers on compliance with federal and state data privacy laws, identity theft and security breach laws and regulations to ensure consumer information remains secure.

Savoie is a frequent speaker on consumer financial services compliance topics, including the issues relating to the FinTech industry, licensing, legislative updates and emerging trends. He also regularly publishes updates pertaining to lenders of all types. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association and advisory council member for the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System State Regulatory Registry. Savoie received the Louisiana Super Lawyers Rising Stars designation from 2016-2018. He received his juris doctorate from the University of Notre Dame and his bachelor's in business administration in managerial finance and banking finance from the University of Mississippi.

WHO'S WATCHING YOU?

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

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