



Kristie E. Johnson

Partner

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Kristie Escudier Johnson, the regional managing partner of the firm's Houston and Beaumont, Texas, offices, has more than 25 years of experience in civil defense litigation and insurance coverage matters. Kristie maintains a diverse practice in Texas and Louisiana defending suits involving catastrophic personal injuries, construction defects, products liability, premises liability, professional liability, insurance coverage and bad faith, cyber data breach, trucking and transportation, toxic torts and complex commercial disputes. In addition to her litigation practice, Kristie provides coverage advice to insurers in the areas of commercial general liability, professional liability, and errors and omissions.

She routinely litigates matters in the state and federal courts of Texas and Louisiana, and has defended disputes pending before the American Arbitration Association. Kristie is grounded in her evaluation of each matter by her business background, including her certification as a Certified Public Accountant (inactive) in the State of Louisiana. Moreover, Kristie employs the knowledge and skill gained over five and a half years working as a judicial law clerk for both state and federal judges in Louisiana courts. After moving to Texas, she spent a number of years defending insurance companies in first-party litigation, including bad faith and extra-contractual claims. For the past 15 years, Kristie has focused her practice on civil defense and insurance coverage.

Kristie prides herself on organizational skills, attention to detail and seeking to find the most economical and expeditious resolution to her client's problems. She makes it a point to continually assess resolution strategies and focus efforts on specified goals. She maintains an open line of communication with her clients and carriers to ensure the entire team is fully apprised of all developments and case strategy.

Complex Tort & General Casualty / Trucking & Transportation / Energy

Kristie has extensive experience representing apartment complex owners, hotels and a

Services

- Admiralty & Marine
- Design Professionals
- Commercial Litigation
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Construction
- Cybersecurity & Data Privacy
- Insurance & Reinsurance Coverage
- Contractual/Extra-Contractual Liability Litigation
- Product Liability, Prevention & Government Compliance
- Professional Liability & Services
- Toxic Tort
- Transportation

variety of businesses in premises liability claims, which have involved sexual assaults and slips and falls. Moreover, with the proliferation of oil and gas refineries and plants, and associated businesses and service providers for the oil and gas industry in the Gulf South, Kristie has defended numerous suits arising out of oil and gas drilling rigs, pipeline construction and maintenance, and plant-related incidents resulting in catastrophic personal injuries. Kristie vigorously defends a docket of auto liability matters involving a national ride-share software provider, and other transportation and cargo providers. These cases involve wrongful death and catastrophic injuries, brain damage, amputation, paralysis, burns, and other injuries, impairments and disfigurements.

Construction Defect / Professional Liability

Kristie routinely litigates construction design and defect claims against architects, engineers, general contractors and subcontractors. In her career, Kristie has defended plumbers, roofers, window subcontractors, gypsum sheathing subcontractors, swimming pool contractors, general contractors, geotechnical engineers and architects. The construction projects involved in the litigation have included custom-built homes, multi-story residential living complexes, food manufacturing facilities, commercial mid-rise office buildings, academic buildings and other commercial construction.

Products Liability

Kristie has an active products liability practice and has defended various product manufacturers in multiple industries. In the past 10 years alone, she has defended U.S., Korean and English manufacturers, involving various products such as heavy industrial equipment, plug-in air fresheners, laptop computers, tires, all-terrain vehicles, pressure relief valves and human nutritional supplements.

Insurance Coverage

Kristie has offered coverage opinions and analysis involving commercial general liability, professional liability, and errors and omissions policies. Kristie's diverse litigation practice has lent itself well to better analyzing the scope and possibilities relevant to coverage. Moreover, with Kristie's Louisiana practice, she has asserted various coverage defenses on behalf of the carrier in suits brought under the Louisiana Direct Action Statute.

Education

- Louisiana State University, Paul M. Hebert Law Center (J.D., 1997)
- Southeastern Louisiana University (B.S., 1994)
 - magna cum laude

Bar Admissions

- Texas
- Louisiana

Court Admissions

- U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Texas
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Louisiana

Professional Affiliations

- Houston Bar Association
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel