

GÉRARD J. SONNIER

EXPERIENCE

2001-Present Waste Management, Inc. Houston, TX

Vice President, Assistant General Counsel – Litigation

- SEC and Shareholder litigation, including settlement of Class Action litigation due to financial restatements.
- Manage all non-environmental or labor litigation for Waste Management, including legacy litigation resulting from stock acquisitions of over 1,000 companies.
- Implemented Total Legal Cost matter management protocol.
- Brought in-house management of toxic tort docket resulting in savings of several million dollars per year.
- Management of complex commercial litigation.

2000-2001 Baker Hughes Incorporated Houston, TX

Acting General Counsel and Chief Compliance Counsel

- Audit Ethics Committee of the Board of Directors approved my appointment as the Chief Compliance Counsel for Baker Hughes until we were able to hire a full time Compliance Counsel. I managed the annual audit ethics questionnaire and helped develop an online questionnaire that allowed us to use technology to monitor compliance and reporting.
- Reported to the Board of Directors and the Audit Ethics Committee, on various internal investigations regarding potential FCPA violations in Indonesia, India and Brazil, as well as accounting investigations into irregularities in certain overseas operations.

1998-2000 Baker Hughes Incorporated Houston, TX

Deputy General Counsel - Litigation

- Managed in-house international legal team and contracts administrators.
- Coordinated, along with internal security and our outside consultants, the hostage release and evacuation of expats in Columbia, including negotiations with the FARC and the U.S. Attorney assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Columbia. I also lead the resulting internal investigation.
- Managed DOJ and SEC investigations and inquiries. Met regularly with the SEC and DOJ to apprise them of our investigations.
- Successfully managed security class action and derivative litigation.
- Coordinated the forensic accounting investigation and reporting of

financial discrepancies in overseas operations for one of our divisions, primarily in Venezuela, and worked closely with our internal audit and financial teams as well as the SEC.

- Selected and implemented new matter management system.
- Organized and conducted the first BHI Outside Litigation Counsel Conference, November, 1999.
- Negotiated comprehensive alternative dispute agreement with major competitor.
- Helped develop interactive based CD ROM training modules and practices and procedures for compliance related business issues, such as hiring agents overseas, antitrust considerations, FCPA compliance, and business ethics.
- Managed international arbitrations in London, India, Kuala Lumpur.
- Managed various IP and noncompete litigation.
- Member of the BHI Crisis Response Team.

1997-1998 Baker Hughes Incorporated

Houston, TX

Chief Litigation Counsel

- Manage all litigation and potential disputes world wide (300+).
- Developed and implemented the BHI *Litigation Model*.
- Autopsy program.
- Coordinated and conducted internal investigations on FCPA, antitrust, political corruption, fraud (domestic and international), financial misstatements and antitrust allegations.
- Conducted legal compliance and contract seminars.

1990-1997 Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins & Burr New Orleans, LA

Director

- Litigation of PI and Commercial disputes in State and Federal Courts in LA and TX.

1987-1990 McGlinchey Stafford New Orleans, LA

Associate

- Litigation of offshore and maritime related PI and commercial disputes.

1985-1987 Hebert, Mouledoux & Bland New Orleans, LA

Associate

- Litigation of offshore and maritime related PI and commercial disputes.

1983-1985 Milling Benson New Orleans, LA

Associate

- Litigation of Maritime related PI and Commercial disputes.

EDUCATION

1980-1983 Tulane University School of Law New Orleans, LA

- J.D. - Graduated *Cum Laude*

1976-1980 University of Colorado Boulder, CO

- B.A. – Economics

ACCREDITATION/MEMBERSHIPS

- Louisiana State Bar 1983
- Texas State Bar 1993
- ACCA
- Publication – Loyola Law Review, Fifth Circuit Symposium, Admiralty, Winter, 1994