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**Kerrie T. Belsome**



**Associate**  
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**Location**  
New Orleans, LA

**Practice Areas**  
- Appellate  
- Civil Litigation

**Jurisdictions**  
- Louisiana

Kerrie Belsome is an associate with the firm, primarily working in civil litigation and appeals. She earned her Juris Doctor degree and Bachelor of Civil Law degree from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University. While there, Ms. Belsome received several academic scholarships and awards, including the Louisiana State Bar Association's Section on Corporation and Business Law Scholarship (Fall 2002), the C.E. Laborde, Jr. Scholarship Award (2001-2002), and the Vinson and Elkins Scholarship Award (2000-2001). She was also inducted as a member of the Louisiana Chapter of the Order of the Coif (Spring 2002).

**Professional Activities and Honors**

American Bar Association  
Louisiana State Bar Association

**Education**

J.D., B.C.L., Louisiana State University, 2002  
B.A., Louisiana State University, 2000

**Representative Works**

**Personal Injury**

Mr. Kerrigan, Mr. Glas and Ms. Belsome obtained precedent-setting summary judgments on behalf of U.S. Gypsum Corporation and its subsidiary, L&W Supply Corporation, in a multi-million dollar untarping case. Plaintiff was a Western Express truck driver who was paralyzed after falling from atop his load of stacked sheetrock while on L&W Supply property. Plaintiff claimed that Defendants knew that truck drivers were sometimes forced to climb their load during untarping, and did nothing to prevent the practice or protect the drivers. Plaintiff argued that Defendants owed a duty under OSHA's Multi-Employer Worksite Doctrine and Louisiana state law, and breached that duty by failing to provide fall protection, warnings, and assistance. Defendants argued that they owed no duty to tell a non-employee, professional truck driver how to do his job while on L&W Supply property. Judge Engelhardt of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana wrote an eleven-page judgment agreeing that the Defendants neither owed nor assumed a duty to the Plaintiff; he further concluded that Plaintiff's "failure to take precautions when faced with obvious risk, combined with [Western Express'] seemingly lax driver/untarping policies and procedures, resulted in an unfortunate accident. [Plaintiff's] remedy, albeit limited, is found in workers' compensations benefits provided by his employer." The ruling was issued one week before trial, and only days after opposing counsel demanded \$8 million to settle the case.

*James Offord and Patricia Offord v. United States Gypsum Corporation, Seacoast Supply, and L&W Supply Corporation, USDC EDLA, No. 07-8704, Section "N"*

**Notary Professional Liability**

Mr. Kerrigan and Ms. Belsome represented a notary who was sued in a real estate dispute, along with the property's alleged seller and the appraisal company, after the Plaintiff purchased a lot he claims was part of an "illegal re-subdivision" and thus worthless. The notary had prepared the Act of Cash Sale after analyzing the abstract of the property and determining exactly what was owned by the seller. The Plaintiff claimed that the notary should have

been put on notice that the property was illegally re-subdivided because the description of the property confirmed that the sale was only of the western portion of a lot and for only that portion not previously sold. Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles asserted that the notary had neither actual nor constructive knowledge that the lot was illegally re-subdivided. Judge Elizabeth Wolfe of the 21st JDC, Livingston Parish, agreed and granted a Motion for Summary Judgment dismissing the notary from the suit, noting that while notaries are responsible for the documents they execute, the Defendant did not withhold any information from the Plaintiff, nor did she have any knowledge superior to and/or different from him at the time he read and executed the Act of Cash Sale.

*Terry P. Lambert v. Sterling J. Perkins, Mildred D. Bunch, John D. Ogden and Carlock Ogden Residential Appraisals, LLC*, 21st JDC, Parish of Livingston, Case No. 115698 Div. "F"