

# FormanWatkins

Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP

## FormanWatkins Expands



Forman Watkins & Krutz LLP significantly expands in Texas with a new office in Beaumont, and an addition to its Houston and New Orleans offices.

Joining FormanWatkins and establishing the Beaumont office are David Ledyard, Michael Baker and Vickie Thompson. Thompson, who is licensed in Louisiana and Illinois, will practice out of the firm's New Orleans office as well. Additionally, K.B. Battaglini joins the firm's Houston office. All previously practiced with Strong Pipkin Bissell & Ledyard, LLP and have decades of experience representing regional and national clients in the energy, rail, chemical and securities industries.

Founded in Jackson, Mississippi, FormanWatkins opened its Houston office in 2003 and a New Orleans office in 2002. Along with firm offices in New Jersey and Detroit, the addition of Beaumont strengthens the firm's toxic tort litigation practice and strategically extends its ability to meet the needs of clients nationally and throughout the Gulf South region.

“Our firm could not be more pleased to deepen our Texas and Louisiana roots and gain a group of attorneys with decades of trial experience,” said New Orleans Partner Jim Gray. “In addition to anticipated work for their existing clients, David, Michael, Vickie and K.B. will also provide tremendous trial depth for firm clients in Texas, Louisiana and nationwide.”

Having served as counsel for major oil and chemical companies, Mr. Baker’s practice focuses on toxic tort, mass tort, environmental, products liability, and premises liability litigation. Mr. Battaglini has expertise in commercial, securities, energy, environmental, natural resources, media and entertainment law. In addition to trials, Mr. Battaglini also has significant experience in arbitrations and appeals. Mr. Ledyard represents clients in a wide array of litigation, including business, commercial, construction, toxic tort, premises liability, products liability, maritime, Jones Act and property damage cases. Ms. Thompson is experienced in the defense of personal injury actions, including toxic tort, premises liability, vehicular collision, railroad crossing accident and Jones Act claims. Ms. Thompson also has significant experience in commercial, contract and employment matters.

*About Forman Watkins & Krutz: FormanWatkins focuses on litigation with an emphasis in multi-district tort, environmental and complex commercial matters. Founded in Jackson in 1986, the firm has more than 60 attorneys in six offices (Beaumont, Detroit, Houston, Jackson, New Orleans and Red Bank, NJ) in five states.*