



J. Dwight LeBlanc Jr.

Position: general partner, Chaffe McCall

Family: wife, Janie; sons, J. Dwight III and Beau; and daughters, Beth and Ashley

Education: bachelor of business administration, Tulane University; juris doctorate, Tulane University Law School

Despite a distinguished legal career spanning 41 years, J. Dwight LeBlanc Jr. appraises his wife and children as his most successful achievements. It is trademark modesty from a man who was instrumental in a precedent-setting decision of admiralty law.

The Testbank rule resulted from a case involving the 1980 collision of two vessels on the Mississippi River-Gulf outlet. A chemical, pentachlorophenol, spilled into the water when the outbound West German container ship Testbank collided with the inbound Panamanian bulk carrier Sea Daniel. The accident closed the waterway and damaged the seafood industry and marinas.

"In that particular case, and properly so, it was ruled that the fisherman, shrimpers, oystermen all had a right to claim losses under Louisiana law," said LeBlanc. "I represented one of the ships in the collision and ultimately that ship was found blameless. There were four Testbank decisions because people were filing claims against both vessels and the rule of law was established."

LeBlanc has been with Chaffe McCall since 1963 following a two-year stint with the

Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army. LeBlanc litigates a variety of maritime issues such as collision field, cargo field, personal injury and pollution cases for one of the oldest firms in New Orleans.

"I would not be anything without the support of my fellow lawyers in the admiralty field," said LeBlanc. "It is very important that people understand that everybody has their own particular skill and, as long as you draw on those skills properly, you put out a much better product for your client."

LeBlanc is the vice president of the World Trade Center and serves as head of the transportation committee of the WTC. LeBlanc is also chairman of the New Orleans Port Safety and sits on the New Orleans National Advisory Committee for the Admiralty Law Institute.

A New Orleans native, LeBlanc is an aficionado of sailing and was president of the New Orleans Olympic Sailing Association.

— Jaime Guillet