



Darleene D. Peters

Counsel

400 Poydras Street, Suite 2700
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
dpeters@irwinllc.com
504.310.2122
504.310.2101 fax

Practice Description

Darleene concentrates her practice on insurance, railroad, products liability, and pharmaceuticals and medical devices. In the area of railroad law, she defends matters arising under the Federal Employers' Liability Act (FELA), involving traumatic injuries and a variety of occupational injuries such as repetitive stress, asbestos exposure, and chemical exposure. She also defends railroad companies in grade crossing accidents, derailments, and trespasser claims. Her involvement in pharmaceutical litigation involves the strategic and aggressive defense of product liability claims, as well as unfair trade practices claims, against pharmaceutical companies. Darleene is an integral part of the litigation team. Within her practice areas, she has extensive experience retaining defense experts, taking and defending depositions, and in preparing cases for trial.

Activities, Affiliations, and Accomplishments

Darleene is admitted to practice before all Louisiana state courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the United States District Court for the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Louisiana. From 2004 to 2005, Darleene served as a Judicial Clerk for the Honorable Karen Wells Roby, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

In 2007, she was selected to serve as the co-chairperson of the firm's Diversity Committee. In 2006, Darleene successfully completed the American Bar Association's Tort, Trial, and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS) National Trial Academy in Reno, Nevada.

Darleene is a member of the American Bar Association and its Tort, Trial, and Insurance Practice Section and was selected to serve on its Membership Special Standing Committee. She is also a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the New Orleans Bar Association, where she coordinates various public service projects, such as a clothing drive to benefit local shelters, and a conflict resolution outreach effort targeted to at-risk youth.

Darleene is also active in other local community projects, volunteering for local non-profit organizations. In 2008, she was selected to serve as the President of the Parent Advisory Board for The First Tee of Greater New Orleans, a non-profit organization whose mission is to create affordable and accessible golf facilities, character-development and life-enhancing values with a strong emphasis on serving area youth of all races and economic backgrounds who have not had access or exposure to the game of golf. She is a board member for the House of Ruth, a United Way agency that provides housing assistance to the elderly and families in need. In 2006, she chaired the House of Ruth's largest annual fundraiser. She has also served as a Volunteer Attorney for the New Orleans Bar Association's Open Doors to Federal Court program, and as a Volunteer Judge for the Greater New Orleans Teen Court program.

During law school, Darleene was a staff member and teaching assistant for the Moot Court program. She worked as a Student Practitioner for the Criminal Division of the Loyola Law School Clinic. Additionally, she served as an Extern for the Honorable Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Education

Darlene received her B.S. (1991) from Xavier University, where she majored in Business Administration. She received her J.D. (1998) from Loyola University School of Law. While attending Loyola University, Darlene participated in the dual degree program and earned her M.B.A. (1998).

Presentations

Speaker, “Managing Complex Litigation for the Louisiana Paralegal,” Institute of Paralegal Education, 2003.