



Adam Zuckerman

Shareholder

New Orleans | 504.566.5210 | azuckerman@bakerdonelson.com

Adam Zuckerman is the co-chair of the Firm's Oil & Gas Industry Service Team.

Mr. Zuckerman represents clients in a wide variety of complex commercial litigation with an emphasis on energy litigation, environmental litigation, and natural gas pipeline expropriation and regulatory work. He also has extensive experience with salt dome activities, including brine solution mining and storage facilities. Mr. Zuckerman also has substantial appellate experience, having participated in numerous state and federal appeals and requests for writs of certiorari, and having served as appeal counsel during trial.

Mr. Zuckerman's litigation experience involves numerous aspects of the energy industry. He has litigated a broad range of environmental issues, including groundwater and surface contamination as well as subsidence issues; royalty disputes; title and lease disputes; Louisiana Oil Well Lien Act claims; operating agreement and other breach of contract disputes; pipeline disputes; downhole and other alleged equipment failures; and the like. Additionally, Mr. Zuckerman has significant experience defending against personal injury lawsuits and toxic tort class action and mass action lawsuits.

In connection with his litigation practice, Mr. Zuckerman routinely works with experts on complex engineering, geophysical, environmental, operational, and other technical matters. His deep knowledge base on environmental issues includes matters related to perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanic acid (PFOA). He has also been involved in hundreds of appellate court proceedings in Louisiana state and federal courts.

Mr. Zuckerman served as Judicial Law Clerk to Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Representative Matters

- Ongoing defense of a company in complex state and federal litigation, including completion of Phase 1 liability and Phase 2 damages trials, in connection with brine solution mining operations and the "Bayou Corne sinkhole," a multi-acre sinkhole that formed after a brine mining cavern collapsed at the Napoleonville Salt Dome.
- Ongoing and prior successful defense of multiple oil and gas companies in "legacy lawsuits" seeking remediation of alleged surface and subsurface pollution, including alleged groundwater contamination, with alleged damages often exceeding several hundred million dollars.
- Ongoing defense of Coastal Zone Management Act lawsuits asserted by various parishes.
- Ongoing defense of a midstream company in connection with alleged damages to coastal marsh in 30,000+ acre wildlife management area.
- Ongoing defense of multiple class action lawsuits addressing matters ranging from alleged contamination related to buried lead-sheathed cables to refinery releases.
- Successfully represented a Texas-based midstream company in connection with the construction of its \$1.6 billion natural gas gathering system, including related to landowner negotiations, pipeline crossings, and regulatory matters.
- Successfully represented a natural gas pipeline company in state and federal expropriation proceedings to acquire the necessary servitudes for the construction of multiple natural gas pipelines traversing the northern and southern regions of Louisiana.

- Successfully defended a suit involving an allegedly defective natural gas flowline.
- Successfully represented an oil and gas exploration and production company in a multimillion dollar claim arising out of the alleged breach of preferential rights in a joint operating agreement.
- Successfully defended an oil and gas operator against allegations of fraudulent gas balancing over several decades.
- Defeated class certification in a class action arising out of the release of a chemical that allegedly dispersed throughout a community, and successfully defended a subsequent mass action with more than 5,000 plaintiffs.
- Successfully defended an oil and gas exploration and production company against claims that exposure to NORM caused the plaintiff's cancer.
- Obtained a favorable ruling on behalf of an energy corporation from the Louisiana Court of Appeal, Second Circuit, affirming the state court's holding after a trial that depth limitation language in a \$260 million mineral purchase agreement was unambiguous and that the corporation was the rightful owner of the oil, gas and minerals at issue, with the case demanding a detailed analysis of contract law, as well as an understanding of the complexities of geologic formations and correlative oil and gas well markers.
- Defended an oil and gas operating company in a legacy lawsuit by a private landowner alleging \$200 million in damages due to environmental contamination, erosion, and land loss. Achieved a favorable settlement.



Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *Louisiana Super Lawyers* in Business Litigation (2014); Energy & Resources (2015 – 2024)
- Listed in *Chambers USA* as a leading Energy & Natural Resources: Oil & Gas lawyer in Louisiana (2015 – 2024)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Energy Law (2016 – 2025); Oil and Gas Law (2018 – 2025); Litigation - Environmental and Mass Tort Litigation/Class Actions - Defendants (2022 – 2025); Commercial Litigation and Litigation - Real Estate (2023 – 2025); Litigation - Regulatory Enforcement (SEC, Telecom, Energy) (2024 – 2025)
- Member – Louisiana Bar Association
- Member – American Bar Association
 - Co-chair – Programs Subcommittee, Energy Litigation Committee (2012 – 2013)
- Member – New Orleans Bar Association
 - Chair – Oil and Gas Law Committee (2012 – 2013)
- Member – The Foundation for Natural Resources and Energy Law
- Member – Louisiana Oil and Gas Association
- Member – Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance
- Member – Louisiana Gas Association
- Executive Committee Member and Past President – St. Thomas More American Inn of Court
- Named to *New Orleans Magazine* "2024 Top Lawyers List"
- Recognized as a "Top Lawyer" in Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law by *New Orleans Magazine* (2017); Oil and Gas Law (2018, 2019, 2021 – 2023); Energy Law (2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023)
- Named to *New Orleans City Business* Leadership in Law Honoree (2017)
- Named to *New Orleans City Business* "Ones to Watch" (November 2013)



Publications

- Co-author – "OSHA Issues Guidelines for Oil and Gas Industry Workers and Employers," republished in *Texas Lawyer* (July 2020)

- Co-author – "Coronavirus: Oil and Gas Industry – Essential Workers under Louisiana's Stay-at-Home Order," republished in *New Orleans CityBusiness* (March 22, 2020)
- "Louisiana Legacy Lawsuits Create Unknown Risks for Some E&P Companies," *Oil & Gas Financial Journal* (July 2013)
- Co-author – "A Tough Road to Defend Remediation Suits in Louisiana," *The National Law Journal* (May 2013)
- Co-author – "District Court Considers Limited Liability," *Louisiana Oil and Gas Association's Industry Report* (Spring 2012)
- Co-author – Chapter on Royalty Payments and Remedies, *Louisiana Mineral Law Treatise* (2012)
- Louisiana Reporter (2010 to present) – Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Quarterly Newsletter (January 2010)



Speaking Engagements

- "Experts: Avoiding 'Uh-Oh' Moments," New Orleans Bar Association (December 2017)
- "Case Law and Legislative Update," Louisiana State University's 58th Mineral Law Institute (March 2011)



Webinars

- Coronavirus: Issues Affecting the Oil and Gas Industry (March 30, 2020)



Education

- Loyola University School of Law, J.D., 1998
 - Editor-in-Chief – *Loyola Law Review*, 1997 – 1998
- University of Georgia, B.S., 1995



Admissions

- Louisiana, 1998
- U.S. District Courts, Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit