



## Isaac H. Ryan

Partner

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### Practices

Appellate Litigation  
Commercial Litigation  
Healthcare Litigation  
Manufacturer's Liability &  
Products Liability

### Industries

Healthcare  
Manufacturing

### Bar Admissions

Louisiana

### Education

J.D., Louisiana State  
University, *Louisiana Law  
Review* (1994-95), 1995

B.S., University of Southern  
California, Finance, 1992

Jesuit High School, New  
Orleans, LA, 1988

Mr. Ryan defends clients in complex litigation matters covering products liability, medical malpractice, transportation, and commercial litigation and frequently select appellate cases.

Calling on previous experience in the Third Circuit Court and Supreme Court, Mr. Ryan frequently handles referrals of select appellate cases and is asked to consult with outside counsel in tailoring writ applications for submission to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Mr. Ryan is a member of every court in Louisiana and admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, The United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Federal Circuits, the Tribal Courts of the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana.

Before joining the firm, Mr. Ryan served as law clerk for Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll for three years on both the Third Circuit Court of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court.

### Professional Associations

- Bar Association for the Fifth Federal Circuit
- Supreme Court of Louisiana Historical Society, Board of Directors
- Federal Bar Association

### Accolades

- *Best Lawyers in America*® List, 2007-2020

### Representative Successes

- ***Pociask v. Mosely***  
In *Pociask v. Mosely*, Mr. Ryan enrolled as counsel and drafted an application for writ of certiorari to the Louisiana Supreme Court on behalf of Mr. Pociask which was granted. After briefing and argument, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed the First Circuit Court of Appeal opinion and reinstated the district court's judgment that Mr. Pociask's action to disavow paternity was timely. Summary judgment for Mr. Pociask was reinstated, and Ms. Moseley's claim that he was the father of "J.M." were dismissed.  
*Pociask v. Moseley*, 122 So.3d 533 (La. 2013).
- ***Thistlethwaite v. Gonzalez***  
Mr. Ryan enrolled as appellate counsel in a matter involving an accident that occurred in the early morning on the Bonnet Carre Spillway, West of New Orleans. Rodney Gonzalez had been drinking at a lounge in Metairie, Louisiana, and he was returning to his hotel room in Laplace prior to going to work. Gonzalez' vehicle became disabled partially in the left lane of Interstate 10, where it was struck by a tractor-trailer driven by Jonathan Mouton. The tractor-trailer caught fire, and although Jonathan Mouton was able to escape without physical injuries, his guest passenger, James Thistlethwaite, suffered severe

burns. Mr. Thistlethwaite died eight days later due to injuries sustained in the accident. Rodney Gonzalez was released prior to trial, and the case proceeded against Gonzalez' insurers. After a jury in St. James Parish Louisiana returned a verdict for \$4.1 million in compensatory damages and \$25 million in punitive damages, Mr. Ryan enrolled as appellate counsel. Mr. Ryan successfully argued for a reduction in the amount of punitive damages under the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution. Punitive damages were reduced on appeal to \$5.1 million.

*Thistlethwaite v. Gonzalez*, 13-CA-130 (La.App. 5th Cir. 12/18/12).

- ***Broussard v. Gallo***

Mr. Ryan enrolled as appellate counsel after the Cadillac Cafe was held liable for a bar fight in which one patron smashed a beer bottle on the face of another. The evidence showed that following a verbal altercation, Benjamin Meadors was approached and confronted by Paul Broussard in the parking lot of the Cadillac Cafe in Baton Rouge, LA. Meadors had exited the bar with a beer bottle, in violation of Baton Rouge's "open container" ordinance, and he reacted to Broussard's approach by striking him in the face with the beer bottle. Meadors fled the scene but was chased down and caught by the Cadillac Cafe's bouncers. The case was tried to Judge Wilson Fields, who found Cadillac Cafe 60% at fault, Meadors 30% at fault, and Broussard 10% at fault. Mr. Ryan enrolled as appellate counsel and successfully argued that the Cadillac Cafe had not breached any legal duty to Broussard. Broussard's claims against Cadillac Cafe were dismissed.

*Broussard v. Gallo*, 2012-CA-239 (La.App. 1 Cir. 11/2/2012)

- ***Gaunt v. Progressive Sec. Ins. Co.***

Mr. Ryan enrolled as appellate counsel after a district judge found U-Haul to be 90% at fault for an accident and entered judgment against U-Haul for \$1,795,100. The case involved Mr. Omar Erazo's F-150 pickup truck, which detached from a U-Haul auto transport and rolled free on Interstate 10 before it was struck by James Gaunt's Dodge Ram pickup. Mr. Gaunt was an "eggshell skull" plaintiff, and he alleged shoulder, knee, and spine surgeries as a result of the accident. The evidence showed that Mr. Erazo had noticed the wheel straps coming loose from the F-150 during his trip, but that he "just blew off" U-Haul's request to bring the vehicle to the nearest U-Haul for inspection and assistance. Despite the challenges presented by Louisiana's "manifest error" standard for review of fact, Mr. Ryan successfully argued that the district court's allocation of only 10% fault to Erazo was clearly wrong. The Fourth Circuit reversed the district court, raised the fault of Erazo to 50%, and reduced the judgment against U-Haul to \$897,550.

*Gaunt v. Progressive Sec. Ins. Co.*, 2011-CA-1094 (La.App. 4 Cir. 6/8/2012); 93 So.2d 1250.

- ***Morial v. Smith and Wesson***

Mr. Ryan was counsel for Glock, Inc. in noteworthy and unique litigation brought by the Mayor of New Orleans against the entire firearms industry. The lawsuit brought by Mayor Marc Morial in 1998 was the first such suit of its kind, and caused dozens of similar lawsuits to be brought by other cities and state governments. Mr. Ryan was responsible for drafting a successful appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court which dismissed the Mayor's cause of action.

*Morial v. Smith and Wesson*, 785 So.2d 1 (La. 4/3/01)

### Speaking Engagements

- "Louisiana Appellate Workshop: Real World Tactics," Presentations on Oral Argument in Appellate Court & Louisiana Supreme Court Practice, National Business Institute CLE, June 21, 2013.
- "Fundamentals of Brain Trauma Cases," CLE presentation: New Orleans, LA, October 18, 2007.

- “Using Economics to Win Jury Trials,” CLE presentation, Network of Trial Law Firms, New York, NY, August 10, 2007.
- “A Study of Choices: Cross Examination of the Economist,” CLE presentation, Network of Trial Law Firms, Monterey, CA, April 21, 2007.