

EXHIBIT A

DANIEL E. BECNEL, JR.

HOME ADDRESS:

400 West Fifth Street
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068
Telephone: (985) 652-6747

OFFICE ADDRESS:

106 West Seventh Street
Post Office Drawer "H"
Reserve, Louisiana 70084
Telephone: (985) 536-1186
Fax: (985) 536-6445

I, Daniel E. Becnel, Jr., was born on June 14, 1944. My father, Daniel Elmore Becnel, was an attorney until his death in 1965. He spent most of his career in the military and was a War Crimes Prosecutor after World War II. After his military career ended, he became a Louisiana State Legislator until his death in 1965. My mother was a registered nurse until she passed away on March 22, 2008 at age 92. I have been married twice, first to Deonne Du Barry, and second to Mary Hotard Becnel, presently a State District Judge for the 40th Judicial District Court in Louisiana. My brother and his wife are both attorneys in my firm, as are three of my sons, as well as their wives. My son, Bradley Becnel, works for the White House and is Lead Advance for the President. Fourteen years ago when my brother was dying, I donated a kidney to him which enabled him to return to a normal life.

I attended Louisiana State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1966. In 1969, I earned my Law Degree from Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana. I have been admitted to practice in Louisiana and Colorado, and have been a member in good standing since my admissions. Offices I have held and organizations I have belonged to in my career include the following:

- 1) Chief Investigator, 29th Judicial District (District Attorney's Office) 1969-1970.
- 2) Ponchartrain Levee District Attorney, 1970-1974.
- 3) Member in good standing of the American Bar Association, Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association, 40th Judicial District Bar Association (1969 to present, past president), 29th Judicial District Bar Association, and the American Association for Justice (1969 to present), Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Chapter, Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit.
- 4) Elected Democratic State Central Committee, 26 years.
- 5) Admitted to the United States Supreme Court, 1973.
- 6) Attorney for St. John the Baptist Parish School Board.

In 1972, I tried the first million dollar verdict in the United States for a single individual Paulette Trosclair v. Melton Truck Lines, et al.

Among the cases in which I have been court-appointed as a plaintiffs' attorney and/or class counsel to represent classes of litigants are the following:

The Luling Ferry Disaster, involving the death of 78 people, which was ultimately tried and/or settled before U.S. District Judge Alvin Rubin (deceased) in excess of \$29 million. My office represented thirteen



of the death cases and worked on this committee with Eldon Fallon, now U.S. District Judge, who recently handled both MDL No.1355 Propulsid and MDL No. 1657 Vioxx. To date, this is still the largest maritime disaster in the United States.

Court-appointed in one of the first mass tort civil MDL's in the country in MDL No. 330 Swine Flu Immunization Products Liability Litigation to represent all the plaintiffs (approximately 4,000) across the United States in reference to the Swine Flu Inoculation Program. These cases were tried and handled in Washington, D.C. before U. S. District Judge Gearhart Gisel (deceased), with settlements and/or verdicts in excess of \$500 million.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Legal Committee by U. S. District Judge Henry Mentz in reference to Watson v. Shell Oil Company, which concerned a refinery explosion on May 5, 1988, and involved approximately 18,000 claims. This case was ultimately settled for more than \$200 million.

Appointed Lead Counsel in reference to Deion McGee, et al v. Shell Oil Company, et al, involving 5,000 people. The class was certified by Judge Joel T. Chaisson and affirmed by the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Louisiana State Supreme Court.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Legal Committee as lead counsel by Judge Joel T. Chaisson in Gail Clement v. Occidental Chemical Company, a class action involving approximately 10,000 people. Settled after trial for thirteen million dollars, and my office handled all claim forms, depositions and settlements.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Legal Committees by both U. S. District Judge Parker and U. S. District Judge Polozola in reference to two separate explosions at the Exxon Refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. These cases involved more than 9,000 people each.

Appointed lead counsel, tried and won a successful verdict after four weeks in the United Gas Pipeline Case. This case involved the rupture and/or explosion of a gas pipeline on three separate occasions. Approximately 18,000 people were involved in this litigation. The sample case was ultimately settled, after trial, for more than \$1.5 million. The class cases were tried, one to a jury verdict and one before a District Judge, resulting in a punitive damage award of double the amount of compensatory damages. This was the first class action punitive damage award in Louisiana.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Richard Haik to the Plaintiffs' Committee in the Eunice Train Derailment. Settled for over \$65 million.

In reference to MDL 926 In re Breast Implant Products Liability Litigation, my office supplied forty-three attorneys, full time, for over two years to the document depository in Cincinnati, Ohio. In addition, I supervised approximately thirty lawyers who were supplied by Wendell Gauthier, John Cummings, Calvin Fayard and Hugh Sibley. I personally took numerous depositions in this litigation, including the CEO of Dow Corning Corporation and Dr. Georgiade, the inventor of the MEC breast implant devices (a Bristol-Myers defendant). At the request of MDL Judge Pointer, I loaned four of my attorneys, full time, to handle the incoming calls of unrepresented women who needed questions answered in reference to the Breast Implant Litigation (it should be noted that this resulted in only a \$10,000 profit to my firm). I personally spent, on the common effort, in excess of \$4 million.

In addition, my office provided thirteen lawyers, full time, to a computer center in Louisiana which allowed me to represent women in the Breast Implant Case who could not find attorneys willing to handle their cases. Under MDL Judge Pointer's direction, these women were represented on a per hour basis and not on a percentage. My staff and I handled approximately six hundred of these cases.

My office provides free office space to a legal aid service to help indigents with civil cases.

During the ABA Convention in New Orleans, at the request of the State Department and the ABA, my wife and I hosted Supreme Court Justices from Estonia, Romania, Lithuania, Slovakia and Albania for a week-long stay at our residence. These Justices were here to learn how U.S. State and Federal Courts function as an example of how they may adopt democratic reform in their court system.

My office was involved in the Penile Implant Case and negotiated a grid settlement with Bristol-Myers before that case was even presented for a MDL argument.

As one of the founding members of Dianne Castano, et al v. The American Tobacco Company, et al, a class action suit against the tobacco industry, my office represented Governor Gray Davis and the State of California in the states' settlement with the tobacco industry. My office also did extensive work in cases against the tobacco industry that were pending in New York, Pennsylvania and California. After almost a two year trial, jury selection and liability, a verdict was rendered against the Tobacco Industry for in excess of \$500 million, which was the only smoking cessation verdict in the entire cigarette litigation. In the Louisiana class action, Scott v. The American Tobacco Company, a certified class action for medical monitoring and cessation assistance in the State of Louisiana before Judge Ganucheau, Orleans Parish, was argued before the Appellate Court three months ago and affirmed; writs denied by both the Louisiana Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court.

I was one of the lead attorneys in the case of Barbara A. Brown, et al v. Acromed, et al, Civil Action No. 94-1236, Section I, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana and argued the Pedicle Screw case before the MDL panel in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 22, 1994. Moreover, I supplied seven full-time lawyers to review documents in MDL 1014 Orthopedic Bone Screw Products Liability Litigation before U.S. District Judge Louis Bechtle.

Appointed to the National Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL 1038 Norplant Contraceptive Products Liability Litigation by Judge Richard A. Schell, and the National MDL depository was located at my office complex in Louisiana, under my direction. This case was ultimately certified as a class action in Louisiana.

Appointed to the National Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL 1057 Telectronics Pacing Systems, Inc., Accufix "J" Leads Products Liability Litigation, by U.S. District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel. This case was certified as a national class action on April 2, 1997 and settled for \$100 million.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon to be Lead Counsel in the case of Yvette Cooper v. Koch Pipeline, Inc., which was a class action involving a release of ammonia involving over 10,000 people. This case was remanded to State Court and ultimately settled.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Legal Committee by District Judge Patricia Hedges in reference to the In re Chemical Release at Bogalusa. This case was tried for three and a half months and a jury found all parties liable, awarding \$92 million in punitive damage to the class. In addition, settlements with other defendants were reached in the amount of approximately \$150 million.

Lead attorney in the case of Katharine Christiano, et al v. Napp Technologies, Inc. in Bergen County, New Jersey which settled for \$27 million.

My office was involved in the litigation titled In the Matter of the Complaint of Clearsky Shipping Corp. as Owner, and Cosco (H.K.) Shipping Company Limited, as Manager of the M/V Bright Field, for Exoneration From and/or Limitation of Liability before U. S. District Judge Morey L. Sear. My office is one

of ten firms that handled the litigation in this maritime disaster which also settled.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge John Parker to the Claimants' Steering Committee in the litigation titled In the Matter of the Complaint of Ingram Barge Company, as Owner of the M/V F.R. Bigelow and the IB-960, and Ingram Ohio Barge Co., as Owner Pro Hac Vice of the Ing-371, Petitioning for Exoneration From or Limitation of Liability. This case settled for \$41.75 million in 1999 (my office handled claims intake for over 17,000 people in this toxic tort maritime disaster).

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Legal Committee and the Executive Committee in reference to MDL 1148 In re Latex Gloves Products Liability Litigation, by U. S. District Judge Edmund V. Ludwig which settled.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the case of Jimmie Badon, Jr., et al v. DSI Transports, Inc., et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Number 450,957. This case settled for \$9.75 million (my office handled all Proof of Claim forms for 2,300 people in this tractor-trailer tanker and chemical release).

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in the case involving the Kaiser explosion of July 5, 1999, titled Carl Bell, et al v. Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation, 23rd Judicial District Court, No. 25,975. This case settled for twenty-six and a half million dollars, plus eleven million dollars for the inside-the-gate cases. My office handled all Proofs of Claim, as well as, over two hundred depositions in this litigation.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Louis Bechtle (a member of the MDL Panel), as State/Federal Liaison to the national class action in MDL 1203 In re Diet Drug (Phentermine/Fenfluramine/Dexfenfluramine) Product Liability Litigation. Settled for \$22 billion (both State and Federal).

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and Executive Committee in MDL 1355 Propulsid Products Liability Litigation. My office has provided office space for the document depository which is also managed by my computer specialist. Settled for \$100 million.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Kathleen McDonald O'Malley to serve as Class Counsel in MDL 1401 Sulzer Inter-Op Hip Prosthesis Products Liability Litigation (a class settlement in the amount of over \$1 billion was reached).

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Michael J. Davis to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL 1431 In Re Baycol Products Liability Litigation. Settled for \$1.2 billion.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Joseph R. Goodwin to serve on the Executive Committee and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL 1477 In Re Serzone Products Liability Litigation. Settled for \$76 million.

Appointed Co-Lead Counsel in reference to MDL No. 1629 In Re Neurontin Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation in Boston. Verdict in this case in the amount of \$142 million.

Appointed Liaison Counsel in reference to MDL No. 1632 In re High Sulfur Content Gasoline Products Liability Litigation. Settled before U.S. District Judge Ivan L.R. Lemelle for \$100 million.

Appointed by U. S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL No. 1691 In Re Bextra and Celebrex Litigation. Cases were settled on a confidential basis.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and Chairman of the Settlement Committee in MDL No. 1708 In Re Guidant Corp. Implantable Defibrillators Products Liability Litigation before U.S. District Judge Donovan W. Frank in St. Paul, Minnesota. I recently participated in settlement negotiations which resulted in a settlement of \$240 million.

Appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee by U.S. District Judge James M. Rosenbaum to MDL No. 1726 In Re Medtronic, Inc. Implantable Defibrillators Products Liability Litigation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A settlement was reached in this case in the amount of \$195 million.

Appointed Lead Counsel by U.S. District Judge Paul a. Magnuson in MDL No. 1724 In Re Viagra Products Liability Litigation.

Appointed by Judge Eldon E. Fallon to the Executive Committee in reference to the Murphy Oil Litigation wherein hundreds of homes were destroyed by an oil spill during Hurricane Katrina. This case settled for \$330 million.

Appointed to the Preliminary Master Committee in reference to Berthelot, et al v. Boh Brothers Construction (Levee Failure Litigation) by Judge Stanwood R. Duval, Jr. This case involves the flooding of the City of New Orleans and the surrounding parishes as a result of the negligence of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and/or its contractors. See the attached Order of Judge Duval.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge David Katz to the Executive Committee in MDL No. 1742 In Re Ortho Evra Products Liability Litigation in Ohio. All cases were settled on a confidential basis.

Lead Trial Counsel in reference to the Mother's Day Bus Crash where the case was tried and settled in the U.S. District Court before Judge Mary Ann Lemmon and two State Judges. The case was settled against Custom Bus, Reliance Insurance Company, Mardi Gras Casino and Dr. Shaunda Jones. As Lead Trial Counsel, I tried the case against the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development before Judge Rosemary Ledet resulting in a judgment finding the State 50% at fault. This judgment has been affirmed by an en banc panel of the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and Writs denied by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Our office was one of three law firms which handled the DPC Festus, Missouri case which was the largest release of chlorine in the United States, injuring approximately 345 people, and causing extensive property damage. This case settled in 2007 for \$22 million.

Our office was one of three law firms which handled the Minot North Dakota Train Derailment case, the largest anhydrous ammonia release in the country. The case settled at the end of 2007 for \$35 million against the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

Have spoken before over 500 lawyers at the Mass Torts Made Perfect Seminar on the Bausch & Lomb case on October 12 & 13, 2006. I was appointed to the Executive Committee, MDL No. 1785 In Re Bausch & Lomb Inc. Contact Lens Solution by U.S. District Judge David Norton.

Prepared transfer motion and argued for MDL status for all counsel in reference to the FEMA Trailer case which was transferred to the Eastern District of New Orleans, U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt, MDL No. 1873 In Re FEMA Trailer Formaldehyde Products Liability Litigation. Matthew Moreland of our office was appointed to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee and bellwether trials are currently under way.

My office prepared the transfer motion fo MDL No. 1928 In ReTrasylol Products Liability Litigation. Matthew Moreland, of my office, argued for consideration before the MDL Panel on March 27, 2008 in

Austin, Texas. This case was assigned to Judge Donald M. Middlebrooks, United States District Court, Southern District of Florida.

Prepared a response to the transfer motion in MDL No. 1960 In Re Puerto Rican Cabotage Antitrust Litigation. This case was argued before the MDL Panel on July 31, 2008 in San Francisco, California and transferred to Puerto Rico. I am Lead Counsel of the Plaintiffs' Committee and this case has been settled.

My office is involved in the Caribbean Petroleum Oil and Fire Litigation. This case arises from the explosion and subsequent fire which took place on October 23, 2009 at the fuel storage facility owned by Caribbean Petroleum Corp., located in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL No. 2034, In Re Comcast Set Top Television Box Antitrust Litigation. This case is presently pending in the United States District Court, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

My office prepared an interested party response in MDL No. 2047 In Re Chinese-Manufactured Drywall Products Liability Litigation, urging transfer and consolidation to the Eastern District of Louisiana. The case was sent to U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon in the Eastern District of Louisiana, whereupon I currently serve as a member of the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

Our firm moved for transfer and consolidation of MDL No. 2100 In Re Yasmin and Yaz (Drospirenone) Marketing, Sales, Practices and Products Liability Litigation. This case has recently been transferred to the United States District Court, Southern District of Illinois where I serve on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

Filed and argued before the MDL Panel, MDL No. 2151 In Re Toyota Motor Corp. Unintended Acceleration Marketing Sales Practices, and Products Liability Litigation. I have appeared before the transferee judge, Judge James V. Selna.

Prepared moving papers and argued the case before the MDL Panel on July 29, 2010, MDL No. 2179 In Re Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "Deepwater Horizon" in the Gulf of Mexico, on April 20, 2010. I have appeared before the transferee judge, Judge Carl J. Barbier. Our office has settled over a thousand Deepwater Horizon cases.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Donald C. Nugent to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL No. 2220, In Re Kaba Simplex Locks Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Matthew K. Kennelly to the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee in MDL No. 2223, In Re Ford Navistar Diesel Engine Products Liability Litigation.

Appointed by U.S. District Judge Danny C. Reeves to the Plaintiff's Steering Committee in MDL No. 2226, In Re Darvocet, Darvon and Propoxyphene Products Liability Litigation.

Appointed by U.S. District Steven J. McAuliffe to the Plaintiff's Steering Committee in MDL No. 2263, In Re Dial Complete Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation.

These are a representative selection of cases in which I have been involved in over my career.

I regularly speak before large groups of lawyers, judges and professionals at Mealey's conferences, the Harris Martin seminars, AAJ and Mass Torts Made Perfect. Attached is a program from Mass Torts Made Perfect at which I spoke on April 10 & 11, 2008 in reference to ethics and attorneys fees in class

action cases where over 500 lawyers were in attendance.

I spoke before the International Symposium on Product Liability and Failure Prevention in Japan at the request of forty-five Japanese Corporations and all Mechanical Engineers in Japan, as well as in Vienna, Austria at the SPT-5 Conference in reference to the Shell Explosion Case. This involved Engineers from all over the world who convene an International Symposium every three years.

I have been involved in numerous trials, both jury and bench, throughout my legal career and have settled some of the largest cases in history, including Tobacco, Breast Implant, Baycol, Sulzer and Fen-Phen, to name a few.

My law firm, on behalf of plaintiffs, has filed over 1300 Katrina related insurance cases. After extensive negotiations and mediation process, the majority of these cases have been resolved against insurers thereby reducing the docket by about 25 cases per U.S. District Judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana. These are individualized settlements and numerous other insurers are in line to mediate these cases.

Our office is particularly proud of the fact that we represent over 61,000 people, pro bono, in the Levee Failure cases in New Orleans, Louisiana before U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Daniel E. Becnel, Jr.

DANIEL E. BECNEL, JR. (#2926)

BECNEL LAW FIRM, LLC

106 West Seventh Street

Post Office Drawer "H"

Reserve, Louisiana 70084

E-mail: dbecnel@becnellaw.com

Telephone (985) 536-1186

Facsimile (985) 536-6445