

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT**

**October 23, 2014**

**Item L.3.**     **University of Louisiana System's** request for approval of a resolution authorizing the reaffirmation and reauthorization of the contract with the law firms of DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP; Babovich and Spedale, PLC; and the Law Office of Kurt A. Offner to pursue claims resulting from the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

As a result of economic losses incurred by State entities in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in April 2010, the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana filed an action against British Petroleum and its affiliates. This complaint was broadly filed on behalf of the State of Louisiana and includes claims of any State department, agency or other entity. Institutions within the University of Louisiana System may have substantial claims relating to this incident which would fall under losses incurred by the State. However, these claims have not been asserted in such a manner that assures that the universities' losses will be compensated. The universities must formally file notice of their claims in the claims process or seek amendment of the current lawsuit to assert their claims separately.

Therefore, on December 3, 2012, the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System authorized its System President to pursue claims on behalf of the University of Louisiana System, and its constituent universities, against British Petroleum, and its affiliates or any other entities that may be responsible for such damages, and to enter into such agreements or arrangements as may be necessary to accomplish that purpose. The System President entered into a contract with the law firms of DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP; Babovich and Spedale, PLC; and the Law Office of Kurt A. Offner. Act 796 of the 2014 Louisiana Legislative Session specifically authorizes the public post-secondary university systems to enter into such contracts and agreements. The action of the Legislature in passing this act could potentially be deemed to necessitate a reaffirmation of the contract between the University of Louisiana System and the aforementioned law firms.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the following resolution be adopted:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System hereby authorizes the reaffirmation and reauthorization of the contract with the law firms of DeCuir, Clark & Adams, LLP; Babovich and Spedale, PLC; and the Law Office of Kurt A. Offner to pursue claims resulting from the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill.*