

Seth Hopkins

1318 Dowling Street, Houston, Texas 77003
(832) 900-0356 • Email: Seth@SethHopkins.com
Professional Portfolio: www.SethHopkins.com



EDUCATION:

Louisiana State University
Juris Doctor, 1999
B.A. in English, 1996

Attended **McNeese State University**, 1992-95 and **Harvard University**, 1994.

LEGAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

The Hopkins Law Firm, Civil practice, Houston, TX

Litigation & Transaction Attorney

2000 - 2003 & October 2009-present

Advise and litigate in corporate, wrongful death, civil rights, and contract disputes, including an \$8 billion securities fraud case. Notable clients include regional entertainers, corporate and non-profit organizations, and Major League Baseball players Prince Fielder, Joseph Crede, and Bruce Chen.

Lead counsel in *Covington v. McNeese*, 98 So.3d 414 (La.App. 3 Cir. 9/5/12), a 12-year landmark case resulting in the largest single-client Americans with Disabilities Act recovery in history. This case prompted a U.S. DOJ civil rights investigation and resulted in a \$13.8 million injunction and systemic changes at eight public universities. Received \$2 million attorney's fee award and national coverage by journals such as *The National Law Journal* (9/7/2012). The appellate court referred to "young Hopkins" as "eloquent," "truly devoted," "gallant," and presenting "a well-orchestrated case worthy of emulation by the most seasoned attorneys" for his "superior performance" in a "rare and exceptional" case.

Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman, Houston, TX

Litigation Attorney

February 2005 - October 2009

Assisted in the defense and prosecution of complex litigation for this Am Law 250 Fast Rise to the Top national firm. Conducted all facets of trial preparation, including extensive deposition coverage, document review and production, and substantial research, motion filings and argument. Work included assisting with the defense of a significant premises liability docket in Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, and Louisiana. Also assisted with a major New England soil contamination case, a significant international shipping antitrust case, a polyester staples antitrust case, a pipeline construction defect dispute, and a \$65 billion chemical company merger.

The Honorable Patricia Minaldi, Federal District Judge, Western District of Louisiana

Federal Judicial Law Clerk

June 2003 - November 2004

Served as an elbow law clerk for the only active Article III judge in a six parish area with a major federal prison and immigration detention center. Employment began on this newly appointed judge's first day of work. Assisted with administrative and legal aspects of setting up a new federal office. Duties included writing and editing opinions, judgments, and jury charges, scheduling dockets, research, assisting with trials, and communicating with attorneys and other federal offices on behalf of the Court. Docket of more than 450 civil suits included a \$1 billion telecommunications RICO suit and a complex international dispute between the Republic of Venezuela and numerous parties over the ownership of an offshore research module to be placed along its disputed border with Columbia.

14th Judicial District Court of Louisiana, Lake Charles, LA

Judicial Law Clerk

August 1999 - August 2000

Served as a pool law clerk for nine judges in this court of general jurisdiction. Workload focused on assisting judges with a diverse caseload of civil, criminal, and family matters. Duties included preparing jury charges, orders, and opinions, research, handling correspondence with attorneys, pre and post conviction relief applications, and helping to schedule dockets. Responsible for drafting several regional landmark opinions, including judgments resolving challenges to the Louisiana tobacco litigation and Louisiana's legalized gaming industry.

U.S. Attorney's Office, Middle District of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

Federal Law Clerk

May 1998 - June 1999

Assisted Criminal and Civil Division Assistant U.S. Attorneys in prosecuting defendants and representing the United States. Duties included research, drafting pleadings, and participating with prosecutors and FBI agents in grand jury target and defendant interviews. Areas of law included white collar and drug crimes, bank robbery, forfeiture, tort defense, civil rights, and environmental.

Louisiana Attorney General's Office, Baton Rouge, La.,

Medical Malpractice Law Clerk

1997 - 98

Duties included research, trial preparation, and drafting pleadings in defense of state hospitals against medical malpractice suits. **Student Worker**, Administration Section, 1996.

LEGAL HONORS, TEACHING EXPERIENCE, AND PUBLICATIONS:

Kaplan University, Online Instructor and Course Developer, 2008-present. Teach and develop courses for students in subjects such as Constitutional Law, Intellectual Property, Torts, Contracts, Legal Ethics, Trial & Courtroom Presentation. Also taught legal, economics, and writing courses at **Delta School of Business**, Lake Charles, La., 2000-05.

Louisiana Bar Journal, Editorial Board, 2003-05. Wrote and edited articles for the award-winning Louisiana Bar Association journal, which is distributed to nearly 20,000 attorneys six times per year. Also published in the **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys' Journal**.

Southwest Louisiana Bar Association, Executive Committee, 2003-05. Editor, **The Sidebar**, the Association's official bar journal, 2002-05; **President's Award**, 2002 and 2003.

OpeningStatement.com and **WriteMySpeech.com**, 1999-2005. Developed the world's first online trial and jury consulting and speech writing service, which later expanded into corporate communications, corporate branding, and lobbying.

KPLC-TV, Lake Charles, La. 2001-05. Served as a rotating attorney for this NBC affiliate's Sunrise Show's "Ask the Expert" live call-in program for legal advice.

Houston Bar Association, Administration of Justice Committee, 2009-2010; Law & Media Committee, 2009-2010; **American Bar Association** and **Louisiana Bar Association**, LSU student representative, 1997-99. Also a member of the **Texas Bar Association**, **Federal Bar Association**, **Houston Young Lawyers**, and **Southwest Louisiana Bar Association**.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES:

Admitted to practice law in the State of **Texas**, 2001; **Louisiana**, 1999. Admitted in the Louisiana Eastern, Middle, and Western Federal Districts, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, Court of Federal Claims, Tax Court, Court of International Trade, and Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. Texas civil mediator, 2001.

PRE-LAW EXPERIENCE:

The White House, Washington, D.C.

Intern

Summer 1995

Worked in the **Presidential Personnel Office**. Helped to maintain the Clinton administration's resume network, worked on special projects, and drafted letters on behalf of Bob Nash and President Clinton. Also worked in the **News Analysis Office**. This involved evaluating news and opinion stories from national media and preparing and delivering daily media summaries to Vice-President Gore, Chief of Staff, and West Wing advisors. Editor, *The Internet*, White House intern newsletter.

U.S. Senator J. Bennett Johnston and **Congressman Jimmy Hayes**, Washington, D.C.

Intern

Summer 1993

Assisted with press and constituent services and correspondence. Drafted press releases, prepared position papers on legislative issues and White House nominees such as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, provided Capital tours, and handled visitors and callers such as Ross Perot and President Clinton.

LSU Debate Team, member, 1995-96. **McNeese Debate Team**, vice-president, 1992-93. Received over 35 awards at regional and national tournaments. Participated in cross-examination debate, Lincoln-Douglas debate, extemporaneous speaking, and oratory. Ranked first in Louisiana in extemporaneous speaking, 1991 and routinely top-ranked nationally.

The Contraband, Executive Editor, McNeese State University newspaper, 1994-95. Supervised a staff of 30 for a paper with a readership of 22,000. News Editor, 1993-94. Staff Writer, 1992-93.

PERSONAL AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:

Past and present activities, honors, and organizations include: Elected founding 1st Vice President of Houston Downtown Super Neighborhood Counsel 61; Licensed private pilot for single engine, land aircraft, purchase and renovate hurricane-damaged residential property, Phi Delta Phi, Louisiana Recovery Authority, Rotary Club, Brimstone Museum & Historical Society Board of Directors, Governor's Program for Gifted Children Board of Directors, Artists Civil Theatre & Studio (ACTS) Board of Directors, Volunteer Center of Southwest Louisiana Board of Directors, Lake Charles Yacht Club Member.