



## James M. Tompkins | Director

Born and raised in New Orleans, James Tompkins ("Jim") learned early in life that hard work, determination, and integrity could also be mixed with enjoying life. These are lessons he has carried with him throughout his long career as a successful trial attorney and entrepreneur. As one of the four founding partners of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, Jim's forty-four-year-old practice emphasizes admiralty and maritime law, oil and gas law, insurance defense and insurance coverage issues, products liability, property damage, environmental and toxic tort litigation, general casualty litigation, professional liability defense, subrogation, and corporate law. Jim's insurance defense experience also includes handling auto, trucking, heavy machinery, and industrial casualty matters.

Within these areas, Jim has litigated hundreds of cases, many of which were tried to either verdict or judgment. Approximately one-fourth of these cases were jury trials, and approximately two-thirds of them were in Federal Court. He has been the lead attorney in approximately forty opinions published by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the district and appellate courts of Texas and Louisiana.

After graduating from Louisiana State University in 1968 with his B.A and an officer's commission from the U.S. Marine Corps, Jim's active duty was delayed while he attended law school at L.S.U. He earned his J.D. there in 1971 and then reported to the Marine Corps' Basic School for combat training, from which he graduated with honors. He served most of his three years of active duty with the rank of Captain and was assigned to work in the Navy Judge Advocate General's office. There, he drafted a complete civil and criminal code for Midway Island, which was approved by the Secretary of the Navy and enacted, with Congressional approval, in 1975.

Jim's civilian legal career began in 1974, and he concentrated his efforts in the areas of admiralty and maritime law, principally as defense trial counsel, where he achieved early and accelerated success.

In 1987, Jim became one of the four founding shareholders as well as the Managing Director of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins & Burr in New Orleans. In 1993, the firm expanded from New Orleans to Houston, and Jim became the managing director of the Houston office of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith. While he continues to lead the Houston office (which has grown significantly over the years), he returned to the duties as Managing Director of the firm in January of 2006 for a 3-year stint. Now the firm has ten offices across the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida, employing almost 100 lawyers and their support staffs.

In recognition of Jim's excellence in practice over the years, he has received a Martindale Hubbell "AV Preeminent" rating, a peer review signifying an attorney who has achieved the highest level of professional skills and ethics. Jim has also been recognized as one of the Nation's Best Admiralty Lawyers and as a Top New Orleans Lawyer for 2014 and 2015. Jim has also been selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 for Admiralty and Maritime Law and also selected by his peers for inclusion in Texas Lawyer's "Top Lawyers of Texas" in 2015.

Both a leader and a strategic partner, Jim has a knack for helping clients discern opportunities and make connections which add value to their companies. It takes balance to keep a ship afloat, and Jim's approach to life, coupled with his legal acumen, have given him the ability not only to balance the ship, but keep it moving in the right direction!

### Houston Office

1301 McKinney Street  
Suite 1400  
Houston, Texas 77010  
Office: (713) 599-0700  
Fax: (713) 599- 0777  
Other Office: New Orleans  
E-mail: Jtompkins@gallowayjohnson.com

### EDUCATION:

- Louisiana State University, J.D., 1971
- Louisiana State University, B.A., 1968

### BAR ADMISSIONS:

- State of Texas
- State of Louisiana

### PRACTICE AREAS:

- Maritime and Admiralty
- Energy
- Environmental and Toxic Tort
- Insurance Defense
- Products Liability
- Professional Liability
- Corporate Litigation
- Construction Law

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

- Mediator

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- State Bar Associations of Texas & Louisiana
- Louisiana Bar Foundation – Judicial Liaison Committee
- The District of Columbia Bar Association
- Houston and New Orleans Bar Association
- Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association
- Texas Association of Mediators
- Defense Research Institute
- Past President and long-term board member of Boulevard Oaks Civic Association
- Houston Mariners Club
- Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel
- Maritime Law Association of the United States (Committee on River and Ocean Towing)
- Past President, current Secretary and Director, Cresmere/West Ormond Civic Association

