



State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
POST OFFICE BOX 94005
BATON ROUGE 70804-9005

CHARLES C. FOTI, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL



RE: Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams



I am aware that [REDACTED] began in Louisiana and experienced vast success and expansion across Louisiana. I appreciate that despite your national expansion you continued for many years to keep your headquarters in Louisiana. I am sad to hear that your headquarters was forced to move to Atlanta as a result of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina.

It has recently come to my attention that you experienced delayed insurance compensation. Like all other policyholders, you must immediately retain counsel and file a lawsuit to protect the rights of your company before August 29, 2007 (the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina). In a conversation with John Houghtaling yesterday, I learned that you have the opportunity to retain the law firm of Gauthier, Houghtaling, & Williams. I suggested to John that I relate to you my personal knowledge and experience with his firm.

I can tell you that this is an outstanding law firm that has enjoyed an impeccable reputation both across the state and across the nation. The firm and its founder led a coalition of over 100 law firms nationwide and negotiated the 350 billion dollar settlement with the Tobacco industry. This is just one of their innumerable accomplishments. John Houghtaling is the current managing partner of the firm and concentrates in business litigation. He is well known as one of the most respected lawyers in the New Orleans business community. Mr. Houghtaling has consistently been ranked as one of the Top 50 Lawyers in New Orleans by CityBusiness Magazine, in 2005, 2006, 2007, one of only four attorneys to receive this award consecutively.

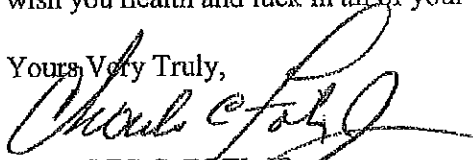
The firm unquestionably employs a team of the best lawyers in Louisiana. They are smart, ethical, and among the most experienced litigators on Katrina insurance issues. After the storm, his firm swiftly collected over \$50 million dollars for hurricane victims in less than two years, and is currently is protecting the ownership interest of over 1,500 pieces of real estate in New Orleans.

On Tuesday of this week my office retained Gauthier, Houghtaling, & Williams to represent the State of Louisiana in the Multi-Billion dollar subrogation claim for the Road Home Program. Additionally, we have chosen Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams to represent the State of Louisiana in the Appeal of Sher v. Lafayette Insurance Co. In this case, the firm is charged with defending what may amount to a multi-billion dollar impact on Louisiana property owners. Accordingly, it was important for me to recruit the very best law firm to argue this issue.

I know that Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams is very selective in the cases they take. It is my advice that you seize upon any opportunity to have his firm protect your business rights.

I understand you continue to operate many properties and employ many Louisiana citizens. I wish you health and luck in all of your future endeavors in Louisiana.

Yours Very Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles C. Foti, Jr.", written in dark ink over a light background.

CHARLES C. FOTI, JR.
ATTORNEY GENERAL