

Your Daily BP Update: Another Summit, Another Plaintiffs Group

Posted by Zach Lowe |
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It's a classic scene: Plaintiffs attorneys holding conferences at expensive hotels to discuss litigation strategy against the latest company caught up in a catastrophic scandal, natural disaster, or other massive-lawsuit-worthy occurrence. We saw it with Toyota, and we'll see it again today at the W Hotel in New Orleans, where plaintiffs attorneys will discuss strategies for pursuing claims against BP in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, according to The National Law Journal, an Am Law Daily sibling publication.

The conference is cochaired by **Richard Arsenault of the Alexandria, La.-based personal injury firm Neblett, Beard & Arsenault**, and Johnny deGravelles of the Baton Rouge, La. firm deGravelles, Palmintier, Holthaus and Frugé. (Side note: How does one become a cochair of such a conference?) The list of attendees includes lawyers from Baron & Budd and the Lanier Law Firm, and discussion topics are expected to range from BP's safety record to the Exxon Valdez precedent to Tuesday's federal court order lifting the Obama administration's moratorium on offshore drilling, the NLJ reports.

The NLJ also notes that we've got a new group of plaintiffs circling in the water around BP: Scuba companies. Adventure Sports II, a Montgomery, Ala.-based company that supervises scuba outings, filed suit against BP, claiming the spill has scared away most customers and made it difficult for the remaining ones to find boats to take them out into the gulf. (Many boaters are helping in the cleanup effort, the suit claims, according to the NLJ).