



**Edward C. Abell, Jr.**  
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## **LAWYER SPOTLIGHT**

Edward C. Abell, Jr. was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. His father was a Landman for the Shell Oil Company, which led to his living in a number of southern towns, such as Many, Louisiana, Shreveport, Louisiana, Houston, Texas, Tallahassee, Florida, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and ultimately back to New Orleans where he graduated from Alcee' Fortier High School. He then went to LSU where he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, President of the LSU Interfraternity Council, and was inducted into ODK Honorary Fraternity. Ed graduated from the LSU Law School in 1963, where he was a member of the LSU Law Review.

After joining the firm of Davidson, Meaux, Onebane and Donohoe and working for nine months in Oil and Gas matters, Ed spent three years in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, stationed primarily at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He rejoined the firm in 1966, and has been practicing with the firm, and its successors, including The Onebane Firm, continuously since then.

Ed's practice has been concentrated in handling litigation in various areas since then, with 13 years primarily defending insurance clients and their insureds, and, since about 1979, in litigation of Oil and Gas and Commercial matters, and dealing with corporate and general business advice. One of the most satisfying cases he has handled was defense of Halliburton Services, Inc. in a multi-million dollar pollution claim arising out of the blow-out of a gas well in the Atchafalaya basin in which he obtained a verdict absolving Halliburton of liability, and collecting attorney's fees and costs from the plaintiff. (*Commonwealth Ins. Co. et. al v. Halliburton Energy Services, et al* 899 So.2d.24 (La.App 1 Cir 2004)).

Aside from his law practice, Ed has also been active in the Lafayette Community, serving as chair of two Charter Commissions, one of which revised the Parish Government, and in 1992, a Consolidation Commission which wrote and had adopted the present Lafayette City/Parish Consolidated Government. He also served as Chair of the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and three years as Chair of the Acadiana Center for the Arts.

He is active in his church, having served as Senior Warden of two Episcopal Churches, and is presently serving as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ascension Episcopal School. He plays guitar at an evening service at the Ascension Episcopal Church twice a month, and enjoys a busy social life with his wife of 40 years, Elaine Durbin Abell, who is also an attorney.