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Legal duo flying high
Attorneys form partnership based on experiences
John Sullivan
November 23, 2003

LAFAYETTE „ For attorneys Richard Broussard and Blake David, their legal partnership could be called a case of finding the perfect niche.



Brad Kemp/The Lafayette Daily Advertiser

The two have launched a personal injury law practice that they say is uniquely suited to clients in south Louisiana.

Broussard began a lifelong passion for aviation at age 16. That passion helped him become a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, and today, he holds an airline transport pilot rating for single and multi-engine aircraft.

He also has ratings for both commercial helicopters and seaplanes.

There is another rating, though, that the pilot-attorney is just as proud of.

Martindale-Hubble is the largest, oldest and most respected international registry that rates attorneys. Broussard is listed in the firm's Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys.

Broussard said that he has taken his love of flying and put a new twist on the title • legal eagle.Ž

• The cases I• ve handled for offshore workers involved in helicopter crashes involved issues of pilot error, helicopter design defects, helicopter maintenance errors and multiple weather issues,Ž Broussard said. • In all of these cases, liability was strongly contested, but it was proved through the application of my understanding of the issues involved.Ž

Broussard has made a name of himself among legal circles and oilfield workers in Abbeville, Crowley, Gueydan, Kaplan and St. Martinville, as well as New Iberia and Lafayette.

• Having represented severely disabled workers „ with crippling back injuries, paraplegia and quadriplegia „ for three decades, I have a tremendous understanding about how these injuries affect the everyday lives of the victims and their families,Ž Broussard said. • I understand how to communicate these damages to people „ judges and jurors „ who are not routinely exposed to the hurdles faced by severely disabled individuals.Ž

The partnership was an easy one, Broussard said, because both he and David share a single mission like all attorneys and members of the legal profession „ obtaining justice.

For David, a former standout quarterback at St. Thomas More, that mission was borne out of a real-life experience.

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"My father was a founding partner in a large defense firm in Lafayette," David said. "Throughout my whole life, I always planned on becoming an insurance defense lawyer like my father."

A serious injury to a family member after an accident changed that, though.

After the accident, David said, he shifted sides and decided to "dedicate my life to obtaining justice for victims of serious injury."

David said that he credits his upbringing and his time of the football field to any success he brings into the legal field.

"As a native Cajun, my parents taught me hard work and faith in the Almighty," he said. That is a faith that has never been lost, he said.

Both Broussard and David said that understanding the Cajun culture is another thing the two have in common.

Broussard grew up working on a rice and cattle farm near Kaplan, and he was also involved in oilfield construction while working his way through college.

"Those experiences taught me a lot that made it possible to win cases involving injuries to oilfield workers and equipment manufacturers," Broussard said.

Both men said that their hobbies, traits and life experiences have helped them create their team.

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November 23, 2003

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