

ROBERT J. ELLIS, JR.

Bob@RJEllis.com | Phone: (504) 534-8399 | 650 Poydras Street, Suite 2615, New Orleans, LA 70130

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

R.J. ELLIS LAW FIRM, LLC – New Orleans, LA

2017 to Present

Boutique law firm specializing in litigation and government compliance

Attorney

Serve as General Counsel to several businesses that operate in Louisiana, Texas, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands. Primary focus on corporate law and government compliance, and experience to navigate government bureaucracy.

Served as counsel and operations to open up markets for Sonder USA, Inc. in New Orleans, Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas. (2017 – Present)

Serve as General Counsel to the National Premire Soccer League.

Notable legislative efforts is the legalization of short-term rentals (AirBnB) in New Orleans.

CANLAS ELLIS, LLC – New Orleans, LA

2002 to 2004, & 2011 to 2017

General Practice law firm

Attorney

Successfully represented emerging businesses, renewable energy tax credit companies and foreign direct investment programs. Provided expert guidance for institutional investor and venture capital groups on developing new business opportunities at home as well as abroad.

- Served as Special Tax Counsel to the City of New Orleans during initial tenure with Canlas Ellis, and effectively lobbied on behalf of the City's sales and use-tax laws, including the passage of the Uniform Tax Code.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCE

UPTOWN SOLAR GROUP – New Orleans, LA

2011 to 2013

Solar integrator and marketing company.

VP / General Counsel

Hold broad-spectrum management responsibility encompassing all areas of day-to-day operations. Direct core business functions, supervise general operations and lead HR recruiting/hiring efforts across company's Louisiana operations. Manage all company audits, implement critical risk management programs, and oversee taxes, insurance, permits, and licensing.

- Boosted annual revenue from \$0 to \$6M in less than 2 years, conceiving and implementing innovative business plan that successfully capitalized on State and Federal tax credits to rapidly generate multimillion-dollar returns.
- The Uptown Solar Group were financed using investors' funds through the EB-5 program.

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS – New Orleans, LA

2004 to 2011

Major U.S. port and the largest city in Louisiana with a population of over 1M in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

Deputy City Attorney

Provided legal guidance in interdepartmental "floating" capacity, with leadership responsibility spanning Transactions, Finance, Housing, and General Litigation. Oversaw sales, use and ad valorem tax cases while directing outside counsel and liaising between individuals and businesses to resolve various disputes. Investigated bankruptcy cases and tax payers' claims; documented instances of fraud and reported to District Attorney's Office. Served as key internal resource for City administrators and council members, providing guidance on challenging finance-related concerns. Represented New Orleans' Municipal Retirement System Board and conducted wide-ranging litigation, including general defense and premise liability, on the state, municipal, and appellate level.

- Designated as essential personnel after Hurricane Katrina.
- Captured ~\$20M for the City of New Orleans through successful resolution of outstanding tax cases.
- Effectively managed concurrent caseload docket in excess of 250+ cases.
- Conducted aggressive motion and defense practice securing dismissals, delivering judgments of more than \$25M in the City's favor and collecting several million dollars in owed debts.
- Acted as Administrative Law Judge for the City to enforce blighted and abandoned property ordinances.
- Held position during transition phase between Mayor Nagin's/Mayor Landrieu's administration.

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PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSOCIATE – REICH, MEEKS & TREADAWAY, LLC. Gained significant experience in maritime, environmental, mass-tort, environmental “toxic” tort, and general defense litigation. Handpicked to serve on New Orleans’ Mayor Ray Nagin’s Transition Team as Chair of the Task Force on Sales and Use Tax Collection.

ASSOCIATE – AUBERT & PAJARES, LLC. Led litigation in such diverse areas as insurance coverage and defense, trucking and transportation, products liability, environmental defense, and medical device defense.

ASSOCIATE – MAGEE & DEVEREUX, PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION. Promoted from Law Clerk to Counsel for the Sheriff’s Office, with responsibility spanning assessments of sale and use, personal property, and ad valorem taxes in St. Tammany Parish, LA.

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS – HIBERNIA NATIONAL BANK. Managed Hibernia’s Government Relations Department and Hibernia People for Good Government (H.P.G.G.) Political Action Committee. Created key presentations, briefings and reports for the Board of Directors and Senior Management.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Education	Juris Doctorate – Loyola University – New Orleans, LA Master of Business Administration – Loyola University – New Orleans, LA Bachelor of Arts in Political Science – University of Texas – Austin, TX
Bar Admission	Admitted to appear before all state and federal courts in Louisiana Admitted to the Texas State Bar
Memberships	American Bar Association (1998–Present) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Chair-Elect of the Governmental Law Committee (2006–2009)▪ Chair of the Governmental Law Committee (2009–2010)▪ Vice Chair of the Governmental Liability Committee (2006–2007)▪ Vice Chair of the Task Force on Disaster Preparedness (2007–2008) Member – Louisiana State Bar Association (1999–Present) Member – New Orleans Bar Association (1999–Present) Member – Association of Inspectors General (2009–Present) Member – New Orleans Young Leadership Counsel (1998–2008)
Appointments	Commissioner – St. Tammany Events District Complex (1998–2003) Moot Court Judge – Louisiana Bar Association & NBLSA (2004–2005)
Elected Positions	Elected to New Orleans Parish Executive Committee (2007–Present) Elected to St. Tammany Parish Executive Committee (1999–2003)
Louisiana State Bar	Mentor in the Transition Into Practice for graduating law students (2015–Present)