



# WaltzerWiygulGarside

LAW FIRM

waltzerwiygul.com



## JOEL WALTZER

PARTNER

Joel Waltzer, a native New Orleanian, has been a managing partner at Waltzer Wiygul & Garside, LLC since 2006. Throughout his legal career Mr. Waltzer has litigated environmental, maritime, civil, and insurance cases for an array of individuals, businesses, public interest groups, and environmental organizations. Mr. Waltzer's deep love of the coast and its people continues to compel him to undertake cases of social significance to achieve environmental protection.

### LOUISIANA

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“*My deep love of the coast and its people continues to compel me to undertake cases of social significance to achieve environmental protection. As someone who is on the water and sometimes in the water, I want to ensure that our land, marsh and water are preserved for future generations.*”

### Education

- Boston University, *magna cum laude*
- Harvard Law School

### Recognition

- Lawyer of the Year Award Tulane Law School Environmental Law Program YEAR
- LEAN Scott Welsh Award
- Sierra Club Pelican Award, Delta Chapter
- Top Lawyer, New Orleans Magazine
- Leadership in Law, New Orleans CityBusiness

### Environmental Focus

Mr. Waltzer has been consistently dedicated to environmental protection and social justice throughout his career. Post-Katrina, Mr. Waltzer led the fight against a landfill that was to be located next to a rebuilding Vietnamese community, as documented in the film “A Village Called Versailles.” In the wake of the BP Oil Spill, Mr. Waltzer undertook litigation designed at reforming the broken regulatory system, assured the cleanup and compensation of the Wisner Donation, and reformed the class settlement agreement to adequately benefit commercial fishermen. As a result of his efforts, hundreds of spill victims have sought his assistance, including a large number of commercial fishermen he helped organize into GO FISH. His body of work in the BP Spill has been featured in three films released on the subject, which also includes The Big Fix and Vanishing Pearls.

Mr. Waltzer is currently the lead attorney in the Gentilly Landfill class action, a suit to compensate property owners of land appropriated after Hurricane Katrina for purposes of debris



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disposal. The case recently settled on favorable terms, providing an \$8 million fund to the class in compensation for the loss of their property rights. Mr. Waltzer has also served on the Committee on Environmental Affairs of the Louisiana Law Institute and testified before state and federal legislative bodies on natural resources and Stafford Act debris removal issues.

## Early Career

Joel Waltzer graduated, *magna cum laude*, from Boston University and continued his education at Harvard Law School. After graduating Harvard Law, Mr. Waltzer worked for Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Pascal Calogero, The Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, and Allan Kanner.

For his achievements, Mr. Waltzer has been awarded the Lawyer of the Year Award from the Environmental Law Program, the LEAN Scott Welsh Award, and the Delta Chapter, Sierra Club Pelican Award. Mr. Waltzer was named a Top Lawyer by New Orleans Magazine, one of 50 Outstanding Lawyers by New Orleans CityBusiness, and has received an "AV Preeminent" peer rating, the highest possible.

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