

New Orleans CITY BUSINESS

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Christopher J. Dicharry



Position: partner in charge of the New Orleans office, Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Armond McCowan and Jarman

Family: wife, Melanie; son, Christopher; and daughter, Sarah

Education: bachelor of science, University of New Orleans; juris doctorate, Loyola University School of Law

Christopher Dicharry has made a career in Louisiana tax law with numerous accomplishments.

Dicharry, who focuses on state and local taxation at the firm Kean Miller Hawthorne D'Armond McCowan and Jarman, was influential in passing a constitutional amendment to limit the number of sales tax collectors to one per parish. He helped to pass legislation to create a state tax credit for local property taxes paid on inventory, which, according to Dicharry, made it possible for the state to attract distribution businesses.

Dicharry has represented trade associations and businesses, including the Louisiana Chemical Association, the Louisiana Pulp and Paper Association and the Louisiana MidContinent Oil and Gas Association.

He also maintains a position as adjunct professor at Louisiana State University's Paul M. Hebert Law Center, where he teaches a course in state and local taxation.

Several cases were significant to his professional career. In one, private auditors for a local sales tax collector made a multimillion-dollar demand for sales taxes in connection with raw materials required to manufacture offshore oil platforms. Dicharry represented a major fabricator of offshore platforms and after four years of discovering hundreds of fabrication contracts, his law team successfully negotiated a settlement that recognized that the raw materials were not taxable.

In a separate case, Dicharry represented 28 trucking companies and the Louisiana Motor Transport Association in a dispute over the taxation of trucks after Congress passed legislation that limited the authority of the states to regulate trucking operations. Dicharry and his team convinced the Louisiana Legislature to pass legislation to repeal a gross receipts tax on trucking.

In a case still in litigation, Dicharry represents numerous interstate pipelines in relation to a claim that the Louisiana property tax system discriminates against interstate natural gas pipelines, contrary to the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.

After several years of living and working for the firm at its Baton Rouge office, Dicharry and his wife, Melanie, recently moved back to New Orleans, where he will work at the firm's local office.

— Amy Ferrara