

RISK LAW FIRM

A nationwide practice of helping injury victims through their attorneys

Biography: Richard B. Risk, Jr.

Dick Risk has devoted his law practice to issues relating to settlement planning. He works with attorneys of injury victim claimants to help their clients make wise financial decisions to rehabilitate themselves from their injuries, make adjustments in their life style necessitated by their injury, and refocus their life goals. His services are engaged by plaintiffs' attorneys and structured settlement producers across the country to administer qualified settlement funds (QSFs), advise on tax issues relating to settlements, and serve as counsel or expert witness in litigation to secure the rights of injury victims and their fair and ethical treatment. He is considered an authority nationally on structured settlement law.



He has written court documents establishing more than 200 qualified settlement funds and has personally administered the majority of them. He frequently gets invited to oversee the resolution of personal physical injury and environmental litigation with very high damage amounts. One attorney client wrote: "*A negligent defendant responsible for causing injury to our clients should not be able to dictate the terms of a structured settlement. Qualified settlement funds are a vehicle for the plaintiff to take control of the settlement process. Dick Risk has assisted us and several of our clients in navigating the complex waters of QSFs.*"

His experience with structured settlements began in late 1985. His cases as a producer involved high profile attorneys, liability insurers, self-insured corporations including Fortune 500 companies, and the U.S. Department of Justice. He is no longer a structured settlement producer, but applies the extensive knowledge of the industry he gained from that experience in his settlement law practice.

He served in the Senior Executive Service of the United States in a sub-Cabinet position as a bureau head in the administration of President Reagan. He was an executive with two publicly held corporations, and served as a staff officer and commander in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era, receiving multiple decorations for meritorious service and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for a squadron that he commanded.

He has had several articles published in law journals and in claim adjuster periodicals, and for 10 years edited and published the nationally acclaimed newsletter, *Structured Settlements*[™]. Plaintiff attorney associations of Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Wyoming have run articles written by Dick in their respective magazines, web sites and newsletters, and he was a regular columnist for *The Advocate* magazine of the Oklahoma Association for Justice (OAJ). He has been published in the *Tulsa Law Review* (*nee Journal*), 36 *Tulsa L.J.* 865 (2001), and in the *Virginia Tax Review*, 23 *Va. Tax Rev.* 639 (2004). His articles have been cited by the Internal Revenue Service. He has been a faculty member for numerous professional education seminars throughout the country.

Dick is a founder and director of the Society of Settlement Planners (SSP), a national public policy and educational organization dedicated to assisting injury victims, claimants and attorneys in resolving their legal financial claims, and advocating the injury victim's right to choose settlement planning advisors and financial and guarantee providers. He chaired the development and was co-author of the Standards of Professional Conduct for Professional Planners. The first president of the SSP said in a message to the membership: *"Dick has been a leader in the battle for plaintiffs' rights in this industry. ... Indeed, a major portion of this industry's movement toward accepting plaintiff specialists in the last few years can be credited to his efforts."* The SSP has recognized him more than once with a special award for his "tireless work and valuable contributions."

He was among the first 100 industry professionals from across the country to earn the designation of Certified Structured Settlement Consultant (CSSC), offered by the National Structured Settlements Trade Association (NSSTA) through the University of Notre Dame's executive program. He also consulted with Texas Tech University faculty in the formation of the Registry of Settlement Planners (RSP). He is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA), American Association for Justice (AAJ), the Oklahoma Bar Association (OBA), Phi Delta Phi legal honors fraternity, and the American Inns of Court. He is certified by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma as a mediator.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, with postgraduate studies at Boston University (Public Communications), the University of Tulsa (Business Administration and Law) and the University of Oklahoma (Public Administration). He received a *juris* doctorate from the University of Tulsa College of Law and is admitted to practice law in all federal and state jurisdictions in Oklahoma. ■