Larry B. Childs on Being PAM’s Outside Counsel

Larry B. Childs is one of PAM’s most frequently relied upon attorneys, and we were interested in what his experience has been in representing Regions as a client.

For over 30 years, a variety of businesses from manufacturers to financial institutions have sought counsel from Larry Childs regarding a diverse range of matters. Skilled in handling complex litigation, whether resolved through a workout, arbitration, or trial, Larry adopts the strategy of “relentlessness in the pursuit of excellence.” He strives to meet the client’s goals by laying out a success strategy at the earliest stage of a conflict. Although representing financial institutions is the principal focus of his practice, over his distinguished litigation career, Larry has “done it all.” From cases involving consumer products class actions to industrial accidents to criminal allegations against company executives, he is a generalist in the greatest sense of the word—a leader in combining ideas from diverse fields to achieve creative results. Mr. Childs says that he enjoys working for Regions. “I have had the privilege of working with the PAM group of Regions and its predecessor banks for more than 30 years” he stated. “My greatest enjoyment has been being a part of teams that solve problems. Watching Regions PAM Officers create win/win solutions and successful workouts has been most gratifying.” When asked what has been the most interesting experience he had while working with the PAM group, Larry responded, “Over the years I have had many odd experiences with disgruntled borrowers. One guarantor insisted that his Birmingham loan officer drive to Mississippi personally to pick up the payoff of his loan. When the loan officer got there, the guarantor instructed him to drive around the back of his house where he proceeded to load sacks containing more than one hundred thousand dollars worth of pennies into the loan officer’s car. Unfortunately, the loan officer’s suspension was not up to the task, and his car broke down on the drive back to Birmingham.”

Larry is currently leading Waller Lansden’s litigation team in the largest municipal bankruptcy case in American history. The case will impact not only parties to the bankruptcy, but also the municipal finance market for years to come.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

Banks Entitled to Recover Attorneys’ Fees When forced to Litigate Frivolous Claims

In Ocean Bank v. Caribbean Towers Condominium Association, Inc., the Court of Appeals ruled that a bank was entitled to attorneys’ fees as a result of a condominium association’s claim that it was entitled to recover condo association fees from a lender more than the amount allowed by Statute. In this case, the association sought amounts 9 and 13 times greater than allowed for under the Florida Statute 718.116(1)(b). This demand caused the bank to delay closings on the resale of the units. The court ruled that the bank was entitled to recover its attorneys’ fees in litigating a clearly frivolous position taken by the association. This ruling should deter associations from claiming the right to recover amounts in excess of the statutory cap.