

If you're searching for an injury lawyer in Lafayette, Louisiana, you might find yourself overwhelmed by the sheer number of law firms popping up in Google Search's top 30 results or in the Google local map pack. Large firms like **Brandt & Sherman, LLP**, **Broussard, David & Moroux**, and **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers** often dominate the scene, with slick billboards and aggressive advertising campaigns. But how do you know who's really handling your file once you sign on the dotted line? This is a critical question because your legal rights and the handling of your claim could hinge on how your case is managed daily.

Case Manager vs Attorney: What's the Difference?

One of the most common misunderstandings clients have is about who truly manages their case. In many big injury firms, the day-to-day work on your file is done by a *case manager* or a legal assistant — not the attorney whose name is on the billboard or website.

What Does a Case Manager Do?

- Acts as the primary point of contact for the client
- Collects medical records and bills
- Coordinates with healthcare providers and insurance companies
- Prepares documents under attorney supervision

What Does the Attorney Do?

- Provides legal advice and strategy
- Reviews and approves key documents
- Negotiates settlements or takes the case to trial
- Represents the client in court

The important thing to remember: you should **get the attorney's name in writing** during your initial consultation. Ask upfront who exactly will be handling your case, how often the attorney will personally review your file, and the level of partner involvement. Write all this down during the consult because verbal promises can be forgotten or misunderstood.

Partner-Led Handling: Why It Matters in Big Firms

Many Lafayette injury firms use a "partner-led" model where a senior partner oversees the team but doesn't manage every case personally. Yet, a true partner-led case ensures:

1. The partner reviews your case regularly
2. Key decisions require partner approval
3. You can reach the partner directly when needed

Brandt & Sherman, LLP and **Broussard, David & Moroux** often emphasize partner involvement on their websites. Still, it's wise to confirm how much accessibility you will have to the partner and whether your case will be "handed off" to less experienced staff after signing.

Understanding Louisiana's Important Injury Law Changes

Louisiana's injury law landscape is changing in ways that will impact your case's viability and potential recovery. You need a Lafayette injury lawyer who knows the details and deadlines — not just a flashy billboard.

Two-Year Prescription Change (Effective July 1, 2024)

Effective July 1, 2024, Louisiana will tighten its personal injury prescription period from one year to two years. That means you generally have two years from the date of your injury to file a claim. However, watch out: some injury types and circumstances might have different rules.

Big firms like **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers** usually update their intake processes to reflect these changes, but you should always **write down your injury date and confirm with your attorney the exact prescription deadline**. Misstatements about "one year" without considering your specific injury date remain one of my biggest pet peeves when scanning firm websites and GMB profiles.

51% Fault Bar (Effective January 1, 2026)

Starting January 1, 2026, Louisiana will implement a "51% fault bar." This means that if you are found to be more than 50% at fault for your injury, you cannot recover damages from the other party.



This change fundamentally affects how fault percentages are argued and settled. Your attorney must be familiar with the nuances and how to effectively advocate for [51% fault bar louisiana](#) you under this new standard. Firms that mention "maximum compensation" on their sites without addressing this change are likely relying on outdated or fluffy marketing slogans.

Paid vs Billed Medical Expenses Rule (For Suits Filed On or After January 1, 2026)

Also effective January 1, 2026, Louisiana will permit plaintiffs to recover only the *paid* portion of medical expenses, not the total "billed" amount. This is a critical distinction that can reduce settlement amounts significantly.

Your Lafayette injury lawyer should explain how this affects your claim's valuation and tailor your case strategy accordingly.

How to Vet a Lafayette Injury Lawyer Beyond Billboards and Online Rankings

Google Search's top 30 results and the local map pack might highlight big-name firms, but ranking high does not guarantee quality. Personally, I've reviewed hundreds of injury law firm websites and Google Business Profiles (GMBs) in Acadiana territory and noticed common red flags:



- Generic filler content with no local specificity or explanations about Louisiana laws
- Claims about “maximum compensation” with zero mention of prescription deadlines or new fault bars
- Review counts or logos used as ranking tools rather than meaningful client experiences
- Vague “contact us” without clarity on case team or file handling

Tips for a Better Vetting Process

1. **Look for detailed information about who handles your case:** Do they explain case managers vs attorneys? Is partner involvement clear?
2. **Check if they update you on the latest Louisiana law changes:** Prescription timing, fault bars, medical expense rules.
3. **Ask for a direct attorney contact during your consultation:** Get the name in writing.
4. **Read user reviews carefully:** Focus on mentions of communication quality and case outcome transparency rather than just star ratings.
5. **Don't rely solely on advertising claims:** Billboards and TV ads are expensive and designed to catch your eye—not always your best legal protection.

Summary Table: Key Differences & Legal Changes to Remember

Topic Key Points Effective Date Prescription (Filing Deadline) Two-year statute of limitations replacing one year; write down injury date; confirm with attorney July 1, 2024 Fault Bar More than 50% at fault = no recovery; changes how faults are litigated January 1, 2026 Medical Expenses Rule Recovery based on *paid* medical expenses, not billed amounts January 1, 2026 File Handler Roles Case managers handle daily tasks; attorneys provide legal strategy and approvals; insist on partner-led handling Ongoing

Final Advice: Always Write Everything Down

When you meet with an injury attorney, bring a notebook or your phone's notes app and **write down every name, date, and legal deadline the attorney mentions**. Especially ask:

- Who will manage your file daily?
- What attorney will personally oversee your case?
- How often you will get updates?
- What deadlines apply to your case based on your injury date?
- How Louisiana's new laws might affect your claim

Remember, dealing with major Lafayette firms like **Brandt & Sherman, LLP, Broussard, David & Moroux**, or **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers** can be an excellent choice — but only if you're informed and proactive. Don't be seduced by flashy promises without substance. A well-informed claim handled by a knowledgeable attorney who leads your case increases the likelihood that you will receive fair treatment and an accurate, timely resolution.

If you're ready to move forward, start your search armed with this information. And make sure to double-check your law firm's online presence and Google Business Profile for updated information reflecting Louisiana's evolving injury laws.