

WACHTELL, LIPTON, ROSEN & KATZ

MARTIN LIPTON  
HERBERT M. WACHTELL  
BERNARD W. NUSSBAUM  
RICHARD D. KATCHER  
LAWRENCE B. PEDOWITZ  
PAUL VIZCARRONDO, JR.  
PETER C. HEIN  
HAROLD S. NOVIKOFF  
DAVID M. EINHORN  
KENNETH B. FORREST  
MEYER G. KOPLow  
THEODORE N. MIRVIS  
EDWARD D. HERLIHY  
DANIEL A. NEFF  
ERIC M. ROTH  
WARREN R. STERN  
ANDREW R. BROWNSTEIN  
MICHAEL H. BYOWITZ  
PAUL K. ROWE  
MARC WOLINSKY  
DAVID GRUENSTEIN  
PATRICIA A. VLAHAKIS

STEPHEN G. GELLMAN  
STEVEN A. ROSENBLUM  
PAMELA S. SEYMON  
STEPHANIE J. SELIGMAN  
ERIC S. ROBINSON  
JOHN F. SAVARESE  
SCOTT K. CHARLES  
ANDREW C. HOUSTON  
PHILIP MINDLIN  
DAVID S. NEILL  
JODI J. SCHWARTZ  
ADAM O. EMMERICH  
CRAIG M. WASSERMAN  
GEORGE T. CONWAY III  
RALPH M. LEVINE  
RICHARD G. MASON  
DOUGLAS K. MAYER  
MICHAEL J. SEGAL  
DAVID M. SILK  
ROBIN PANOVKA  
DAVID A. KATZ  
ILENE KNABLE GOTTS

51 WEST 52ND STREET  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019-6150  
TELEPHONE: (212) 403-1000  
FACSIMILE: (212) 403-2000

GEORGE A. KATZ (1965-1989)  
JAMES H. FOGELSON (1967-1991)

OF COUNSEL

WILLIAM T. ALLEN  
PETER C. CANELLOS  
THEODORE GEWERTZ  
THEODORE A. LEVINE  
ALLAN A. MARTIN  
LEONARD M. ROSEN  
MICHAEL W. SCHWARTZ  
ELLIOTT V. STEIN  
J. BRYAN WHITWORTH  
AMY R. WOLF

COUNSEL

MICHELE J. ALEXANDER  
LOUIS J. BARASH  
DIANNA CHEN  
ANDREW J.H. CHEUNG  
PAMELA EHRENKRANZ  
ELAINE P. GOLIN  
PAULA N. GORDON  
NANCY B. GREENBERG  
MAURA R. GROSSMAN  
IAN L. LEVIN  
J. AUSTIN LYONS  
HOLLY M. STRUTT

DAVID M. MURPHY  
JEFFREY M. WINTNER  
TREVOR S. NORWITZ  
BEN M. GERMANA  
ANDREW J. NUSSBAUM  
RACHELLE SILVERBERG  
DAVID C. BRYAN  
STEVEN A. COHEN  
GAVIN D. SOLOTAR  
DEBORAH L. PAUL  
DAVID C. KARP  
RICHARD K. KIM  
JOSHUA R. CAMMAKER  
MARK GORDON  
JOSEPH D. LARSON  
LAWRENCE S. MAKOW  
JEANNEMARIE O'BRIEN  
WAYNE M. CARLIN  
JAMES COLE, JR.  
STEPHEN R. DIPRIMA  
NICHOLAS G. DEMMO  
IGOR KIRMAN

JONATHAN M. MOSES  
T. EIKO STANGE  
DAVID A. SCHWARTZ  
JOHN F. LYNCH  
WILLIAM SAVITT  
ERIC M. ROSOF  
MARTIN J.E. ARMS  
GREGORY E. OSTLING  
DAVID B. ANDERS  
ADAM J. SHAPIRO  
NELSON O. FITTS  
JEREMY L. GOLDSTEIN  
JOSHUA M. HOLMES  
DAVID E. SHAPIRO  
DAMIAN G. DIDDEN  
ANTE VUCIC  
IAN BOCZKO  
MATTHEW M. GUEST  
DAVID E. KAHAN  
DAVID K. LAM

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CHARLES R. FULBRUGE III  
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Via Federal Express

Mr. Charles R. Fulbruge III  
Clerk of the Court  
United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit  
600 South Maestri Place  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Re: Oceanic Exploration Co., et al. v. ConocoPhillips, et. al, No. 08-20338  
March 30, 2009 calendar before Judges Barksdale, Dennis and Elrod

Dear Mr. Fulbruge:

Very reluctantly, we feel compelled to respond to Plaintiffs' counsel's letter of April 13, 2009, purporting to respond to our previous letter to the Court of April 7, 2009.

In our April 7 letter, we assiduously avoided making any argumentation and merely provided the Court with citations to a record reference requested by the Court upon oral argument, as well as to two decisions that were referenced upon oral argument in response to Court questions, which decisions had not been included in the parties' briefs.

Oceanic's counsel has seized upon that letter as an excuse to file a post-argument mini-brief that unfortunately requires a response:

1) It is rather troubling that Plaintiffs' counsel continues to proffer the canard that the East Timor Constitution "vitiates all prior interests, including those of ConocoPhillips, in East Timorese natural resources" while omitting to state that the Constitution only vitiates those resources "which are not confirmed . . . after the Constitution enters into force." Second

Mr. Charles R. Fulbruge III

April 17, 2009

Page 2

Amended Complaint ¶ 88 (R4268). And, of course, the *very same day* that the Constitution entered into force, newly independent East Timor signed a treaty with Australia that *confirmed* existing concessions, including those held by ConocoPhillips. (R5916.)

2) Counsel advances argumentation as to why the concessions contained in a footnote in plaintiffs' brief below are supposedly not concessions at all. We prefer to let the language speak for itself but would simply note that — concessions or no — entirely absent from the Second Amended Complaint is any allegation of any nature that Australia would ever have gone along with any attempt by East Timor to abrogate the existing concessions and unilaterally embark upon some plan whereby Plaintiffs could obtain and exploit mineral rights in seabed waters that, according to Oceanic's own pleading, were claimed by Australia. Second Amended Complaint ¶ 49 (R4255).

3) Oceanic tries to distinguish the cases for which our letter provided citations on the ground that they did not involve bribery, but that distinction has no bearing upon the issue for which those cases were cited. Those cases were referenced in response to a question from the Court to illustrate that courts recognize that some injuries caused by illegal conduct in violation of the antitrust laws or RICO may be left unremedied in private treble-damage actions for "lack of a proper plaintiff." *E.g., Oregon Laborers v. Philip Morris*, 185 F.3d 957, 964 (9th Cir. 1999).

4) Finally, nothing in this Court's recent *Kanneganti* decision alters the proximate-cause requirements established by the Supreme Court in *AGC*, *Holmes*, and *Anza*.

Very respectfully submitted,

*Herbert M. Wachtell* / JFL

cc: James D. McCarthy, Esq., Diamond McCarthy LLP  
Jon Corey, Esq., Quinn Emanuel Urquhart Oliver & Hedges LLP  
Emmet J. Bondurant, Esq., Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore, LLP  
B. Thomas Peele III, Esq., Baker & McKenzie LLP