

# Appeals Court Refuses LA Spill Claim Transfer

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal appeals court has rejected a bid by Louisiana Attorney General James "Buddy" Caldwell to have a new judge oversee the state's claims over BP's 2010 Gulf oil spill.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied Caldwell's request in a one-sentence order dated Monday.

In a Dec. 31 court filing, Caldwell's office accused U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier of ignoring the state's spill-related claims and asked for them to be transferred to a different judge in the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Barbier oversees most of the federal litigation spawned by the spill. Last year, he presided over two phases of a trial for a host of claims against BP and its contractors by the Gulf states, the federal government and businesses and residents.

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