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Newsroom: Logan on BP Spill Trial

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The first phase of the BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill trial is over, but Dean David A. Logan says the distribution -- and degree -- of liability among major players is far from certain.

From the New Orleans Times-Picayune: “Sprawling BP oil spill trial closes chapter three years after deadly disaster” by Richard Thompson, NOLA.com

NEW ORLEANS, April 19, 2013: Almost three years to the day after the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig caught fire and exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, the first phase of the sprawling BP Gulf of Mexico oil spill trial came to a low-key close.

When court adjourned Wednesday (April 17), U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier Jr. had heard eight weeks of testimony about whether BP or its drilling partners should be held liable for the 2010 disaster. The parade of witnesses ranged from current and former company executives to drilling rig workers to a host of experts in various areas of oil and gas drilling. [...]

David Logan, the law school dean at Roger Williams University, offered a measured outlook. “There certainly was plenty of sloppy behavior to go around,” Logan said,
"but whether that rises to the level of gross negligence in that context, it is a concept that's shrouded in uncertainty."