Newsroom: Logan on BP Settlement Payments

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Newsroom

Logan on BP Settlement Payments

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to stay BP's obligation to pay claims related to the Gulf oil spill during appeal. Dean David Logan discusses the implications.

From the NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE: "Supreme Court: BP must pay claims during appeal" by Richard Thompson

NEW ORLEANS, June 09, 2014: British oil giant BP will have to continue paying claims from its multibillion-dollar oil spill settlement while it tries to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to tighten the rules governing which businesses can get money.

BP had asked the nation’s highest court to issue a stay on those claims while it pursued its appeal of a lower court ruling. But the court declined that request on Monday without comment.

That, by the company’s own reckoning, means sums totaling hundreds of millions of dollars may continue to flow over the next few months to businesses claiming a loss of income after the 2010 spill.

And it doesn’t bode well for the company’s argument overall, according to some legal experts. If the court thought BP had a decent case, the thinking goes, it would have issued the stay, knowing that it would be difficult to recoup the money after it has already been paid out.

“This certainly doesn’t suggest that this is a compelling case for the court to hear full argument on,” said David Logan, dean of the law school at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. [...] 