

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA, LAFAYETTE DIVISION

Stringer v. Robin Instrument & Specialty, LLC

Stringer · No. 6:23-cv-00415 · Decided February 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The court denied Ametek’s motion for summary judgment and denied the defendants’ Daubert motion to exclude the testimony of plaintiffs’ expert. The court granted Robin’s motion for summary judgment in part as to plaintiffs’ Louisiana Products Liability Act claims, but denied it as to potential non-manufacturer seller negligence liability. The ruling concerns alleged failure to warn about pressure-unit settings on a digital test gauge involved in a fatal offshore-platform explosion.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David C. Joseph
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division
DECIDED	February 20, 2026
DOCKET	6:23-cv-00415
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs brought Louisiana Products Liability Act and negligence claims in Louisiana state court arising from a fatal offshore-platform explosion. Robin removed the action to federal court. Ametek and Robin moved for summary judgment, and both defendants moved to exclude plaintiffs' expert testimony under Daubert and Federal Rule of Evidence 702.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is proper when there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law; facts and reasonable inferences are construed in favor of the nonmoving party. Expert admissibility is reviewed under Federal Rule of Evidence 702 and the court's Daubert gatekeeping function, with doubts generally affecting the weight rather than admissibility of testimony.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Ciji Stringer, et al. v. Robin Instrument & Specialty, LLC, et al., Ametek, Inc.

TOPICS

summary judgment daubert standard expert testimony products liability negligence

PRACTICE AREAS

products liability negligence evidence civil procedure admiralty

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiffs' expert Glenn H. Gleason was qualified and whether his opinions were sufficiently reliable and non-speculative for admission under Federal Rule of Evidence 702 and Daubert.
2. Whether Ametek was entitled to summary judgment on plaintiffs' Louisiana Products Liability Act failure-to-warn claim.
3. Whether Robin qualified as a manufacturer under the Louisiana Products Liability Act based on alleged modifications or control over the Crystal Gauge.
4. Whether Robin was entitled to summary judgment on plaintiffs' non-manufacturer-seller negligence claim because plaintiffs lacked evidence that Robin had actual or constructive knowledge of the alleged defect or failed to warn.

HOLDINGS

1. Gleason was qualified to testify as an expert, and the factual bases and methodology underlying his opinions were not so speculative or unreliable as to require exclusion under Rule 702 and Daubert.
2. Ametek was not entitled to summary judgment because plaintiffs presented sufficient evidence to create a genuine dispute of material fact as to whether the Crystal Gauge's alleged failure to warn rendered it unreasonably dangerous.
3. Robin was entitled to summary judgment on plaintiffs' LPLA claims because plaintiffs failed to present evidence that Robin exercised control over or influenced a characteristic of the Crystal Gauge's design, construction, or quality that caused the alleged harm.
4. Robin was not entitled to summary judgment on the non-manufacturer-seller negligence claim because plaintiffs presented sufficient evidence to create a genuine dispute about Robin's actual or constructive knowledge of the alleged defect and its failure to warn.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“rejection of expert testimony is the exception rather than the rule.” (p. 6)

“At bottom, Plaintiffs have put forth sufficient evidence to create a genuine dispute of material fact as to whether Robin knew or should have known of the Crystal Gauge’s alleged defect arising from unintended

activation of pressure readings in unit systems that users may be unfamiliar with.” (p. 12)

“Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Ametek’s MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT [Doc. 71] is DENIED.” (p. 13)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Timothy L. Stringer died in a May 15, 2021, explosion on an offshore oil and gas production platform while performing a pressure-integrity test. He used an Ametek Crystal XP2i Digital Test Gauge distributed by Robin and reportedly called out a pressure reading of 175. Investigators concluded that the gauge was displaying pressure in Bar rather than PSI, meaning the reported reading corresponded to approximately 2,538 PSI and exceeded the casing's maximum pressure rating. Stringer's spouse and children alleged that Ametek and Robin failed to warn users about the gauge's selectable pressure units and the dangers of misinterpreting them.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed suit in the Fifteenth Judicial District Court for Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, on February 28, 2023. Robin removed the case to the Western District of Louisiana on March 31, 2023. The district court denied the motions to exclude plaintiffs' expert, denied Ametek's motion for summary judgment, and granted Robin summary judgment on plaintiffs' LPLA claims while denying summary judgment on potential non-manufacturer-seller negligence liability.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986)
- Deshotel v. Wal-Mart La., L.L.C., 850 F.3d 742, 745 (5th Cir. 2017)
- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986)
- Rushing v. Kansas City S. Ry. Co., 185 F.3d 496, 507 (5th Cir. 1999)
- Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharms., Inc., 509 U.S. 579, 590 (1993)
- In re Taxotere (Docetaxel) Prods. Liab. Litig., 26 F.4th 256, 268 (5th Cir. 2022)
- La. Minerals, Ltd. v. Weyerhaeuser Co., 2025 WL 1783719, at *2 (W.D. La. June 18, 2025)
- Liberty Mut. Fire Ins. Co. v. Fowlkes Plumbing, L.L.C., 850 F. App'x 213, 217 (5th Cir. 2021)
- Rodrigue v. Aetna Cas. & Sur. Co., 395 U.S. 352 (1969)
- Stewart v. Cap. Safety USA, 867 F.3d 517, 520 (La. 2017)
- Stahl v. Novartis Pharms. Corp., 283 F.3d 254, 260-61 (5th Cir. 2002)
- Primrose Operation Co. v. Nat'l Am. Ins. Co., 382 F.3d 546, 562 (5th Cir. 2004)
- Alexander v. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., 123 So. 3d 712, 714 (La. 2013)
- Kelley v. Price-Macemon, Inc., 992 F.2d 1408, 1414 (5th Cir. 1993)
- State Farm v. Norcold, Inc., 2008 WL 4853030, at *2 (W.D. La. Oct. 17, 2008)

- Hopper v. Crown, 555 So. 2d 46 (La. App. 1st Cir. 1989)

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