

#### 17<sup>th</sup> annual

# ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW CONFERENCE

Earn up to 7.75 Hours of Credit Including 1.00 Hour of Ethics Credit Specialization Credit Expected for Civil Trial Law and Personal Injury



October 24, 2008 Four Seasons Hotel Houston, Texas

#### ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW CONFERENCE

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#### FRIDAY MORNING, OCT. 24, 2008

#### Presiding Officer:

Steven L. Roberts, Sutherland LLP, Houston, TX

7:45 a.m.

**Registration Opens** 

Includes continental breakfast.

8:45 a.m.

1.50 hrs

#### Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law at the National Level and in the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits

This paper is the ninth of an annual series that tries to flag everything of genuine importance nationally and everything of significant interest from the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits.

David W. Robertson, Austin, TX Michael F. Sturley, Austin, TX

10:15 a.m.

**Break** 

10:30 a.m.

.50 hr

#### Perspective from the Bench

Judge Elrod will discuss her work on both the state district court and on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and will provide practice tips for state and federal practitioners.

Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod, Houston, TX

11:00 a.m.

1.00 hr

## So Your Platform Disappeared in the Hurricane

Current insurance issues arising from hurricane damage to offshore oil & gas facilities, including property damage and business interruption, wreck and debris removal, control of wells and making wells safe.

Moderator: John R. Pearson, Houston, TX J. Clifton Hall III, Houston, TX Claude L. Stuart III, Houston, TX Samantha Trahan, Houston, TX Harold K. Watson, Houston, TX

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

#### Presiding Officer:

Stephen M. Vaughan, Tucker, Vaughan, Gardner & Barnes, PC, Houston, TX

#### **LUNCHEON PRESENTATION**

12:00 p.m. Pick up Box Lunch

Included in conference registration fee.

12:15 p.m.

### History of Offshore Drilling and Why We drill in Deep Water

Overview of an industry that has ordered over \$100 billion of new assets in the last two years.

**Break** 

W. Dennis Heagney, Houston, TX

12:45 p.m.

1:00 p.m.

1.00 hr

.50 hr

#### International Choice of Law

The panel will discuss proof of foreign law and choice of law in absence of contract, with an in-house perspective on what a client looks for when choosing a jurisdiction, whether for contract or following an incident, as well as any concerns with the "usual suspects"—reflecting some of the changes in local legislation.

Julia M. Adams, Houston, TX Anne Liversedge, Amsterdam, Netherlands Eugene J. Silva II, Houston, TX

2:00 p.m.

.75 hr

# Forum Selection and Arbitration Clauses in Seamen's Injury Claims

Forum selection and arbitration clauses in employment contracts and post-injury agreements involving foreign and domestic seamen and injuries; validity under the general maritime law, Jones Act, Federal Arbitration Act, and Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards; and procedural and unconscionability issues for enforceability.

Michael P. Doyle, Houston, TX Monica Fekete Markovich, Houston, TX

2:45 p.m.

**Break** 

3:00 p.m.

.50 hr

#### New Developments and Issues as High Technology Impacts the Offshore Sector

This session will discuss the current Jones Act application to offshore rigs and shuttle tankers as well as new technology and its consequences on anchoring issues.

Anacarolina Estaba, Houston, TX

3:30 p.m.

.50 hr

#### Avoiding Medicare Land Mines in Maritime Personal Injury Settlements

The Medicare Secondary Payer Statute poses land mines to completing a maritime personal injury settlement. This is an update to discuss strategies to handle Medicare lien claims and satisfy the Medicare set-aside requirements to finalize your settlement.

Matthew H. Ammerman, Houston, TX

4:00 p.m.

.50 hr

#### The State of Texas' Expanding Role in Maritime Matters

The State of Texas is increasing its involvement in maritime matters. From 2003-2007 Ed Burbach served as Texas' Deputy Attorney General for Litigation and, thus, had responsibility for all civil litigation involving the State of Texas, its agencies, and leadership. He will discuss how the State affects the maritime industry and legal community through its increasing involvement in environmental, homeland security, Public Information Act, energy, litigation, and other areas.

Edward D. Burbach, Austin, TX

4:30 p.m.

.50 hr ethics

#### Other People's Money

The ethical challenges of *Excess Underwriters v. Frank's Casing Crew*, 246 SW3d 42 (Tex. 2008)—How insurance coverage issues affect counsel's duties regarding settlement of underlying substantive disputes.

W. Robins Brice, Houston, TX

5:00 p.m.

.50 hr ethics

#### Criminal Law Sets Sail on U.S. Waters

It used to be that maritime lawyers only had to figure out whether a worker aboard a ship was a seaman or not. Now the maritime lawyer must also decide whether the seaman is a criminal or not? A discussion of the murky legal waters seamen now find themselves in when they negotiate administrative agency processes that may lead to their criminal prosecution for pollution, navigation or recordkeeping violations. When does the mariner's cooperation with an administrative process jeopardize their Fifth Amendment right to remain silent during a criminal investigation? How murky are the waters that surround the demarcation line between an administrative investigation and a criminal investigation? What are some of the ethical considerations a maritime lawyer must navigate when representing the ship owner, the seaman or the vessel manager when they are sailing in to the treacherous waters of criminal prosecution?

Reginald E. McKamie, Houston, TX

5:30 p.m.

Adjourn

• Phone: 512-475-6700 Fax: 512-475-6876 Web: www.utcle.org

#### **HOW TO REGISTER**

The University of Texas
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P.O. Box 7759
Austin, TX 78713-7759

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**FAX**: 512-475-6876

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#### **Course Binder**

The Admiralty and Maritime Law Conference generates the year's definitive set of resource materials for maritime lawyers. Don't miss an encyclopedic guide to recent case law developments and current issues, along with practical strategies—over 400 pages of user-friendly materials.

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Invoices, confirmations and receipts are emailed to these addresses.

Larly Registration Fee due by Wed., October 15, 2008 ......\$325.00

Registration Fee after Wed., October 15, 2008 ......\$375.00

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Includes Course Binder and Friday Box Lunch

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Allow 2-4 weeks from conference date for delivery.

Allow 2-4 weeks from conference date for delivery.

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METHOD OF PAYMENT

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REGISTRATION

# HOUSTON October 24, 2008 CONFERENCE LOCATION



#### Four Seasons Hotel

1300 Lamar St Houston, TX 77010 713-650-1300

#### SPECIAL ROOM RATE \$230

good through October 2, 2008 (subject to availability)

Parking: Valet Only, Daily \$13; Overnight \$27 (subject to change)

#### **KEY DATES**

#### Registration & Cancellation

October 15, 2008–5 p.m.

last day for early registration
add \$50 for registrations
received after this time

October 17, 2008–5 p.m. last day for full refund

October 20, 2008–5 p.m. last day for partial refunds \$50 processing fee applied

October 24, 2008–8:45 a.m. conference begins

M C L This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 7.75 hours, of which 1.00 credit hour will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of Colifornia approved MCLE provider (#1944).

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