

30th Annual David W. Robertson Admiralty and Maritime Law Conference
October 15, 2021 • Royal Sonesta Hotel Houston • Houston, TX
October 15, 2021 • Live Webcast

Friday Morning, Oct. 15, 2021

Presiding Officer:

Thomas C. Fitzhugh III, Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea & BenMaier, PLLC - Houston, TX

7:30 am In Houston Only	<p>Registration Opens</p> <p>Includes continental breakfast.</p>
8:20 am	<p>Welcoming Remarks</p>
8:30 am 1.25 hrs	<p>Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law at the National Level and in the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits</p> <p>The twenty-first annual installment of the seminal paper surveys developments, identifies issues of genuine national importance, and discusses items of significant interest from the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits.</p> <p>Michael F. Sturley, The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX Matthew H. Ammerman, Law Office of Matthew H. Ammerman, P.C. - Houston, TX</p>
9:45 am	<p>Break</p>
10:00 am 0.50 hr	<p>Puzzling Pilots: Reevaluating the Legal Status of Pilots</p> <p>Using pilots as a case study, this presentation reexamines the ever-perplexing jurisprudence of seaman status and explores where the courts have, arguably, gone astray.</p> <p>Reid E. Coleman, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit - Houston, TX</p>
10:30 am 1.00 hr	<p>En Banc Decision of the Fifth Circuit in <i>Sanchez v. Smart Fabricators</i></p> <p>The author of the unanimous en banc decision of the Fifth Circuit in <i>Sanchez v. Smart Fabricators</i> discusses the evolution of the test for seaman status and the ramifications of the decision for maritime workers and employers.</p> <p>Hon. W. Eugene Davis, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit - New Orleans, LA Kenneth G. Engerrand, Brown Sims, P.C. - Houston, TX</p>
11:30 am 0.50 hr	<p>A Practical Guide to Filing a Limitation of Liability Proceeding</p> <p>This presentation discusses the pleadings and related documents that need to be filed in connection with a limitation of liability proceeding under the unified Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and points out the differences in terminology between the Federal Rules and the former Admiralty Rules.</p> <p>Frank A. Piccolo, Chaffe McCall LLP - Houston, TX Materials By: Harold K. Watson, Chaffe McCall LLP - Houston, TX</p>

12:00 pm
In Houston Only

Pick Up Lunch (in Houston)

Included in registration.

Friday Afternoon, Oct. 15, 2021

Presiding Officer:

Peter A. McLauchlan, McLauchlan Law Group, LLC - Houston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:30 pm
0.50 hr

Legal Issues with Novel Uses and Emerging Technologies in the Maritime Sector

An exploration of the ongoing development of novel uses in the maritime sector, including alternative fuels (hydrogen, biofuels, nuclear), wave energy generation, autonomy, commercial space operations, and aquaculture. In many cases, these emerging technologies have outpaced regulations and may not fit squarely in current legal frameworks, and are requiring innovative solutions.

Sean T. Pribyl, Holland & Knight LLP - Washington, DC

1:00 pm

Break

1:10 pm
1.00 hr

Offshore Wind Energy Projects and the Complexities Presented by U.S. Maritime Laws

This panel of industry experts offers insights into the complicating role that the Jones Act, OCSLA, and other maritime laws play in developing and operating offshore wind energy projects in U.S. waters.

Moderator:

John J. Michael, Vinson & Elkins LLP - Houston, TX

Panelists:

Jeff Andreini, Crowley Marine Services, Inc. - Houston, TX

Karl Humberson, Dominion Energy - Richmond, VA

2:10 pm
1.00 hr

Laying the Keel for a Seaworthy Arbitration

A discussion of the considerations arbitration clause drafters give to contract language and terms, as well as the impact of those decisions when disputes arise.

Moderator:

F. Daniel Knight, Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry - Houston, TX

Panelists:

Tami L. Brennan, MODEC International, Inc. - Houston, TX

Julia M. Haines, Holland & Knight LLP - Houston, TX

Theresa Wanat, Holland & Knight LLP - Houston, TX

3:10 pm

Break

3:20 pm
0.50 hr

Analyzing Subrogation and Recovery Issues in Complex Maritime Property Losses

Examine a recent and complex vessel collision that occurred during Hurricane Harvey, spanning various maritime issues. Hear an analysis on how those issues intersect with the subrogation claims pursued on behalf of a multitude of insurers. This presentation also touches upon common subrogation claims and defense regularly encountered in litigation.

James D. Dendinger, Cozen O'Connor - Dallas, TX
Jason S. Schulze, Cozen O'Connor - Houston, TX

3:50 pm
0.50 hr

Insolvencies Topic: Intersection of Admiralty and Bankruptcy

A discussion on the unique aspects of maritime bankruptcy cases and some practical tips for professionals appearing in bankruptcy courts.

Hon. Chris López, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX

4:20 pm
1.00 hr ethics

What To Do If Your Client Is Misbehaving, Part XI

Real-world questions and answers regarding ethics, the law, and what to do when your client asks you to do something improper. Stump our experts with your hardest questions! Please submit your questions in advance via [this short form](#).

Bradley A. Jackson, The University of Texas School of Law - Houston, TX
Scott Rothenberg, Law Office of Scott Rothenberg - Bellaire, TX

5:20 pm

Adjourn