

33RD ANNUAL DAVID W. ROBERTSON
**ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME
LAW CONFERENCE**



January 10, 2025
Vinson & Elkins LLP ■ Houston, Texas

Earn up to 7.50 Hours of Credit, Including 1.50 Hours of Ethics Credit

MCLE Credit Approved in TX, CA, LA, OK, and PA (Hours Vary by Jurisdiction)

Specialization Credit Approved for Administrative Law, Civil Appellate Law, Civil Trial Law,
Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, and Personal Injury Trial Law

33RD ANNUAL DAVID W. ROBERTSON
ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW CONFERENCE

January 10, 2025 ■ Vinson & Elkins LLP ■ Houston, Texas

Earn up to 7.50 Hours of Credit, Including 1.00 Hour of Ethics Credit

MCLE Credit Approved in TX, CA, LA, OK, and PA (Hours Vary by Jurisdiction)

Specialization Credit Approved for Administrative Law, Civil Appellate Law, Civil Trial Law, Oil, Gas and Mineral Law, and Personal Injury Trial Law

Times listed are in Central Time

FRIDAY MORNING, JAN. 10, 2025

Presiding Officer:

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

7:45 a.m. Conference Room Opens

Includes continental breakfast.

8:20 a.m. Welcoming Remarks

8:30 a.m. 1.25 hrs

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

The twenty-fourth 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.

Matthew H. Ammerman, Law Office of Matthew H. Ammerman, P.C., Houston, TX
Michael F. Sturley, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX

9:45 a.m. 15-Minute Break

10:00 a.m. 1.00 hr

Knowing the Ropes: Maritime Practice in a Post-Chevron World

In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* and the overturning of *Chevron Deference*, the maritime industry is facing a sea of change. From presenting cases under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act ("LHWCA"), to challenging agency actions under OPA, CERCLA, and the Jones Act, to challenging Federal Maritime Commission and other agency promulgated regulations, the absence of *Chevron Deference* is already having a strong and lasting impact. The speakers discuss broad practice trends, individual case studies, and what the maritime industry looks like in a post-*Chevron* world.

Carrol P. Hand, Holland & Knight LLP, Richmond, VA
David Hornbeak, Holland & Knight LLP, Houston, TX
Roger Levy, Levy Mediations, Tiburon, CA

**M
C
L
E**

This course has been approved for Minimum Continuing Legal Education credit by the State Bar of Texas Committee on MCLE in the amount of 7.50 hours, of which 1.50 credit hours will apply to legal ethics/professional responsibility credit. The University of Texas School of Law is a State Bar of California approved MCLE provider (#1944), and an Oklahoma Bar Association MCLE presumptively-approved provider (#169).

11:00 a.m. .50 hr

Salty, Silent, but Not Surreptitious: Update on Maritime Liens

This presentation compares and contrasts maritime liens from a global perspective with a focus on U.S. and U.K. law liens. It addresses the practical impact of these differences in the creation, priority, and enforcement of these maritime liens in U.S. courts.

Felisa E. Sanchez, K&L Gates LLP, Houston, TX
Jody M. Schisel-Meslin, K&L Gates LLP, Houston, TX

11:30 a.m. .75 hr

The More Things Change... 30 Years of Judging Admiralty Cases

Learn how the admiralty docket in the Southern District of Texas has changed over the last 30 years, and what that can teach us about what to expect in the next 30 years.

Hon. Lee H. Rosenthal, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, Houston, TX

12:15 p.m. Pick Up Lunch

Included in registration.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Presiding Officer:

Michael K. Bell, Blank Rome LLP,
Houston, TX

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 p.m. .50 hr

Robins Dry Dock and Intentional Torts

A review of attempts by plaintiffs to circumvent the rule of *Robins Dry v. Flint* that precludes recovery of economic damages in the absence of a proprietary interest in damaged property by alleging an intentional tort.

Harold K. Watson, Chaffe McCall LLP, Houston, TX

1:05 p.m. 15-Minute Break

1:20 p.m. 1.00 hr

To Save, or Not to Save: Perspectives on Admiralty Suits in State Courts under the Saving to Suitors Clause of 28 U.S.C. 1333

Hear from two accomplished attorneys on different sides of the bar concerning the positives and negatives of admiralty suits filed in state court.

Moderator:

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

Panelists:

Mark T. Murray, Stevenson & Murray, Houston, TX
Andrew Schreck, Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea, BenMaier & Eastham PLLC, Houston, TX

2:20 p.m. 1.00 hr ethics

What to Do if Your Client is Misbehaving (Part XIV)

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 to ConferenceQA@utcle.org.

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

3:20 p.m. 15-Minute Break

3:35 p.m. .50 hr ethics

Why Does a Law Firm Need a Legal Department?

An exploration of how a firm's legal department can work to protect the firm and help lawyers navigate ethical questions, engagement letters, conflicts, waivers, sanctions, unhappy clients, claims, grievances, the use of AI and more.

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

Co-Author:

Katia Leiva, Holland & Knight LLP, Houston, TX

4:05 p.m. .50 hr

Choice-of-Law Issues and Proof of Foreign Law in Collision Cases

This presentation examines how courts analyze the choice of law factors of *Lauritzen v. Larsen* and its progeny in a vessel collision case, and the materials courts consider in determining foreign law, using as its example the litigation resulting from the collision of a United States warship in the Singapore Strait.

Alan M. Weigel, Blank Rome LLP, New York, NY

4:35 p.m.

.50 hr

The Potential-to-Disrupt Maritime Commerce Test for Admiralty Tort Jurisdiction

A federal court exercising admiralty tort jurisdiction must find that the relevant "incident has a potentially disruptive impact on maritime commerce." But the Supreme Court has offered little guidance on the contours of the potential-to-disrupt-maritime-commerce test, and lower-court decisions are hopelessly inconsistent. This presentation provides an overview and a critical analysis of the issue.

Michael F. Sturley, The University of Texas School of Law, Austin, TX

5:05 p.m.

Adjourn

HOW TO REGISTER

Online:

www.utcle.org/conferences/AM25/signup

Mail:

The University of Texas
School of Law
ATTN: CLE
P.O. Box 12883
Austin, TX 78711

Fax:

512.475.6876

Questions? 512.475.6700

If you have dietary requirements or would like to request accommodations under the ADA, please contact Customer Service at 512.475.6700 or service@utcle.org at least 10 days prior to the conference.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

UT Law CLE offers annual subscriptions for MCLE On-Demand and our eLibrary *Unlimited Access. Anytime. Anywhere.*

Compare options and subscribe at www.utcle.org/subscriptions

***Subscriptions do not include registrations to live conferences or live webcasts.*

ABOUT THE COVER



"Seafarers"
by Rachel Wiley-Janota
www.rachelwiley.com | 713.725.8592

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

AM25

Bar Card # _____ TX Other State: _____ N/A

Name [Mr. / Ms.] _____

Firm _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Registrant's Email (required) _____

Assistant's Email (optional) _____
Invoices, confirmations, and receipts are emailed to these addresses.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Includes Electronic Course Binder Download (PDF) in "Your Briefcase." Special group registration rates available. Call 512.475.6700.

Live, In-Person Event Registration \$455 | \$495 after December 13

Printed and Shipped Binder with Registration (Shipping Included) – Available for order through Friday, January 10, 2025

Please note that the printed binder will arrive 2-3 weeks after the conclusion of the live event. Delivery to P.O. boxes is not permitted. Binders will not be distributed on-site.

Printed and Shipped Course Binder \$102.84 (\$95*)

TOTAL EVENT REGISTRATION \$ _____

FIRST AND SECOND YEAR ATTORNEYS MAY ATTEND FOR JUST \$195! CALL 512.475.6700 TO REGISTER.

POST-CONFERENCE PRODUCTS

eConference – For Texas and California MCLE Credit

Includes Electronic Course Binder Download (PDF) and program video/audio. Available 6-8 weeks after live event. Hours may vary depending on actual event runtime.

Individual eConference \$495

Post-Course Binder – For Research and Self-Study

Comprehensive binder with papers and slides, available for delivery 4-6 weeks after live event.

Electronic Post-Course Download (PDF) \$211.09 (\$195*)

Printed Post-Course Binder \$265.21 (\$245*)

TOTAL POST-CONFERENCE PRODUCTS \$ _____

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Check (make check payable to The University of Texas at Austin)

VISA MasterCard American Express P.O. (include a copy of the purchase order upon submission)

Card / P.O. # _____ CW # _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____
(mm/yy)

Authorized Signature _____

** Tax-exempt rate for, e.g., government employees and nonprofits. Include a Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate with order.*

HOUSTON

January 10, 2025

CONFERENCE LOCATION



Vinson & Elkins LLP
Texas Tower
845 Texas Avenue
Houston, TX 77002
713.758.2222

Parking:

Please visit www.utcle.org/conferences/AM25 for daily and overnight rates

KEY DATES

December 13, 2024

Last day for early registration rates

January 3, 2025

Last day for full refund cancellation

January 6, 2025

Last day for partial refund cancellation
\$50 processing fee applied

January 10, 8:20 a.m., CT

Conference begins

Friday, January 10, 2025

Last day to order a printed and shipped course binder with in-person or webcast conference registration.

CONFERENCE FACULTY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MICHAEL F. STURLEY*—CHAIR
The University of Texas School of Law
Austin, TX

MATTHEW H. AMMERMAN*
Law Office of Matthew H.
Ammerman, P.C.
Houston, TX

MICHAEL K. BELL*
Blank Rome LLP
Houston, TX

W. ROBINS BRICE*
Brice Mediation
Houston, TX

NICHOLAS W. EARLES*
Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea,
BenMaier & Eastham PLLC
Houston, TX

KENNETH G. ENGERRAND*
Brown Sims, P.C.
Houston, TX

THOMAS C. FITZHUGH III*
Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea,
BenMaier & Eastham PLLC
Houston, TX

JULIA M. HAINES*
Holland & Knight LLP
Houston, TX

CARROL P. HAND
Holland & Knight LLP
Richmond, VA

DAVID HORNBEAK
Holland & Knight LLP
Houston, TX

BRADLEY A. JACKSON*
The University of Texas School of Law
Houston, TX

F. DANIEL KNIGHT*
Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White,
Williams & Aughtry
Houston, TX

ROGER LEVY
Levy Mediations
Tiburon, CA

PETER A. MCLAUCHLAN ESQ.*
The McLaughlan Law Group of
Texas, PLLC
Houston, TX

JOHN J. MICHAEL*
Vinson & Elkins LLP
Houston, TX

MARK T. MURRAY
Stevenson & Murray
Houston, TX

HON. LEE H. ROSENTHAL
U.S. District Court, Southern
District of Texas
Houston, TX

SCOTT ROTHENBERG
Law Offices of Scott Rothenberg
Bellaire, TX

FELISA E. SANCHEZ
K&L Gates LLP
Houston, TX

JODY M. SCHISEL-MESLIN
K&L Gates LLP
Houston, TX

ANDREW SCHRECK
Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea,
BenMaier & Eastham PLLC
Houston, TX

JOHN C. SCHWAMBACH JR.*
Pierce & O'Neill, LLP
Houston, TX

CLAUDE L. STUART III*
Hall Maines Lugin, P.C.
Houston, TX

HAROLD K. WATSON*
Chaffe McCall LLP
Houston, TX

ALAN M. WEIGEL
Blank Rome LLP
New York, NY

*Planning Committee member

DAVID W. ROBERTSON

The Admiralty and Maritime Law Conference is named in honor of David W. Robertson, a beloved Texas Law professor, who passed away in 2018. Professor Robertson had a 50-year career of tremendous distinction as a teacher and scholar, and national recognition as a leading authority on the law of admiralty and an important scholar in the field of torts. He was a brilliant teacher who loved what he did, and his legacy will live on not only in his many publications, but also in the work of the students and conference attendees who learned from him.

