

33rd Annual David W. Robertson Admiralty and Maritime Law Conference

January 10, 2025 • Vinson & Elkins LLP • Houston, TX

Friday Morning, Jan. 10, 2025

Presiding Officer:

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

7:45 am	<p>Conference Room 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-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.</p> <p>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</p>
9:45 am	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
10:00 am 1.00 hr	<p>Knowing the Ropes: Maritime Practice in a Post-Chevron World</p> <p>In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision in <i>Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo</i> and the overturning of <i>Chevron Deference</i>, 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 <i>Chevron Deference</i> 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-<i>Chevron</i> world.</p> <p>Carrol P. Hand, Holland & Knight LLP - Richmond, VA David Hornbeak, Holland & Knight LLP - Houston, TX Roger Levy, Levy Mediations - Tiburon, CA</p>
11:00 am 0.50 hr	<p>Salty, Silent, but Not Surreptitious: Update on Maritime Liens</p> <p>Felisa E. Sanchez, K&L Gates LLP - Houston, TX Jody M. Schisel-Meslin, K&L Gates LLP - Houston, TX</p>
11:30 am 0.75 hr	<p>The More Things Change... 30 Years of Judging Admiralty Cases</p> <p>This presentation focuses on how the admiralty docket in the Southern District of Texas have changed over the last 30 years, and what that can teach us about what to expect in the next 30 years.</p> <p>Hon. Lee H. Rosenthal, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>

12:15 pm

Pick Up Lunch

Included in registration.

Friday Afternoon, Jan. 10, 2025

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm
0.50 hr

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

1:05 pm

15-Minute Break

1:20 pm
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

A moderated discussion between 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 pm
0.50 hr

Robins Dry Dock and Intentional Torts

This presentation discusses 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

2:50 pm

15-Minute Break

3:05 pm
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

4:05 pm
0.50 hr ethics

Ethics Topic

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

4:35 pm
0.50 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 pm

Adjourn