

24th Annual Admiralty and Maritime Law Conference
January 21, 2016 • Norris Conference Center - CityCentre • Houston, TX

Thursday Morning, Jan. 21, 2016

Presiding Officer:

Robert H. Nicholas Jr., Phelps Dunbar LLP - Houston, TX

7:30 am	Registration Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 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 fifteenth 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, The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX Michael F. Sturley, The University of Texas School of Law - Austin, TX
10:00 am	Break
10:15 am 0.50 hr	Fifth Circuit Update A prosecutor turned judge gives his perspective on recent cases in the Fifth Circuit. Hon. Gregg Costa, U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit - Houston, TX
10:45 am 0.75 hr	An Updated Primer on Seaman's Status Explore the current state of—as well as potential future issues and hot spots related to—a fundamental concept of admiralty law, the seaman's status test. Hear perspectives from both plaintiff and defense counsel. F. Daniel Knight, Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry - Houston, TX Jeremy R. Newell, Stevenson & Murray - Houston, TX
11:30 am 0.75 hr 0.25 hr ethics	Maritime Cybersecurity: Anticipating, Preventing and Mitigating a Growing Threat Learn about the current threats facing the maritime industry, the consequences of a cyberattack and the measures for promoting cybersecurity awareness and mitigation. Kate B. Belmont, Blank Rome LLP - New York, NY
12:15 pm	Pick Up Lunch Included in registration.

Thursday Afternoon, Jan. 21, 2016

Presiding Officer:

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

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Piracy Prone Waters</p> <p>A discussion of practical legal considerations related to responding to attacks by pirates, with a look at recent attacks including those against vessels and rigs in the Gulf of Guinea; and a reflection of sailing to Somalia as a ship's officer after litigating a civil piracy case in Federal District Court.</p> <p>Thomas M. Brown, Texas A&M University at Galveston - Galveston, TX</p>
1:05 pm	<p>Break</p>
1:20 pm 1.00 hr	<p>Judicial Panel</p> <p>Gain practical advice for handling cases in Federal Court.</p> <p>Moderator: Kenneth G. Engerrand, Brown Sims, P.C. - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Hon. John W. deGravelles, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Louisiana - Baton Rouge, LA Hon. George C. Hanks Jr., U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas - Galveston, TX Hon. Simeon T. Lake III, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>
2:20 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Macondo Update</p> <p>Review recent events and developments in the <i>Macondo</i> multi-district litigation, including private claimant and government settlement issues, the impact on exposure for operators and contractors under the Clean Water Act and Oil Pollution Act of 1990, enforceability of indemnity obligations, and limiting of additional insured coverage. Other courts' interpretations of key <i>Macondo</i> rulings are highlighted to provide insight into the trajectory of such issues.</p> <p>Corey L. Maze, Office of the Attorney General - Montgomery, AL Stephany Olsen-LeGrand, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP - Houston, TX</p>
3:05 pm 0.75 hr	<p>Rigs on Walkabout—Hurricane Breakaways!</p> <p>A discussion of rig breakaway claims—including the duty to prepare rigs for hurricanes, planning and executing a response to a breakaway, the potential damage arising out of rig breakaways, a rig owner's duties, as well as defenses and liabilities under the Wreck Act.</p> <p>James Patrick Cooney, Royston Rayzor - Houston, TX Julia M. (Adams) Palmer, Gray Reed & McGraw, P.C. - Houston, TX</p>
3:50 pm	<p>Break</p>

4:00 pm 0.50 hr	<p>Octopus Arms: The Reach of OCSLA after <i>Valladolid</i></p> <p>In 2012, the Supreme Court changed Fifth Circuit law—a worker need not be on the Shelf to be covered. Explore the landside reach of OCSLA under the new substantial nexus test from both sides of the docket.</p> <p>Matthew H. Ammerman, Law Office of Matthew H. Ammerman, P.C. - Houston, TX Lewis S. Fleishman, Lewis S. Fleishman PLLC - Houston, TX</p>
4:30 pm 1.00 hr ethics	<p>What to Do if Your Client Is Misbehaving, Part V</p> <p>Real-world questions and answers regarding ethics, the law, and what your client has asked you to do—or hide.</p> <p>Please submit your questions in advance to ConferenceQA@utcle.org or on-site at the conference registration desk. This ethics session is designed to be interactive. Audience participation is encouraged!</p> <p>Bradley A. Jackson, Retired Admiralty and Maritime Lawyer - Houston, TX Jonathan E. Smaby, Texas Center for Legal Ethics - Austin, TX</p>
5:30 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>