

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	Conference Room Opens Includes continental breakfast.
8:20 am	Welcoming Remarks
8:30 am 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 am	15-Minute Break
10:00 am 1.00 hr	Knowing the Ropes: Maritime Practice in a Post-Chevron World 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. Carrol P. Hand, Holland & Knight LLP - Richmond, VA David Hornbeak, Holland & Knight LLP - Houston, TX Roger Levy, Levy Mediations - Tiburon, CA
11:00 am 0.50 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 am 0.75 hr	<p>The More Things Change... 30 Years of Judging Admiralty Cases</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Hon. Lee H. Rosenthal, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas - Houston, TX</p>
12:15 pm	<p>Pick Up Lunch</p> <p>Included in registration.</p>

Friday Afternoon, Jan. 10, 2025

Presiding Officer:

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

LUNCHEON PRESENTATION

12:35 pm 0.50 hr	<p><i>Robins Dry Dock and Intentional Torts</i></p> <p>A review of attempts by plaintiffs to circumvent the rule of <i>Robins Dry v. Flint</i> that precludes recovery of economic damages in the absence of a proprietary interest in damaged property by alleging an intentional tort.</p> <p>Harold K. Watson, Chaffe McCall LLP - Houston, TX</p>
1:05 pm	<p>15-Minute Break</p>
1:20 pm 1.00 hr	<p>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</p> <p>Hear from two accomplished attorneys on different sides of the bar concerning the positives and negatives of admiralty suits filed in state court.</p> <p>Moderator: F. Daniel Knight, Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry - Houston, TX</p> <p>Panelists: Mark T. Murray, Stevenson & Murray - Houston, TX Andrew Schreck, Schouest, Bamdas, Soshea, BenMaier & Eastham PLLC - Houston, TX</p>
2:20 pm 1.00 hr ethics	<p>What to Do if Your Client is Misbehaving (Part XIV)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bradley A. Jackson, The University of Texas School of Law - Houston, TX Scott Rothenberg, Law Offices of Scott Rothenberg - Bellaire, TX</p>
3:20 pm	<p>15-Minute Break</p>

3:35 pm
0.50 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 pm
0.50 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 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