

**Perspectives on the MV Dali Incident\***

**Presented by the Young Lawyers Committee of the**

**Maritime Law Association of the United States**

**Thursday, June 6, 2024**

**2:30-4:30pm EST**

**Virginia Maritime Association Board Room**

**236 E. Plume St.**

**Norfolk, Virginia**

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Panelists – 2:30-2:35pm**

*Kristi Thompson, Chief Governance Officer*

*CMA CGM (America), Norfolk, Virginia*

1. **Factual Background and Overview of the National Transportation Safety Board’s Preliminary Report – 2:35-2:50pm**

*Alex Giles, Partner*

*Tydings & Rosenberg, LLP, Baltimore, Maryland*

1. **Maritime Law: Privity and Knowledge of Vessel Owners in the Context of the Francis Scott Key Bridge Tragedy – 2:50-3:10pm**

*Clay Magee, Attorney*

*Waters Law, Norfolk, Virginia*

1. **General Average and Salvage Issues – 3:10-3:30pm**

*Peter F. Black, Partner*

*Mills Black LLP, Washington D.C.*

1. **Carrier Issues in Significant Maritime Casualty: Incident Response in Maritime Casualty and Specific Regulatory Considerations – 3:30-3:50pm**

*Wiley Grandy, Deputy General Counsel*

*CMA CGM (America), Norfolk, Virginia*

1. **Criminal Aspects and the Seaman’s Manslaughter Rule – 3:50-4:00pm**

*LCDR Toni Goodin, Chief Counsel, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Services*

*Washington, D.C.*

1. **Administrative Proceedings – Suspension and Revocation – 4:00-4:10pm**

*LCDR Lynn Buchanan, Detachment Chief, U.S. Coast Guard Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise*

*Jennifer Mehaffey, Senior Attorney/National Technical Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise*

*Martinsburg, West Virginia*

1. **Q&A and Closing Remarks – 4:10-4:30pm**

*\*The Maritime Law Association is an accredited New York and Pennsylvania provider of continuing legal education (“CLE”). The program will be appropriate for experienced and newly admitted attorneys (Non-Transitional and Transitional). 2.0 New York CLE credits in Areas of Professional Practice and 1.5 Pennsylvania CLE credits will be offered. CLE credit for this program is pending approval in Virginia. Attorneys admitted in other jurisdictions may be entitled to CLE credits for attending the program and should consult with their jurisdiction’s CLE authorities.*

**Speaker Bios:**

**Alex Giles**

One of the premier maritime law attorneys in the nation, Alex Giles has almost three decades of extensive and diverse experience handling the unique business, regulatory, and claims-related issues that arise in this distinct and complex area of the law. He has advised clients on almost every type of matter that intersects with the laws and regulations governing navigable waterways, vessels, ports, terminals, cargo, marinas, and recreational boats. His deep insights and sophisticated counsel have earned Alex repeated recognition from his peers, including being named by Best Lawyers as Baltimore's "Lawyer of the Year for Admiralty & Maritime Law" in 2021.

Alex has assisted clients with maritime matters of virtually every description, including terminal claims, cargo claims, marine terminal tariff disputes, arrest and attachment proceedings, limitation of liability proceedings, marine death and personal injury claims, collision and allision cases, marine insurance claims, suits involving breaches of maritime contracts and charter parties, marine products liability claims, U.S. Customs and Border Protection investigations and administrative claims, claims involving toxic substances, salvage claims, license suspension and revocation proceedings, marina claims, recreational boating claims, and vessel excise tax claims.

Alex earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Frostburg State University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is admitted to practice in Maryland and D.C.

**Clay Magee**

Clay Magee practices maritime and labor law in Norfolk, Virginia, with the Waters Law Firm, P.C. The firm specializes in Jones Act and 905(b) claims and served as general counsel to several local longshore unions. Norfolk is also home to the largest naval base in the world, so the firm routinely navigates the Suits in Admiralty and Public Vessels Act in complex maritime claims against the United States.

Clay graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2008 and earned her J.D. at Tulane University in 2019 with a Certificate in maritime law. While at Tulane, Clay served as an Editor for the Tulane Maritime Law Journal, a Legal Research Fellow for a Naval War College Humanitarian Response initiative, and a Legal Research Fellow for Tulane’s Chinese Maritime Law database project.

Before life as an attorney, Clay was a Surface Warfare and Maritime Security Officer in the United States Navy. She left active duty in 2016 but remains a United States Navy Reserves Lieutenant Commander. She currently serves as a Staff Operations and Plans Officer with the Headquarters Unit for Commander of Carrier Strike Group Four. Her first Reserve position was as a Joint Operations Center Executive Officer for the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO.

While on active duty, Clay qualified and served as shipboard Officer of the Deck and Engineering Officer of the Watch, which is uniquely relevant to her work as a maritime attorney. She then shifted career paths to Maritime Security when the Navy allowed the first class of women to serve in combat roles. Clay was the Officer in Charge of a 75-man mobile security unit, providing security for USNS vessels, Navy aircraft, forward operating bases, and VIPs. She then promoted to the roll of Operations Officer for 1000s of expeditionary security troops. She ended her active-duty career as a foreign security liaison, living with her family in the Middle East for three years.

Outside of work, Clay is a lifelong sailor, singer, and boxer (when she’s not chasing her five kiddos).

**Peter F. Black**

Peter F. Black is a Partner at Mills Black LLP. He has extensive experience handling litigation matters, resolving commercial and regulatory disputes, as well as initiating and coordinating shipowner responses to a full range of shipping and transportation-related incidents.

Prior to law school, Peter worked for several years as coordinator for a freight forwarding company, specializing in nuclear cargo transportation. After starting his own surveying company based out of New Orleans in 2012 and graduating law school in 2014, Peter worked as an attorney and claims executive for an International Group P&I club in New York City for several years. During that time, he handled a wide array of defense claims and was responsible for responding to and managing emergency responses to serious shipping casualties around the globe. In 2017, Peter joined a boutique maritime and transportation law firm in Long Beach, California. There, Peter’s practice focused on maritime arrests and attachments, as well as cruise line and terminal defense litigation. In 2020, Peter left California for Washington, D.C. and helped found Mills Black LLP.

Peter attended the University of Baltimore School of Law before transferring to Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, where he received his J.D. and Certificate of Specialization in Admiralty and Maritime Law in 2014. During his time at Tulane, Peter served as Senior Communications Editor for the Tulane Maritime Law Journal, was a member of the Maritime Law Society and Tulane Inn of Court, and served as President of the Po’Boy Appreciation Society.

Peter is an active Proctor member of the Maritime Law Association and is the former Chair of the Young Lawyer Committee as well as Vice Chair of the Website and Technology Committee. He is also a Vice Chair on the ABA’s Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee. Peter has hosted panels and given numerous presentations on maritime issues including shipowner liability for infectious disease exposure, the legal implications of blockchain in shipping, and several presentations on the interaction between offshore wind and maritime law, including the application of the Jones Act and insurance implications for vessel and operator interests.

Peter is admitted to practice in Louisiana, New York, California, Washington, and the District of Columbia and his admittance to Maryland is pending.

**Wiley Grandy**

Wiley Grandy is Deputy General Counsel for CMA CGM (America) LLC. In this role, he manages and oversees North American litigation for CMA CGM and affiliated companies, including American President Lines. The scope of his practice includes cargo litigation, detention and demurrage matters (including suits before the FMC), major casualty and incident response, Jones Act, 905(b), and Longshore & Harbor Worker Compensation Act litigation, asbestos litigation, and vessel reflags.

Prior to joining CMA CGM, Wiley spent nearly a decade at a boutique firm in Norfolk, Virginia focusing on admiralty and maritime litigation, construction law, and renewable energy transactions. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 2008 and the University of Richmond School of Law in 2011. He is a member of the Maritime Law Association and the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute.

**Jennifer Mehaffey**

Jennifer Mehaffey is the Senior Attorney / National Technical Advisor with the Coast Guard Suspension and Revocation National Center of Expertise (S&R NCOE) at the National Maritime Center in Martinsburg, WV. Jennifer represents the Coast Guard in suspension and revocation (S&R) administrative proceedings against a Mariner’s MMC, as well as developing and implementing policy related to Coast Guard S&R activities.

Prior to her position with the Coast Guard S&R NCOE, Jennifer was an attorney with the Coast Guard Offices of Regulations and Administrative Law and Maritime and International Law, Prevention Division. Jennifer also worked with the offshore energy sector as Chief of National Safety Enforcement Division with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

Jennifer has a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College, a J.D. from Roger Williams University, and a Masters in Marine Affairs from University of Rhode Island. She came to D.C. as a Sea Grant Fellow working with the Committee Marine Transportation System (CMTS). For hobbies, Jennifer rides her motorcycle and wanders aimlessly to interesting places as much as possible.

**Lieutenant Commander Lynn Buchanan**

LCDR Buchanan is the Suspension and Revocation NCOE Detachment Chief. In this capacity, she leads a team of five civilians and one military member to provide expert advice to field investigators and the Office of Investigations & Casualty Analysis (CG-INV) at Coast Guard Headquarters. She also assigns attorneys to represent the Coast Guard at administrative hearings, supports course alignment at TRACEN Yorktown, and liaises with entities such as the National Maritime Center, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and Coast Guard Investigative Services.

She previously served at Atlantic Area Legal (LANT-094) as a Senior Staff attorney, providing legal advice to operational commands and the Atlantic Area Commander. From 2014-2017, she served as an Investigating Officer at Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas. There, she investigated various marine casualties to determine their root cause and served as the legal advisor on multiple Suspension and Revocation proceedings.

Her other past assignments include: 2010-2012, Legal and Defense Services at Headquarters; 2012-2013, U.S. Navy Defense Service Office located at the Washington Navy Yard, DC; and 2013-2014, General Law at Headquarters.

Lieutenant Commander Buchanan graduated from Minot State University with a BS in Criminal Justice, *Magna Cum Laude*, in 1999. She graduated from the University of North Carolina, School of Law, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in 2003. She is an active member of the Florida State Bar. She is admitted to practice in the State of Florida, as well as the Middle District of Florida and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Prior to joining the CG, LCDR Buchanan was an Assistant State Attorney for Brevard County, Florida for four years, prosecuting Misdemeanor crimes.

Military awards include the CG Commendation Medal (2), the CG Achievement Medal, the USN/USMC Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, the Southwest Asia Medal with Device (2), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with “N” device, Armed Forces Service Medal, CG Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon (6), and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal.