



Notice of Meeting and Preliminary Agenda for the Joint Meeting of the Marine Torts & Casualties and Government Counsel Committees

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. local time (CST)

In Person: Jones Walker LLP, Jones Conference Room, 52nd Floor, 201 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA
Please pre-register for in-person attendance using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/pYchG6d3y5>

Remote Attendance: Zoom registration link provided closer to meeting date

Topic: Commercial Vessel Operations on the Lower Mississippi River in the New Orleans Region

- Overview of types of vessel traffic
- Roles and responsibilities of and interactions between towboat captains, ship captains, ship pilots, assist tugs
- Types, capabilities & limitations of assist tugs
- VHF radio communications & practices
- Rules of the Road
- Role of U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service
- Challenges presented by adverse weather, hurricanes, high river levels, strong currents
- Collisions, allisions, groundings & other casualties: Investigations & technical resources

I. Welcome & Introductions

Frederick B. Goldsmith (fbg@golawllc.com), Chair, Marine Torts & Casualties Committee
Jessica L. McClellan (jessica.l.mcclellan@usdoj.gov), Chair, Government Counsel Committee

II. Speakers

- a. Speaker & Moderator: David M. Flotte, Salley, Hite, Mercer & Resor, LLC, New Orleans, LA
- b. Speaker: Captain Louis M. "Toby" Wattigney Jr., President, New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association
- c. Speaker: Joseph Carson, Senior Captain, Crescent Towing and Salvage Co., Inc., New Orleans, LA
- d. Speaker: Benjamin Morvant, Senior Operations Manager, Crescent Towing and Salvage Co., Inc., New Orleans, LA
- e. Speaker: LCDR Christopher W. Booth, CA-NACP, PMP, PMI-ACP, U.S. Coast Guard, Lower Mississippi River VTS Director, New Orleans, LA
- f. Q&A: Mr. Flotte

III. Concluding Remarks

Mr. Goldsmith and Ms. McClellan