Joseph A. Walsh II

Joe Walsh is a partner with the West Coast based law firm of Collier Walsh Nakazawa LLP. Joe’s practice involves a full range of maritime, energy and environmental matters. He is perhaps best known for his considerable experience in oil and chemical spills, casualty investigations, crisis response and litigation stemming from maritime and industrial casualties. Joe has significant trial, arbitration and public hearing experience relating to admiralty/maritime cases, environmental pollution matters, commercial and construction disputes, personal injury and regulatory proceedings including those before the U.S. Coast Guard, South Coast Air Quality Management District and Cal-OSHA.

Joe has served as lead counsel for Responsible Parties and their underwriters involved in marine and on-shore pollution incidents, coordinating Unified Command activities, managing and defending third-party claims, and challenging and negotiating Natural Resource Damage Assessments. Joe has also defended against civil and criminal enforcement actions initiated by federal, state and local agencies relating to pollution, illegal dumping and alleged violations of federal and international environmental laws (“MARPOL”). He has led internal investigations and environmental audits and has implemented environmental compliance programs in defense of these actions. Joe has also represented parties alleged by the California Air Resources Board (“CARB”) to have violated state emission laws including non-compliant fuel use and at-berth/cold ironing requirements.

Joe serves as a legal advisor to the International Group of P &I Clubs with respect to pollution issues including most recently, on the interplay of the Salvage and Marine Fire-Fighting requirements and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

Joe graduated with Honors in 1983 from the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY and thereafter served in the US Navy. Joe attained the rank of Captain before retiring in 2009 following 26 years of continuous service on active duty and reserve tours. Joe graduated cum laude from the University of Arizona College of Law in 1989. He has been repeatedly recognized for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America, Chambers USA and The International Who’s Who Legal of Shipping & Maritime Lawyers. Joe served on the Board of Directors to the Maritime Law Association of the U.S. from 2012 to 2015 and was the inaugural Chair of the Maritime Cybersecurity Committee from 2015 to 2019. Joe regularly writes articles and speaks on pollution and cyber risk matters before both national and international organizations.