



Vol. 2020-1 (Spring 2020)
“THEORETICALLY QUARTERLY”
Young Lawyers Committee
The Maritime Law Association of the United States

Message from the Chair

From thoughts of springtime in New York to navigating a worldwide pandemic, what a difference a few weeks make. Above all, I hope that you and your families, friends, and loved ones are safe and healthy in these difficult times.

It is of course disappointing that we won't be meeting in New York this spring, and I will particularly miss not seeing you all at our YLC dinner on Thursday night. But in the spirit of Broadway, the show must go on. And thanks to the marvels of modern technology, all of the MLA's Standing Committees will be holding virtual meetings this month.

The leadership of the MLA is looking to its young members to become more involved in the Association, and all of the MLA's Standing Committees welcome involvement from our members to present and actively contribute to the important work of the MLA. I hope that everyone has taken advantage of attending as many remote meetings as possible – from the comfort of your own home!

I look forward to “seeing” many of you at our meeting on April 30th.

- Imran Shaukat

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YLC Spring Committee
Zoom Meeting

The Young Lawyers Committee will be meeting remotely on Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 2:30 – 3:30 PM EDT for our annual committee meeting. If you would like to attend, please contact Imran Shaukat (ishaukat@semmes.com) to receive the Zoom meeting details.

Spring Meeting: Shout-outs &
Thank You's

We would like to recognize the following YLC members for their efforts in delivering presentation and speaking at the following committee meetings this spring:

- **Jason Barlow**, Stevedores Committee
- **Barrett Hails**, Recreational Boating Committee
- **Chris Hannan**, International Organizations, Conventions, and Standards Committee
- **Sara Kuebel**, Carriage of Goods Committee
- **Jason Pedigo**, Inland Waters and Towing Committee
- **Kristina Prete**, Carriage of Goods and Salvage Committees
- **Rebecca Pskowski**, Uniformity Committee
- **Imran Shaukat**, Inland Waters and Towing and Stevedores Committees



- **Kristi Thompson**, Carriage of Goods Committee
- **Philip Thompson**, Practice and Procedure Committee

Many thanks to YLC members **Jeanne Amy**, **George Croton**, **Kendrick Jordan**, **Joni Poitier**, and **Kristi Thompson** for assisting the Practice and Procedure Committee in responding to the Comité Maritime International's (CMI) inquiry regarding court procedures and flag administrations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kudos to **Kerri D'Ambrosio**, **Nicholas Dugdale**, **Kara Pinetti**, and **Hanan Zaki** for their diligent efforts in volunteering to assist the Recreational Boating Committee in providing an update on the current status of recreational boating nationwide in light of the Covid-19 crisis. And hats off to **Barrett Hails** for his leadership in chairing this timely project.

Special thanks to **Shawn Bevans**, **Peter Black**, **Angie Fredrickson**, **Adam Jaffe**, **Gavin O'Hare**, and **Timothy Steigelman**, and **Kristi Thompson** for assisting the MLA in updating records on each state's CLE requirements. This work was instrumental in assisting the MLA to facilitate new CLE offerings to its members.

Thank you to **Andrew Anastor**, **Kyle Brennan**, **Alex D'Amico**, and **Rebecca Pskowski** for their contributions to the Marine Insurance and General Average Committee Newsletter!

Committee Liaison Program

For new members and those who are unfamiliar, the Committee Liaison Program assigns one YLC member to each of the

MLA's standing committees to serve as a liaison. The goal of the program is to increase communication between the various standing committees and the YLC. The idea is that increased communication will lead to more opportunities for our members to get involved in those committees, and for those committees to benefit from a younger lawyer perspective. YLC liaisons will generally provide brief status reports at each YLC meeting pertaining to the work and projects of each standing committee.

Reminder: The YLC is ready to work! If you are currently a YLC liaison and have a project that needs help or if you are interested in volunteering to serve as a YLC liaison, please e-mail *Kristi Thompson* at (usa.kthompson@usa.cma-cgm.com).

Ongoing YLC Projects & Activities

1. The Uniformity Committee invites YLC members to present on various circuit conflicts in U.S. maritime law. More details regarding the scope of the presentations is available under "Announcements" on the YLC Committee Page. If you are interested in presenting at an upcoming Uniformity Committee meeting, please contact Imran Shaukat (ishaukat@semmes.com) and Professor Michael Sturley (msturley@law.utexas.edu).

2. The Marine Torts and Casualties Committee seeks YLC volunteers to assist with a new project to create an updated statistical analysis of limitation of liability cases. If you are interested in assisting with this important project, please contact YLC Vice-Chair Peter Black (peterb@fdw-law.com).

3. The Recreational Boating Committee publishes a newsletter entitled "Boating Briefs," which reports on cases involving



recreational boats as well as legislative and regulatory developments specific to recreational boating. The Committee requests YLC members keep a lookout for these types of developments and cases and report them to the Committee. In addition, if a YLC member has been involved in an interesting case involving recreational boating, there may be an opportunity for that member to make a presentation about the case at a Committee meeting. If you have anything to report, please contact *Daniel Wooster* (dwooster@pbh.com) or YLC liaison, *Barrett Hails* (barrett.hails@phelps.com).

Call for Projects

To All Standing Committees: Please let the YLC know how we can help with your projects. If you have projects in need of research or have writing opportunities that are well-suited for younger lawyers, please keep our committee in mind. Additionally, we can usually find a YLC member to assist with staffing your meeting (handling CLE paperwork, sign-in sheets, handouts, and assisting with presentation set up, etc.), if and when the need arises.

Publication Opportunities

Do you have any war stories from your practice that you wish to share with others? Do you think you have a sense of humor? Consider submitting your written piece for consideration to *Benedict's Quarterly Maritime Bulletin*. You may write to Managing Editor Joshua S. Force at jforce@shergarner.com.

Proctor Status

Any Associate member of the MLA who has been a member of the MLA for four (4)

years or more is eligible to apply for Proctor status with the MLA. The advantages of Proctor status are numerous, not the least of which is that a member cannot serve as a committee chair, vice-chair, or director unless s/he is a Proctor or Non-Lawyer member. Proctor applications may be obtained and submitted on the MLA website.

YLC Membership List on Website

If you are not already signed up as a member of the YLC, please make sure you do so. In addition, please review your email and notification settings on the website. We use the membership list on the website as a vehicle for communicating with our members. We have reason to believe that some of our young lawyers are not registered as YLC members or may have restrictive notification settings and thus do not receive our communications. If you know anyone that might fall into either category, please pass this message along and encourage them to formally join the committee and to check their settings. Conversely, if you are no longer a YLC member and are tired of our shenanigans, feel free to unsubscribe.

YLC Chairs

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