



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

CAPTAIN Joseph Kramek

Captain Kramek currently serves as the Chief of Maritime, International, and Environmental Law (LMI). He leads a team of more than forty attorneys who support Coast Guard operations involving law enforcement, environmental protection, and regulation of the U.S. maritime industry. LMI also leads and supports U.S. delegations to the International Maritime Organization and provides counsel on the development of international maritime agreements and maritime policy.



Prior to this assignment, he most recently served as Chief of Coast Guard Congressional Affairs where his duties included serving as the Commandant's primary legislative affairs liaison, while leading a thirty-person team of Senate and House liaisons and Congressional fellows to advance the Coast Guard's legislative priorities. From 2014-2017 he served as the Eleventh District Staff Judge Advocate and General Counsel, advising the District Commander, as well as subordinate commands from the California-Oregon border to the Eastern Pacific Ocean on all legal matters including real-time operational law advice to support U.S. maritime counter-smuggling efforts and disruption of transnational criminal organizations.

Prior assignments also include: Deputy Chief of Congressional Affairs (2013-2014); Federal Executive Fellow, Brookings Institution (2012-2013); Special Assistant and Speechwriter to the Commandant (2010-2012); Deputy Chief General Law CG-0944 (2008-2010); Deputy Chief Claims and Litigation CG-0945 (2006-2008); Admiralty Trial Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, Torts Branch (2004-2006); Chief of Operational Law and Prevention Law, Seventh Coast Guard District Legal Office (2000-2004). Afloat Assignments include Executive Officer, USCGC BARANOF (1995-1997), and Deck Watch Officer, USCGC VALIANT (1993-1995).

Captain Kramek graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1993 with a B.S. in Government. He received a Juris Doctor in 2000 from University of Miami School of Law, *magna cum laude*, and a Master of Laws in Environmental Laws (LL.M), *with highest distinction*, in 2012 from the George Washington School of Law. He also received a Certificate of Public Leadership in 2013 from the Brookings Institution in partnership with Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the Supreme Court Bar, and the Maritime Law Association.

Individual military awards include the Coast Guard Legion of Merit (1), the Meritorious Service Medal (5), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (1), the Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2) with the Operational Distinguishing Device (2), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, and the Humanitarian Service Medal (2), for Operations ABLE MANNER and ABLE VIGIL.

Recent Professional Activities: 2013 Published, *The Critical Infrastructure Gap: U.S. Port Facilities and Cyber Vulnerabilities*, Brookings Institution (available at www.brookings.edu); 2012 GW LL.M. Thesis, *In the Wake of Deepwater Horizon, OPA 90 is Stuck in the Doldrums: Charting a Course to put Wind Back in the Statute's Sails and Confront the Looming Threat of Transboundary Pollution*.



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COMMANDER NICHOLAS J. TABORI

CDR Tabori was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Coast Guard through the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School in June 2002. After graduation from OCS, he reported to the Cutter MUNRO home ported in Alameda, CA, where he stood the watch as a Deck Watch Officer. In May 2004, CDR Tabori reported to the Cutter ADAK, home ported out of Manama, Bahrain, as the Executive Officer and Lead Boarding Officer in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Campaign. In May 2005, he reported to the Cutter SAILFISH home ported out of Sandy Hook, NJ as the Commanding Officer (CO). Following a successful CO tour, in August 2007 CDR Tabori reported to the National Command Center (NCC) in Washington, DC where he served as a Command Duty Officer. During his tour at the NCC, CDR Tabori commenced a Master of Science (MS) degree in International Transportation Management with the State University of New York, Maritime College.



In August 2010, CDR Tabori reported to the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC to study law. During summer break from law school CDR Tabori continued to study for his MS in International Transportation Management and in September 2011 he received the degree with honors. In May 2013, CDR Tabori received his JD, with honors (cum laude) from Catholic University, and in December of that year was admitted to the Maryland State Bar.

In August 2013, CDR Tabori reported to the Office of Information and Intelligence Law, as the embedded attorney for the Coast Guard's Counterintelligence Service (CGCIS). During his time with CGCIS he worked to support operations, investigations, the Insider Threat Working Group, and creation/review of policy. For his outstanding efforts in that position the Director of National Intelligence honored him with the prestigious award of Junior Intelligence Attorney of the Year (2015) for the entire Federal Intelligence Community. In July 2015, CDR Tabori transferred to the National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC). As the NPFC staff Attorney he ensured the proper use of the \$4-billion dollar Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. As part of his duties he directly supported Department of Justice attorneys in complex environmental and admiralty litigation pursuing the recovery of millions of dollars of government funds used to clean-up oil spills. In July of 2017 CDR Tabori reported to the Coast Guard's Office of Maritime and International Law, Prevention Law Division, and in July 2019 he fleeted up to be the Division Chief.

CDR Tabori was born in New York, NY, but moved to the Washington, DC area soon thereafter. He graduated from the University of Maryland in May 2001 with a BS in Finance. While an undergraduate, CDR Tabori worked as an intern for the Federal Aviation Administration in the



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LIEUTENANT Charles E. Richardson

Lieutenant Charles E. Richardson serves in the Office of International Maritime Law Prevention (CG-LMI-P) at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He previously interned in the Office of Military Justice (CG-LMJ) in the summer of 2018.

LT Richardson earned his Juris Doctorate with Order of the Barrister from the University of Maryland School of Law. During his time at UMD Law, LT Richardson held the position of President of the Moot Court Board and spent a semester practicing law in the low income tax payer clinic. LT Richardson also externed at the Center for Health and Homeland Security and in this line of interest received a certificate in cybersecurity and emergency management law from UMD Law.



Prior to law school, LT Richardson earned a Bachelor's of Science in Finance and Real-Estate at Indiana University, Kelley School of Business. While at IU, he was vice president of his fraternity Phi Kappa Sigma, and also rode in the Little 500; the country's largest amateur bike race.

LT Richardson was born and raised in New Jersey and remains an avid NJ Devils fan. He is barred in the state of New Jersey. LT Richardson resides in Washington, DC.



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International Security Office and for the U.S. Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden in the Information Management Office.

CDR Tabori lives on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC with his wife Colleen, who is an appellate attorney for the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, his son Henry, and daughter Maeve.

Shari L. Friedman is a shareholder at Marwedel, Minichello & Reeb, P.C. in Chicago. She practices extensively in the areas of admiralty and maritime law, transportation law, and commercial law, representing clients in diverse areas such as the defense of Jones Act, LHWCA, and personal injury matters; the acquisition and sale of marine assets; ship mortgages; vessel repossession and foreclosure; marine contracts; charter parties; shipyard disputes; vessel registration and documentation; arrest and attachment of vessels and cargo; cargo loss and damage; limitation of liability actions; maritime liens; and marina operator's liability. She represents barge lines, cruise lines, marine terminal operators, vessel tour operators, boating clubs, freight forwarders, NVOCCs, common carriers, banks, and companies and individuals acquiring and selling marine assets. Shari's practice in commercial law includes the resolution of complex business and commercial disputes, contracts, toxic torts, and the defense of personal injury, products liability and property matters. Shari is licensed to practice in Illinois and is also admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana. She received her law degree, with Honors, from DePaul University College of Law.

G. Robert Toney, Chairman

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National Liquidators/National Yacht Sales, 1991 to present

Chairman/Owner Principal

The nation's foremost marine recovery and remarketing firm, handling more than 30,000 vessel cases since founded in 1988. The company serves the majority of the marine lenders in the US as well as many in the international marketplace. National Yacht Sales is a traditional yacht brokerage firm meeting the needs of the retail yacht market. The organization operates facilities in Fort Lauderdale, Cleveland, Annapolis and Newport Beach, CA.

National Maritime Services, 2003 to present

National Maritime Services is a global leader in seizure, recovery, arrest and custody of large yachts, commercial vessels and aircraft. NMS clientele includes maritime attorneys, government agencies and other lienholder claimants.

ST Liberty/Maritime Capital, 1999 to present

An industry leader in yacht loans to non-traditional and higher risk borrowers.

Bob is a member of the South East Admiralty Law Institute, Marine Industries Association, the National Marine Lenders Association and the Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club. He also sits on the boards of Port Everglades Association and a local bank. He is a member of and serves as the yacht finance committee co-chair with the Maritime Law Association of the United States.

Bob presents each year at the Informa Ship Arrest conference in London UK. This conference attracts lenders, maritime counsel and service providers from maritime centers throughout the globe. He also presents each year to the Tulane law class on maritime arrest and foreclosure.

Bob attended Pace University, New York with a major in Marketing and Finance.

National Experience Level:

Appointed by the US federal courts as custodian in several thousand cases involving the complex management of yachts and commercial vessels held under the US federal court arrest process. Holds similar experience in dozens of related cases in multiple foreign jurisdictions.

Acted as court appointed receiver for specialty assets and marine related real estate matters under the US federal bankruptcy court.

Managed auction and broker related transactions for yachts and ships under creditor possession in over 30,000 matters over a period of 28 years.

Prior work Experience:

1978 to 1990

Consumer and commercial lending management positions with finance companies and commercial banking organizations including sales management, credit evaluation, loan operations and loan workout transactions.

1990-1991

FDIC/RTC position managing the closure of failed savings and loan institutions and sales of their remaining assets. Segregated loans into pools and offered for bid in the market, structuring sale to private lending organizations, finance companies and commercial banks.

Jody McCormack serves as 'Of Counsel' to the Bohannon Law Firm, LLC. She graduated magna cum laude from Wellesley College (2000) and went on to receive her J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law (2007). After an initial stint in maritime litigation, Mrs. McCormack opted to focus her work on handling transactional matters for her clients. Working closely with private yacht clients Mrs. McCormack advises on all aspects of maritime transactions including new construction, ownership, flagging, and management. On the commercial side she has worked closely to partner with her business clients on all aspects of their various marine businesses including commercial vessel ownership, operation, management, regulatory compliance, risk management and charters. Mrs. McCormack also works with lenders to assist them with evaluating and documenting their marine portfolios. Mrs. McCormack is licensed to practice in California, Florida, Rhode Island and New Mexico.



E. Barrett Hails

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Practice Focus

- Litigation
- Admiralty

Education

- University of Southampton, LL.M., in Maritime Law, with merit, 2013; Beaumont Aviation Prize
- University of Alabama School of Law, J.D., *cum laude*, 2012; Lead Articles Editor and Managing Board Member, *The Journal of the Legal Profession*
- University of Mississippi, B.A., *magna cum laude*, in History and Political Science, 2009; Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi

Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Southern District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama
- Alabama
- Florida
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Alabama
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida

Practice

Barrett Hails practices in the area of litigation and admiralty. His practice includes representing shipyards, vessel owners, contractors and businesses in commercial and tort litigation. He is licensed in Alabama and Florida.

Experience

- Representation of vessel interest and insurers in Jones Act, Unseaworthiness and Maintenance and Cure claims.
- Representation of vessel owners in capsizing/sinking cases.
- Representation of shipyard in US L&H injury claims.
- Representation of vessel repair yard in tort cases.
- Representation of vessel owners in limitation of liability proceedings.
- Representation of cargo owners in *in rem* arrest action.

Insights

Publications

- "I'll Supervise, Your Honor: Ethical and Legal Considerations Arising from the Use of Law Students in Court Proceedings," *36 J. Legal Prof.* 225 (2011-2012) Author

Speaking Engagements

- "Entrenched Inter-Circuit Conflicts in Maritime Law: GML Damages, the McCorpen Counterclaim, and Red-Letter Clauses in Contracts to Repair Vessels," Maritime Law Association Uniformity Committee Fall Meeting (Scottsdale, AZ, November 2019)
- "Choice of law and liability considerations arising from the 2015 Dauphin Island Race," Maritime Law Association Recreational Boating Committee Spring Meeting (New York, NY, May 2019) Speaker
- "Applicable and not inconsistent—adjacent state employment law under OCSLA in light of *Newton v. Parker Drilling*," Maritime Law Association Offshore Industries Committee Spring Meeting (New York, NY, May 2018) Speaker

News

- 16 Attorneys Named 2019 Mid-South Super Lawyers and Rising Stars - (11/05/2019)

Memberships and Affiliations

- Alabama State Bar
- The Florida Bar

- Mobile Bar Association
- Propeller Club of the United States, Port of Mobile
- Maritime Law Association of the United States
- Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute

Recognition

- Beaumont Aviation Prize, University of Southampton, 2013
- Selected to the Mid-South Super Lawyers Rising Stars list, *Super Lawyers* (Thomson Reuters), 2018