



Briton P. Sparkman concentrates his practice on civil and criminal litigation with a focus on admiralty and maritime law, including but not limited to contract disputes, maritime liens, maritime attachment, carriage of goods, vessel collisions, oil and hazardous material spills and discharges, personal injury, and the criminal defense of ship owners, managers, and crewmembers. In addition to handling cases pending in a variety of state and federal courts, as well as arbitrations before the Society of Maritime Arbitrators (among others), Mr. Sparkman also regularly assists clients navigating regulatory and administrative proceedings, including actions pending before the United States Coast Guard, the National Pollution Fund Center, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Cases of Interest

- *USA v. Angelex Ltd., et al.*, 2:13-cr-70 (E.D. Va. 2013) – Owner and Manager clients acquitted by federal jury of sixteen (16) felony counts following nine (9) day trial in Norfolk, Virginia
- *USA v. Fafalios*, 15-30146 (5th Cir. 2016) – Chief Engineer conviction overturned on appeal by Fifth Circuit based on wrongful charge and conviction following government misapplication of APPS statute and implementing regulation.
- *Blue Whale Corp. v. Grand China Shipping Dev. Co.*, 13-0192 (2d Cir. 2013) – Vacatur of Rule B Attachment overturned on appeal.
- *Topoil AB v. M/V ORUC REIS*, 15-cv-460 (S.D. Tex. 2016) – Summary Judgment granted in favor of foreign supplier enforcement of maritime lien for necessities supplied to foreign vessel.

Education:

Hofstra University School of Law, JD 2008

Furman University, B.A. 2005



New York

Massachusetts

United States District Court for the Southern District of New York

United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Memberships:

New York County Lawyers Association

Maritime Lawyers Association

Connecticut Maritime Association

Houston Mariners Club

Articles and Presentations:

- *The Effective Use of Expert Witnesses at Civil and Criminal Trials: Know the Rules and Your Audience*, Chalos, G. and Sparkman, B., CMA Shipping 2016, March 23, 2016.
- *So What's it Worth: High Dollar Personal Injury Claims in the Maritime Industry*”, Otero-Valdes, M. and Sparkman, B., Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club Marine Seminar, November 4, 2015.
- *Tax that Other Fellow – U.S. Source Gross Transportation Income*, Chalos, G., Gaitas, G., and Sparkman, B., The Charterer Newsletter, June 2015.
- *Something is Fishy: US Supreme Court Finds that “Grouper” are not a Tangible Object under 18 U.S.C. 1519*, Sparkman, B., March 6, 2015.

Criminalization of the Maritime Industry: The Fight for Due Process Continues for



ANTONIS G. PAPPADAKIS, Chalos, G. and Sparkman, B., CMA Shipping 2014,
March 19, 2014.

- *What is a Vessel: A Review of Recent Court Decisions*, Chalos, G. and Sparkman, B., March 6, 2013.
- *Sailing the Seas of Uncertainty: The Fight for Due Process for Ship Owners and Seafarers in U.S. MARPOL Related Detentions*, Chalos, G. and Sparkman, B., CMA Shipping 2012, March 21, 2012.



Michael F. Sturley

Michael Sturley is the Fannie Coplin Regents Chair in Law at the University of Texas Law School, where he teaches *inter alia* maritime law and commercial law courses and directs the Supreme Court Clinic. He received his undergraduate education at Yale, and has law degrees from Yale and Oxford.

Prof. Sturley is a life member of the American Law Institute; a proctor member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States (where he serves on the Board of Directors, chairs the Uniformity Committee, and is active on other committees); a Titulary Member of the Comité Maritime International (where he served as the Rapporteur for the CMI's International Subcommittee on Issues of Transport Law and is currently active on three committees); the Senior Advisor on the U.S. Delegation to Working Group III (Transport Law) of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL); a member of the UNCITRAL Experts' Group on Transport Law; and the Book Review Editor of *The Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce*. In 2008, American Maritime Cases' Seventeenth Five-Year Digest was dedicated to him.

Prof. Sturley has written extensively on maritime subjects. Some of his recent publications include ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME LAW IN THE UNITED STATES (4th ed. 2020) (with David W. Robertson & Steven F. Friedell); THE ROTTERDAM RULES: THE U.N. CONVENTION ON CONTRACTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS WHOLLY OR PARTLY BY SEA (2d ed. 2020) (with Tomotaka Fujita & Gertjan van der Ziel); *Can Commercial Law Accommodate New Technologies in International Shipping?*, in NEW TECHNOLOGIES, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SHIPPING LAW (Bariş Soyer & Andrew Tettenborn eds. 2020); *Consignees' Rights under the Rotterdam Rules*, in INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND CARRIAGE OF GOODS 81 (Bariş Soyer & Andrew Tettenborn eds. 2017); *What Has Become of the Rotterdam Rules?*, 83 JOURNAL OF TRANSPORTATION LAW, LOGISTICS AND POLICY 275 (2016) (reprinted in MLA REPORT (fall 2016), MLA document no. 825, at 19367); *The Modern International Conventions Governing the Carriage of Goods by Sea — The Lonely Exceptions to the Maritime Law's Widespread Preference for Arbitration*, in THE ROLE OF ARBITRATION IN SHIPPING LAW 89 (Miriam Goldby & Loukas Mistelis eds. 2016); *Removal into Admiralty: The Removal of State-Court Maritime Cases to Federal Court*, 46 JOURNAL OF MARITIME LAW & COMMERCE 105 (2015); *Unit Limitation under the Rotterdam Rules and Prior Transport Law Conventions: The Tail That Wags the Dog*, in CURRENT ISSUES IN HONG KONG AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW 93 (Hong Kong Centre for Maritime and Transportation Law, City University of Hong Kong 2015); *Reflections on Fifty Years of Revolutionary and Glacial Change in the Shipping Industry*, 50 EUROPEAN TRANSPORT LAW 357 (2015); and annual *Recent Developments* articles in TULANE MARITIME LAW JOURNAL (with David W. Robertson and Matthew H. Ammerman).

Prof. Sturley has lectured on maritime subjects at law schools and conferences in the United States and around the world; and has been consulted in maritime cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, in many of the lower federal courts, and in state and foreign courts.

Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Texas Law School, Prof. Sturley was associated with Sullivan & Cromwell in New York. He had previously served as a law clerk to Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., at the United States Supreme Court, and to Judge Amalya L. Kearsse, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (in New York).