

Kirby Aarsheim
Partner
Farrell Smith O'Connell

Attorney Aarsheim's family owns commercial scallop fishing vessels with a home port of New Bedford, Massachusetts. She has been involved with the operational aspects of owning fishing vessels, including damage claims, insurance coverage, regulatory matters, and fishery management. Her exposure to and involvement in the fishing industry since a very young age has provided her with a unique perspective on commercial fishing operations as well as other aspects of the maritime industry.

Attorney Aarsheim is currently appointed as an Advisor on the New England Fishery Management Council Enforcement/VMS Committee's Advisory Panel. As an Advisor, she provides assistance in reviewing enforcement measures and developing management plans to the Enforcement/VMS Committee, which considers the enforceability aspects of management measures proposed by other committees as well as general enforcement policies and priorities.

Attorney Aarsheim presently serves as the Secretary of the Propeller Club Port of Boston. She is also serving as a Director on The Maritime Law Association of the United States' Board of Directors. She is currently serving as the Vice Chair of The Maritime Law Association's Practice & Procedure Committee.

Before joining Farrell Smith O'Connell, Attorney Aarsheim worked as an associate for many years at a renowned maritime defense firm in Boston, Massachusetts. While in law school, Attorney Aarsheim participated in the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program and gained legal experience from other local reputable maritime law firms.

Attorney Aarsheim's practice includes marine casualties and personal injury defense, Jones Act defense, fisheries regulations, United States Coast Guard regulatory actions, maritime transactional work, and vessel owner defense in Longshore and Harbor Worker's Compensation section 905(b) matters. Attorney Aarsheim also handles cases involving subrogation recovery, product liability, and general insurance defense.

Education

- Roger Williams University School of Law, J.D.
 - Honors: CALI Awards, Highest Grades in Maritime Personal Injury Law and Fisheries Law
- Bentley University, B.S., cum laude
 - Honors: High Distinction in Management Award

Admissions

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- State of Rhode Island
- First Circuit Court of Appeals
- United States District Court, District of Massachusetts

- United States District Court, District of Rhode Island

Professional Affiliations & Bar Associations

- Director, The Maritime Law Association of the United States
- Vice Chair, Maritime Law Association's Practice & Procedure Committee
- Secretary, Boston Propeller Club
- Advisor, New England Fishery Management Council's Enforcement/VMS Committee Advisory Panel
- Editorial Fellow, American Maritime Cases

Publications

- Co-Author, Recent Development in Admiralty and Maritime Law, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal, Volume 54, Issue 2, Spring 2019
- Co-Author, Recent Development in Admiralty and Maritime Law, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal, Volume 53, Issue 2, Winter 2018.
- Co-Author, Opposing Perspectives: Should Fishing Permits be Classified as Appurtenances and Submit to Attachment of a Maritime Lien? Benedict's Maritime Bulletin, Volume 15, Issue 4, Fourth Quarter 2017.
- Co-Author, Recent Development in Admiralty and Maritime Law, ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal, Volume 52, Issue 2, Winter 2017.
- Author, Limiting the Vessel Owner's Liability to the Value of the Vessel and... Its Fishing Permits? ABA Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee Newsletter, Fall 2013. (Selected for the Cover Article).

Speeches & Presentations

- October, 2018, presentation at the Maritime Law Association's Fisheries and Practice & Procedure Committees' Joint Meeting on how Fishing Vessel Permits are treated under various aspects Maritime Law.
- June, 2018, organized and moderated the American Bar Association Tort Trial Insurance Practice Admiralty & Maritime Law Committee's presentation on a Panel of Members from All Stages of Fishermen Claims.
- May, 2018, presentation at the Maritime Law Association's Fisheries Committee Meeting on the Cod Father case.
- May, 2017, presented an update on the OW Bunker cases at the Maritime Law Association's Practice & Procedure Committee meeting.
- June, 2012, presentation on the issues surrounding recovery of munitions by fishing vessels to a diverse group of vessel owners, insurance brokers, and underwriters.