

THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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**SUPREME COURT ADMIRALTY RULES**

At the Annual Meeting of the Association held May 2, 1952 a discussion was had of the resolutions of the Executive Committee contained in Document No. 348 circulated to the membership in September, 1951 and dealing with the Supreme Court Admiralty Rules. It was recommended that the Association take a fresh look at the entire question and it was resolved to refer the whole question of the admiralty rules to a committee on the subject, which committee should report to the Executive Committee for such action as the Executive Committee might consider appropriate. Thereafter, the President appointed a Committee on the Supreme Court Admiralty Rules as follows:

William G. Symmers of New York, Chairman  
Charles S. Bolster of Boston, Vice Chairman  
Lane Summers of Seattle, Vice Chairman  
George Whitefield Betts, Jr. of New York  
John C. Crawley of New York  
Charles N. Fiddler of New York  
J. Franklin Fort of Washington, D. C.  
Cody Fowler of Tampa  
Joseph W. Henderson of Philadelphia  
Arnold W. Knauth of New York  
Robert G. McCreary of Cleveland  
Russell A. Mackey of San Francisco  
Frederick W. Mueller of New York  
Frank B. Ober of Baltimore

Under date of August 18, 1952 the above Committee submitted an interim report which is enclosed herewith as Association Document No. 363. At a Special Meeting of the Executive Committee held September 4, 1952, which was called for the purpose of con-

sidering the interim report, the Executive Committee approved in principle the report and thereby approved in principle the following general approach to the problem :

1. There should be a separate set of Admiralty Rules.
2. The Association's Committee should carefully review all of the existing Supreme Court Admiralty Rules with a view to making such changes, revisions, deletions and additions as might seem appropriate.
3. Provision should be made in the Supreme Court Admiralty Rules for incorporation by reference of such of the Rules of Civil Procedure as the Committee might deem appropriate.
4. The incorporation by reference of those Rules of Civil Procedure referred to in the enclosed interim report.

The Executive Committee recognized that some time might be required before a complete revision of the Admiralty Rules could be carried out. It was felt that there is an urgent need to revise and complement certain of the Admiralty Rules with respect to matters which have previously been given detailed consideration. The Executive Committee thereupon appointed a Subcommittee of the Committee on Supreme Court Admiralty Rules consisting of William G. Symmers, Chairman, John C. Crawley, Charles N. Fiddler and Arnold W. Knauth, and authorized it, if it seemed advisable to such Subcommittee, to urge the immediate adoption of these few changes as an interim measure. The report of such Subcommittee is enclosed herewith as Association Document No. 364.

In view of the importance of the subject to every member of the Bar engaged in the practice of Admiralty it is hoped that as many of this Association's members as possible will find the time to give consideration to the enclosed reports and submit in writing their comments.

Although many members of this Association, including members of the Executive Committee and our Supreme Court Admiralty Rules Committee, would be satisfied to continue with the present rules with only a few changes, our Executive Committee after careful consideration and investigation of the whole subject has concluded that considerable changes in the Admiralty Rules are sooner or later inevitable. It is felt that if this Association does not take the initiative the Admiralty Bar may well find its rules changed in

many ways which are far less desirable than if the Admiralty Bar itself had assumed a constructive initiative.

The purposes and membership of this Association render it particularly qualified to assume the lead in this important subject. The co-operation and assistance of a large number of our members will fortify its position in this respect and add weight to its final recommendations.

Your comments should be sent to the Committee Chairman, William G. Symmers, 70 Pine Street, New York 5, N. Y.

HENRY C. BLACKISTON,  
Secretary.