



Steven M. Stancliff

Steve advises and represents commercial ship owners, salvors, ship repairers, dredging and marine construction companies, and their insurers in all aspects of marine operations and casualty response. Steve is ready to support casualty response involving collisions, groundings, marine pollution, marine salvage, machinery failures, governmental investigations, and other incidents and disputes in federal and state courts in Virginia and North Carolina, as well as vessel arrests, attachments, limitation actions, and salvage proceedings.

Steve also assists underwriters by analyzing contracts of marine insurance and providing coverage opinions.

Office: 757.802.9071
Fax: 757.623.5735
sstancliff@cwm-law.com

150 West Main Street
Suite 1500
Norfolk, VA 23510
www.cwm-law.com

Practice Areas

Admiralty & Maritime Law
Practice Group Chair
Government Contracting

Business & Industries

Dredging Companies
Vessel Owners and Operators
Vessel Manufacturers
Shipyard and Waterfront Facilities
U.S. and International Marine Insurers
Marina Owners and Operators
Marine Salvage Operators
General Maritime Companies
Industrial Manufacturers
Railroads

Honors & Awards

AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rating by LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell
Listed in Virginia *Super Lawyers*, Transportation/Maritime, 2013-2019

Education

Case Western Reserve University, J.D. 1996
University of Rhode Island, M.M.A. (Marine Affairs) 1992
United States Coast Guard Academy, B.S. (Marine Engineering) 1984

Bar Admissions

Virginia State Bar
North Carolina State Bar
Ohio State Bar

Court Admissions

United States Supreme Court
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia
United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina
United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio

Memberships

Maritime Law Association of the United States (Proctor; Secretary, Committee on Regulation of Vessel Operations, Safety, Security and Navigation, 2016-present)
Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute (Officer/Secretary, 2018-present; Editor-in-Chief, 2016-17; Editorial Committee, 2014-17; Chairman, Long Range Planning Committee, 2013-14; Board of Directors, 2010-2011)
Virginia Maritime Association
Virginia Bar Association
North Carolina Bar Association
Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
James Kent American Inn of Court

Community Involvement

The Propeller Club of Norfolk
Tidewater Arts Outreach (President, 2016-present; Board Member, 2015-present)

Representative Experience

- Resolves admiralty and maritime disputes (vessel arrests, Jones Act claims, Suits in Admiralty Act, Federal Tort Claims Act, Shipowners Limitation of Liability Act, contract disputes, maritime torts, fishing vessel operations, licensing and permits, damaged shore structures, personal injuries, and machinery failures.)
- Lectured in the regional and local maritime and legal communities on maritime legal issues relating to vessel arrest, ship-owners limitation of liability actions, marine salvage, vessel collisions, marine casualty investigations and recreational vessels.
- More than 20 years active duty commissioned service in the United States Coast Guard, concluding at the rank of Commander. Legal, shipboard engineering and operational assignments in New York City, Newport, RI, Cleveland, OH, Honolulu, HI, San Francisco, CA, Boston, MA and Portsmouth, VA.
- Legal advisor for Coast Guard and other federal officials regarding urgent maritime operations, regulation of commercial shipping and licensed mariners, environmental compliance, criminal investigations and enforcement, maritime trade, maritime transportation security, investigation of major marine casualties, and international law issues.
- As Trial Attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice, litigated civil claims in Admiralty on behalf of the United States, including ship collisions, groundings, oil spills, contract disputes and law enforcement activities.
- Routinely directed and coordinated complex civil and criminal inter-agency investigations among numerous federal, state and international investigative agencies in maritime domain.
- Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Districts of Maine and Rhode Island investigating and prosecuting allegations of oil pollution, MARPOL violations, and violent crime on the high seas.

Representative Cases

- *Flame S.A. v. Indus. Carriers*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 131981 (E.D. Va. Sept. 19, 2014)
- *Kelly v. United States*, 7:10-CV-172-FL, 2011 WL 3555853 (E.D.N.C. Aug. 11, 2011)
- *Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad Co. v. M/V MARLIN*, 2009 A.M.C. 2465 (E.D. Va. 2009)
- *Styron v. Norfolk Dredging Co.*, 262 F.R.D. 502, 502 (E.D.N.C. 2009)
- *Eck v. United States*, 1999 AMC 2941 (S.D.Cal)
- *United States v. Phillips*, 56 M.J. 771 (C.G. Ct. Crim. App. 2002)

Articles and Presentations

- "Ethical Dilemmas for Maritime Attorneys", co-presenter at SEALI Annual Seminar (June 2016)
- "Top 10 Things Every Lawyer Should Know About Maritime and Boating Law," presented at Bench-Bar Conference of NPBA (2015)
- "Recent Maritime Law Developments in The United States Supreme Court and The United States Courts of Appeal for the First, Second, and Fourth Circuits," presented at SEALI Annual Seminar (2012)

Articles and Presentations, continued

- "It's No Fun Being an (Injured) Illegal Alien (Maritime Worker)," presented at SEALI Annual Meeting (2010)
- "The Continuing Vitality of the Limitation of Liability Act," presented at SEALI Annual Meeting (2009)
- "A Legal Guide to Pleasure Boating" — presented at Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association CLE Seminar — covering subjects including: the nautical rules of the road, the legal framework for Coast Guard search and rescue operations, the evolution of government maritime security regimes, laws for the protection of the environment, and law enforcement authorities on the navigable waters of the United States; May 2008 and 2010
- State and Federal Cooperation in Maritime Homeland Security Mission; Panelist at National Association of State Boating Law Administrators 45th Annual Conference, 2004
- United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea, Maritime Security, and International Fisheries Law and Management; Defense International Institute of Legal Studies 2003 mission to the archipelagic state of Vanuatu