



## Christopher M. Hannan

Shareholder

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Christopher Hannan concentrates his practice in admiralty and maritime law.

Mr. Hannan has significant experience, including first and second chair trial experience, in a variety of areas involving insurance defense and personal injury claims, both inland and offshore marine concerns, as well as the onshore and offshore energy industries. As a litigator, he has handled a diverse array of personal injury and insurance defense matters involving both maritime and state law issues, and has significant experience concerning all aspects of admiralty and maritime law, including Jones Act/LHWCA/OCSLA/maritime/offshore worker personal injury claims, allision and collision matters, shipowner's limitation of liability, marine insurance (coverage issues, claims against brokers, defense of assureds, etc.), vessel arrest and attachment, maritime liens and preferred ship mortgages, cargo claims, the Oil Pollution Act and related issues.

Mr. Hannan was also seconded for two months as a claims handler with a Lloyd's of London insurance syndicate and a fixed premium protection and indemnity (P&I) insurer, during which he handled numerous claims involving all aspects of vessel and general marine operations.

Mr. Hannan also has extensive experience providing contract and regulatory advices for maritime and offshore industry clients, with a focus on indemnity, insurance, and additional insured issues, as well as representation in maritime commercial disputes, including maritime lien issues and anti-indemnity act concerns.

Given the focus of his practice in the area of admiralty and maritime law, Mr. Hannan is the blogmaster for Baker Donelson's maritime blog *Striding the Quarterdeck*. He was recently appointed as associate editor for the Port of New Orleans by the managing editors of *American Maritime Cases* (AMC). AMC is a prestigious publication and its associate editors have traditionally been "senior" prominent admiralty attorneys from around the country. Mr. Hannan steps into the shoes of his late mentor Jimmy Roussel, who had helmed the Fifth Circuit associate editor position for more than twenty years. Mr. Hannan is GIAC certified in Law of Data Security and Investigations (GLEG).

Prior to joining Baker Donelson, Mr. Hannan served as a judicial clerk in 2008 for the Honorable Carl J. Barbier, United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana.

Mr. Hannan is also a published poet whose work has appeared in numerous journals and magazines. He was selected as the runner-up in the 2010 Faulkner-Wisdom Poetry Contest for his poem "Epithalamion," and was selected as the Grand Prize Winner in the 2011 Tennessee Williams Festival Poetry Contest for his five-part poem *The Nephilim*. Most recently, his first booklength selection of poems, *Alluvial Cities*, was published by Texas Review Press in July 2015 after its selection as winner of the 2014 Southern Breakthrough Prize for best unpublished manuscript.

### Representative Matters

- Represented the London insurance market in regard to the DEEPWATER HORIZON Multi-District Litigation.
- Represented the London insurance market in regard to the sinking of the Petronius platform off the coast of Alabama.

- Represented vessel owners in a complex, multi-party, multi-venue commercial dispute regarding a first impression issue of maritime law concerning a vessel management agreement, as well as wrongful arrest, maritime bankruptcy and lost profits issues. Prevailed on the wrongful arrest claims, in one of only few reported successful wrongful arrest claims in Louisiana in the last twenty years. Briefed and argued multiple issues on consolidated appeals in the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Acted as American general maritime law counsel on behalf of cargo interests in a damage suit in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (which applies U.S. general maritime law as its own law), one of several proceedings in multi-national, multi-forum litigation involving the law of multiple countries arising out of a two vessel collision off the coast of Vietnam. Successfully defeated a motion to transfer the suit on *forum non conveniens* grounds and ultimately argued before and prevailed in the Marshall Islands Supreme Court regarding threshold issues of Marshall Islands constitutional law and statutory law and conflict of international treaties regarding limitation of shipowner liability, resulting in an additional net potential gain to our clients of approximately \$10 million USD.
- Represented dredge company in oil spill, property damage, and lost product claims resulting from an allision between a dredge and a pipeline. Obtained summary judgment dismissal of claims against the dredge company under Louisiana's "One Call" statute (underground utilities and facilities damage prevention law) and for lost product damages under the *Robins Dry Dock* rule, and prevailed in the Fifth Circuit on appeal by the pipeline company on both the *Robins Dry Dock* issue and dismissal of the "One Call" claim (an issue of first impression).
- Represented inshore oil and gas exploration company in claims by oyster fishermen regarding alleged damage to oyster beds by vessels and oil and gas exploration equipment.
- Represented inshore oil and gas exploration companies in claims relating to allisions between commercial vessels (fishing vessels, tug and barges) and oil platforms in Louisiana state waters, including aspects of spill/pollution response, lost/deferred production, navigational charting and navigational equipment/electronic chart issues, historic permitting concerns, vessel owners/operators' claims for limitation of liability, etc.
- Represented various vessel companies and offshore service providers in personal injury and indemnity claims, under both the general maritime law/Jones Act and state law viz. the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, including obtaining summary judgment dismissal, affirmed on appeal, of indemnity claims against oilfield contractor pursuant to Louisiana Oilfield Anti-Indemnity Act; obtaining summary judgment dismissal of personal injury claims against oilfield contractor pursuant to borrowing employer immunity.
- Obtained summary judgment dismissal of an intervenor's maritime lien claim on behalf of a mortgage-holding lender in a vessel mortgage foreclosure action, and prevailed on a motion to dismiss the intervenor's appeal to the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals based on the "useless judgment" doctrine.
- Served as trial counsel in seven-day \$58 million fraudulent transfer case involving breach of contract dispute and Texas fraudulent transfer law. Owned verdict in favor of fraudulent transfer plaintiff, and briefed multiple issues on appeal prior to resolution of the case.
- Represented a vessel owner in a contract dispute with a shipyard, and obtained a temporary restraining order at the outset of litigation authorizing the removal of the owner's equipment and partially completed vessels pending dispute resolution.
- Obtained Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal for no cause of action of claims against hull and machinery underwriters arising out of a jackup vessel grounding incident.
- Obtained orders on behalf of cargo interests in two different federal jurisdictions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1782 (discovery in aid of foreign proceedings) authorizing depositions and document discovery from foreign flagged and crewed vessel regarding a general average claim.
- Obtained a successful result for the owner of a bridge spanning the Atchafalaya River against claims arising out of an allision involving a tug and crane barge.

- Obtained summary judgment dismissal of store-owner client and its insurer in a slip-and-fall case under the Louisiana independent contractor defense.
- Obtained summary judgment dismissing a store owner and its insurer in a slip-and-fall case based on the court's finding of no unreasonably dangerous hazard.
- Obtained 12(b)(6) dismissal of contract claims by alien corporation against Louisiana company based on lack of prudential standing.
- Assisted a solid waste services company in reaching a compliance solution with the U.S. Coast Guard after the Coast Guard unexpectedly shut down oilfield waste removal/disposal operations in the Gulf of Mexico based on changes to its regulatory guidance regarding oilfield waste barges and stability/pollution prevention requirements.



## Professional Honors & Activities

- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law (2020 – 2021)
- Listed as a Louisiana Rising Star in *Louisiana Super Lawyers* in Transportation/Maritime (2015 – 2021)
- Recognized as a "Top Lawyer" in Admiralty & Maritime Law by *New Orleans Magazine* (2017 – 2019); Transportation Law (2018)
- Associate Editor – The Port of New Orleans, *American Maritime Cases*
- Louisiana State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association
- Proctor Member – Maritime Law Association of the United States (MLAUS)
  - Secretary, International Organizations, Conventions and Standards Committee
  - Chair, Offshore Vessels Subcommittee of the Offshore Industries Committee
- Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA)
- Young Leadership Council
- Pirates' Alley Faulkner Society
- Friends of City Park
- Mid-City Neighborhood Organization



## Volunteer Work

- Student Volunteer with Stacy Head's Office, New Orleans City Council, District B (August-September, 2006)
- Regular volunteer (through the New Orleans Pro Bono Project) providing legal services to the homeless at the New Orleans Mission



## Publications

- Blogmaster – Striding the Quarterdeck
- "COVID-19 (and Other) Relief for the Marine Industry" (July 16, 2020)
- "Coronavirus: U.S. Coast Guard Provides Clarification on "Essential Workers" for the Maritime Industry" (March 31, 2020)
- "Defense Production Act is Invoked by President Trump" (March 19, 2020)
- Co-author – "In Putative Class Action, Fifth Circuit Holds that Texas Operators Must Seek Best Price Available in Calculating Royalties Under Proceeds Lease," IEL's Oil & Gas E-Report (March 2019)
- "Fifth Circuit: Texas Operators Must Seek Best Price Available in Calculating Royalties" (February 2019)
- "Fifth Circuit Court Makes Ruling on Decommissioning Contracts," *Offshore Magazine* (September 2018)
- "Hercules Ascendant? A Gasp Of Breath From A 'Dead Letter'," *Law360* (March 2018)

- "5th Circ. Goes Broad On Oil Pollution Act Liability," *Law360* (December 2017)
- "Fifth Circuit Sounds Death Knell for BSEE Jurisdiction Over Offshore Contractors," *Offshore Magazine* (November 2017)
- "To Hell with 'Oh, Hell Why Not?' - The Fifth Circuit En Banc Reverses *Estis V. McBride Well Service L.L.C.*," *LOGA Industry Report* (Summer 2015)
- "USCG's Path Forward: A Unitary Regulatory Approach to Industry on the OCS," *Offshore* (October 2014)
- Lead Author – "Lost in their Own Streets and at Sea: The New Regulatory Reality Post-Macondo," Maritime Law Association of the United States joint conference with the Ibero-American Maritime Law Institute, Puerto Rico (2013)
- Co-author – "BSEE's Assertion of Authority over Oilfield Contractors Questionable," *ABA Energy Litigation* newsletter (2013)



## Speaking Engagements

- "Vessel Seizures & Bankruptcy" and "Maritime Courts of Panama," New Orleans Bar Association 2018 Delegation to the Republic of Panama (September 2018)
- "Agency Jurisdiction – Offshore," co-panelist with REAR ADMIRAL STEVEN J. ANDERSEN, Judge Advocate General & Chief Counsel (United States Coast Guard; and LANE NEMIROW, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Solicitor (United States Department of the Interior; Washington, D.C.), 27th Biennial Tulane Admiralty Law Institute, New Orleans, Louisiana (March 2018)
- "Whoa Kemosabe - The Fifth Circuit's Decisions in the Ranger Case," presentation to Offshore Committee, Maritime Law Association of the United States joint conference with the Ibero-American Maritime Law Institute, Puerto Rico (2013)



## Education

- Loyola School of Law, J.D., magna cum laude (2008)
  - Editor-in-Chief, *Loyola Law Review* (2007 – 2008)
  - William L. Crowe Sr. Scholar
  - Brief Writer/Oralist: Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition Moot Court Team
  - Recipient of the 2008 Loyola University "Spirit of Ignatius" Award
  - Law Excellence Awards in Civil Procedure I, Legal Research & Writing, Civil Law Property II, Maritime Personal Injury, Evidence, Law of the European Union I, Courts in a Federal System and Community Property
- College of the Holy Cross, B.A., summa cum laude (2004)
  - Candidate for Valedictorian
  - Rev. Henry Bean, S.J. Classics Scholar
  - Phi Beta Kappa
  - Semester abroad in Athens, Greece, Fall 2002 and Rome, Italy, Spring 2003



## Admissions

- All Louisiana state and federal courts