



Maritime Law Society

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS



Vincent M. DeOrchis, DeOrchis & Partners, LLP, graduated from Fordham College and Fordham Law School. He is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, The Federal Courts in New York, as well as the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeals. He has handled many of the leading cases in U.S. Maritime law involving cargo, charter party, limitation of liability and hull claims. He co-authored “Negotiation – An Attorney’s Manual” and “Inside the Minds: Founding a Law Firm.” He served on the Board of Directors of the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and was the chairman of the MLA’s Committee on Carriage of Goods, which has proposed a revision of the U.S. Carriage of Goods by Sea Act for submission to Congress. He has also served on the Board of Directors of New York Maritime, Inc. (NYMAR). Mr. DeOrchis is a consulting expert to the U.S. State Department in respect to the UNCITRAL project to draft a new international cargo liability instrument. He is a titular member of the CMI. He has participated as a briefing judge in the Judge John R. Brown National Moot Court Competition. Mr. DeOrchis has been included in “Best Lawyer’s in America,” and Chambers Global as well as USA listings of ranked lawyers. He has tried numerous cases, appeals and arbitrations throughout the United States during his career.



Chester D. Hooper, a Partner with Holland & Knight LLP, practices in the Maritime Litigation Practice Group and focuses in the areas of collision, the defense of vessel interests against claims for cargo damage, multimodal carriage of cargo, and drafting bills of lading and other shipping documents.

He was navigator of the USS TRUCKEE (AO 147) while on active duty in the U.S. Navy and also sailed as a Third Mate in the United States Merchant Marine. He has tried numerous cargo cases on behalf of vessel interests as well as collision cases.

Mr. Hooper has published numerous articles on admiralty cargo issues. In addition, he has lectured on the subject of the carriage of goods at many seminars, including the following institutions: The Admiralty Law Institute of Tulane University School of Law, the Louisiana State University School of Law, the University of Connecticut School of Law, the Houston Marine Insurance Seminar, and the Southeast Admiralty Law Institute Seminar.

Mr. Hooper was President of the Maritime Law Association of the United States from 1994 to 1996. He also served as a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) working group that drafted the Rotterdam Rules, which will replace the present treaties governing the international carriage of goods that include a sea leg.

He is a graduate of Hobart College and received his law degree from Albany Law School. Mr. Hooper is admitted to the bar of New York and has been included in “Best Lawyer’s in America”, Chambers Global and Chambers USA (Transportation: Shipping Litigation, 2007-2008).

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David T. Maloof is a senior partner in Maloof Browne & Eagan LLC, a small international law firm in New York. He is known worldwide as among the most effective advocates for the rights of shippers and their insurers for justice in international commercial disputes. He and his two partners have been involved in some of the most high profile commercial transportation casualties of the last 20 years (M.V. Elma Tres; M.V. APL China; M.V. Hual Europe) and their work has led to tens of millions of dollars in recoveries. Admiralty, rail and trucking law has been widely made more equitable through their efforts and creation of leading precedents, including the landmark decision in *Sompo Insurance Co. of America v. Union Pacific Railroad Co*, 456 F.3d 54 (2d Cir 2006).

Mr. Maloof has been qualified and testified as an expert on U.S. marine insurance law in Tokyo District Court. He is a member, Proctor Status, of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. For ten years his firm has run an annual conference in New York on trends in transportation law, bringing in speakers from around the world.

Mr. Maloof graduated *magna cum laude* and *phi beta kappa* from Columbia College in 1980. He earned a B.A. degree with a History major and an English minor. He received his J.D. in 1983 from the University of Virginia School of Law. Mr. Maloof was also an intern in the Office of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, then the Honorable Warren Burger.



Jennifer Mehaffey is Vice President of Climate Change and Environmental Affairs for Liebman & Associates, Inc. in Washington, DC. Ms. Mehaffey acts as a senior advisor and liaison on behalf of L&A clients to the Federal Executive Branch and Congress. She specializes in developing public/private partnerships and policy initiatives related to climate change, natural resources, clean energy technology development and deployment, and sustainability.

Prior to joining L&A, Ms. Mehaffey served in the Federal government at the Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS). The CMTS was created by The White House and is a Cabinet level interagency committee chaired by the Secretary of Transportation. It consists of 18 agencies, departments, and The White House. While at CMTS, Ms. Mehaffey worked closely with senior members of the U.S. Departments of Commerce; Energy; Interior; Homeland Security; Defense; and the Environmental Protection Agency. Ms Mehaffey served as a member of the U.S. delegation for the June 2008 UNCITRAL negotiations for the Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea, adopted by the United Nations in December 2008. At Department of Transportation, she assisted in drafting the Department's Strategic Plan (Environment Section) 2006-2011 for presentation to the Obama Administration Transition Team.

Ms Mehaffey worked across the Executive Branch to develop the "National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System: A Framework for Action" which sets forth over 30 actions for federal agencies to address five priority areas: environmental stewardship, safety and security, system capacity, resiliency, and long-term funding. Ms. Mehaffey has also worked with representatives from academia, private industry and local, state, and federal government to author a comprehensive set of recommendations and regulations concerning water management in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

Ms. Mehaffey has a joint Juris Doctorate / Master's in Marine Affairs from Roger Williams University /University of Rhode Island ('07) and is a licensed attorney in New York. Ms. Mehaffey is a 2008 Sea Grant Fellow and member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She graduated magna cum laude from Mount Holyoke College with a BA in English.

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MODERATOR



William J. Coffey, a veteran maritime transportation advisor, is an Adjunct Professor at Roger Williams University School of Law, and has served as Adjunct Associate Professor of Ports and Shipping at the University of Rhode Island.

A Rhode Island native, Prof. Coffey received his B.S. from Holy Cross College and his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. Presently, he serves as president of the Beaufort Maritime Group, LLC, providing strategic marketing and consulting services to port authorities, terminal operators, and formerly to the Office of the Governor of Rhode Island. Prior to that, Prof. Coffey served as the president of R.K. Johns & Associates, Inc., a New York City based consulting firm. He was also the secretary and counsel to Sea-Land Service, Inc., an international containership line, and has had many years of maritime regulatory, public affairs, and legislative experience in Washington, D.C. Prof. Coffey is admitted to practice in Virginia and the District of Columbia, and is a member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. He also served in the U. S. Navy and had attained the rank of Lieutenant at the time of his discharge.

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