

Practice Areas

- Admiralty & Maritime Law
- Litigation

Education

- The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., 2000
- The University of Texas School of Law, J.D., 2003

Honors

- 2011/2012 Texas Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" in Transportation / Maritime Law
- Guest Lecturer on Maritime Law – University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business (2011, 2012)
- Consul Award Winner – University of Texas School of Law (2003)
- Board of Advocates Outstanding Member – University of Texas School of Law (2003)
- National Finalist – N.I.T.A. Tournament of Champions Mock Trial Competition (2002)

F. Daniel Knight

Senior Counsel

Houston

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F. Daniel Knight practices in the areas of admiralty and maritime law, as well as general civil litigation and appellate issues. He has a strong background in issues relating to the safety industry and the maritime industry, and has been involved with the defense of hundreds of admiralty and maritime litigation matters. Mr. Knight also assists clients in resolving non-litigation issues pertaining to admiralty law. In his general litigation practice, Mr. Knight has successfully resolved a variety of insurance and commercial litigation matters.

Mr. Knight was recognized as a "Rising Star" by Texas Super Lawyers magazine in 2011 and 2012 in the area of Transportation and Maritime Law.

Significant Litigation Matters and Cases

- Mr. Knight served as first-chair defense counsel in a Jones Act personal injury lawsuit filed in Harris County, Texas. He tried the case to a verdict in February 2011. The plaintiff demanded over \$1,300,000.00 in actual damages. The Jury returned a verdict of \$1,620.00 against the Firm's clients in approximately two hours. A case summary of this Verdict may be found at 2011 WL 793314. The Plaintiff declined to appeal.
- Mr. Knight served as second-chair defense counsel in a Jones Act personal injury lawsuit filed in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas in June 2010. Mr. Daniel D. Pipitone served as first chair. A favorable verdict was obtained in favor of the Firm's client by Mr. Pipitone and Mr. Knight. Plaintiff demanded approximately \$3,700,000.00 in actual and punitive damages at trial after demanding \$1,200,000.00 to settle the case before trial. Our clients offered \$200,000.00 to settle before trial. Plaintiff was awarded \$420,000.00 in actual damages with fifty percent fault attributed to Plaintiff. A summary of the verdict can be found at 2010 WL 3483078. The verdict is currently on appeal to enforce the fifty percent reduction of the award, which, if granted, would reduce the actual damages awarded to \$210,000.00.

- Outstanding Fraternity President, The University of Texas at Austin (2000)

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals

F. Daniel Knight, *Continued*

- While defending an offshore drilling contractor, Mr. Knight helped to obtain a dismissal with prejudice of a personal injury lawsuit filed under the Jones Act and General Maritime Law in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Galveston Division. The Plaintiff received nothing for his lawsuit, and dismissed his case after losing a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment concerning liability issues. The Court's opinion regarding the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment may be found at 2008 WL 4394613.
- Mr. Knight served as first chair defense trial counsel in a week-long Federal Court jury trial in Houston Texas. The case involved a maritime commercial dispute where liability against our client was certain. Mr. Knight's examinations of several witnesses, including the plaintiff's economic expert, reduced the jury verdict to less than the amount demanded by plaintiff in mediation, and less than half of the plaintiff's demand in closing arguments.
- When representing a vessel owner prosecuting a Limitation of Liability action in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston Division, Mr. Knight helped to obtain a denial of a Motion to Dismiss filed by the Claimants. The Court's Memorandum and Order, which may be found at 2008 WL 2368730, establishes favorable law for dredging operators with respect to bringing one Limitation of Liability proceeding for multiple claims occurring on different dates, but on the same voyage.
- While serving as first chair defense counsel a hardwood flooring broker based in Pennsylvania in a non-maritime commercial dispute filed in the 61st Judicial District Court of Harris County, Texas, Mr. Knight obtained a dismissal without prejudice of his client based upon lack of personal jurisdiction. This ruling dismissed his client as a defendant in the case, and avoided potential exposure of his client to over \$2,000,000.00 in alleged damages by the plaintiff.
- Mr. Knight assisted in the defense of a non-maritime employer in an employment discrimination case. The Firm obtained a favorable summary judgment for its client and the plaintiff appealed to the Thirteenth Court of Appeals. Mr. Knight authored the appellate briefs for our client, and the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's dismissal of the plaintiff's claims. The Court's decision may be found at 2008 WL 4667545.

Significant Transactional Experience

Mr. Knight also assists clients with non-litigation issues related to the admiralty and maritime law. Representative matters include:

- The sale of vessels;
- Flagging of vessels as well as regulatory compliance;

F. Daniel Knight, *Continued*

- Drafting and negotiation of bills of lading, contracts of carriage, and charter parties between clients and third parties;
- Demurrage issues; and
- Perfection of maritime liens.

News & Publications

- "Using 'The Art of War' in Deposition Preparation," *Texas Lawyer*, March 2012
- "Three Lessons from Two Trials for One Great Performance," *Texas Lawyer*, October 2011
- "Salty Medical Bills? Applying *Haygood v. de Escabedo* to Admiralty Cases in Texas," *Texas Lawyer*, August 2011
- "Current Issues in Longshore & Harbor Workers' Compensation Act Claims: Defense Base Act Indemnity Benefits and War Hazards Compensation Act Relief," Presented at the 15th Annual University of Texas School of Law Admiralty & Maritime Law Conference, Houston Texas, September 2006. Co-author

Community Involvement

- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (Life Member).
- H.I.S.D. Volunteers in Public Schools Mentor at Mac Gregor Elementary School (2008-present).
- Member (2010-2013) and Chair (2011-2012), Missions Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Houston.

News

- Houston-based Chamberlain Hrdlicka Attorneys Recognized as 2012 Texas Rising Stars

Professional Affiliations

- Texas Bar Association
 - Houston Bar Association
 - Propeller Club
 - Houston Mariner's Club
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