

Practice Areas

- Appellate Law
- Admiralty & Maritime
- Energy and Maritime
- Commercial Litigation
- Regulatory Practice

Education

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

Honors

- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* - Admiralty and Maritime Law (2026)
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* - Appellate Practice (2025-2026)
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America* - Commercial Litigation (2025-2026)
- Listed, *Texas Super Lawyers* - Transportation / Maritime Law (2019-2025)
- Listed, *Texas Super Lawyers: Rising Star* - Transportation / Maritime Law (2011-2018)

F. Daniel Knight

Shareholder

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<https://www.chamberlainlaw.com/maritime-proctor>

Daniel Knight practices in the areas of admiralty and maritime law, as well as general civil litigation and appellate issues. He has expertise in issues relating to safety in the maritime industry, and has been involved with the defense of hundreds of admiralty and maritime litigation matters. His cases involve personal injury matters filed under the Jones Act, the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Limitations of Liability actions, as well as admiralty issues relating to vessel arrest and maritime liens. 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.

Texas Super Lawyers magazine first named Mr. Knight as a Texas Super Lawyer in the field of Transportation/Maritime law in 2019, and recognized him in the same capacity in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Prior to turning 40, Super Lawyers recognized Mr. Knight as a Transportation/Maritime Law Rising Star from 2011-2018. In the past, both H-Texas Magazine and Houstonia Magazine named Mr. Knight as a Top Lawyer in Houston in the field of Admiralty and Maritime Law. Mr. Knight's expertise in the field of Admiralty and Maritime law is also reflected through his teaching and presentations on the subject. Mr. Knight routinely serves as both a presenter and author for Admiralty and Maritime CLE events. He also taught European Maritime Law in the McCombs School of Business as a guest lecturer from 2011 to 2016, and guest taught the Admiralty Law class at the University of Texas School of Law for a week in the Fall 2024 semester.

Significant Litigation Matters and Cases

In 2022 and 2024, Mr. Knight, as lead counsel, favorably resolved (on a confidential basis) two wrongful death claims made in differing State Courts in Texas for a Firm client arising from an accident in the Houston Ship Channel in April 2019.

- Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation, 2016-Present
- "Top Lawyer in Houston" by H-Texas Magazine, 2012-2020
- "Lawyer on the Rise" by Texas Lawyer Magazine, 2018
- "Top Lawyer in Houston" by Houstonia Magazine, 2013-2018
- Guest Lecturer on Maritime Law University of Texas at Austin McCombs School of Business (2011-2016)
- 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)
- Outstanding Fraternity President, The University of Texas at Austin (2000)

Bar Admissions

- Texas

Court Admissions

- United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas

F. Daniel Knight, *Continued*

In 2020 and 2021, Mr. Knight, as lead counsel, obtained dismissal of claims made in Federal Court by over a dozen plaintiffs made against a long-standing Firm client arising from the ITC explosion in the Houston Ship Channel in March 2019.

In February of 2018, Mr. Knight successfully and confidentially resolved a significant piece of litigation in State District Court in Harris County related to the 2012 partial collapse of an under-construction jack-up offshore oil rig in a Singaporean shipyard.

In September 2017, Mr. Knight successfully and confidentially resolved claims made in Jefferson County, Texas against a Texas-based line-handling company by a severely injured Peruvian Seaman.

In March 2017, Mr. Knight successfully and confidentially resolved claims made in Harris County, Texas by a maritime worker (who was either a longshoreman or a Jones Act seaman) against a ship's agent/vessel agent.

Mr. Knight defended an EPCI client in an AAA arbitration in August 2014 related to the construction of three offshore platforms. The Arbitration proceedings, and subsequent post-Arbitration briefing resulted in a favorable settlement for the Firm's client.

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 defense counsel in a Jones Act personal injury lawsuit filed in Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas in June 2010. A favorable verdict was obtained in favor of the Firm's client by the Chamberlain trial team. Plaintiff demanded approximately \$3,700,000.00 in actual and punitive damages at trial. Plaintiff was awarded \$420,000.00 in actual damages. A summary of the verdict can be found at 2010 WL 3483078.

Mr. Knight served as first chair defense trial counsel in a week-long Federal Court jury trial in Houston Texas in October/November 2007. The case involved a maritime commercial dispute where liability against our client was certain. Mr. Knight's examinations of several witnesses, including the plaintiffs economic expert, reduced the jury verdict to less than the amount demanded by plaintiff in mediation, and less than half of the plaintiffs demand in closing arguments.

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

F. Daniel Knight, *Continued*

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 Courts 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 courts dismissal of the plaintiffs claims. The Courts 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;

Drafting and negotiation of bills of lading, contracts of carriage, charter parties, terminaling agreements, fleeting agreements, and general business terms and conditions, for use by clients;

Demurrage issues; and

Perfection of maritime liens and mineral liens; and

Negotiation and drafting of onshore and offshore Master Service Agreements.

F. Daniel Knight, Continued

Publications

"Maritime Contracts: 5 Common Mistakes," *Maritime Reporter*, November 2019

"Batura v. Dutra Group and the Latset Circuit Split on Admiralty Punitive Damages," *The Federal Lawyer*, July 2018.

"When Does a Jones Act Seaman Stop Being a Jones Act Seaman?," *The Texas Lawyer*, June 2015.

Legal perspectives: issues to consider in offshore rig movement, *Offshore Magazine*, June 2013.

"McCorpen 101 for Lawyers," *Texas Lawyer*, July 2013

"Commentary: Work with Witnesses to Fix Demeanor Issues," *Texas Lawyer*, December 2012

"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

Board of Directors member and Secretary of the Greater Houston Senior Football Showcase (2012-present).

Member, Houston Bar Association Speaker's Committee, 2014 - present

Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo (Life Member).

Member (2010-2013) and Chair (2011-2012), Missions Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Member (2013-2016) and Chair (2014-2015) of the Permanent Funds Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Houston.

Life Member, Texas Exes (2000-present).

