



Justin G. Guthrie
Partner

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PRACTICE AREAS

Admiralty & Maritime
Appellate
Insurance Coverage & Defense
Litigation
Logistics

INDUSTRIES

Logistics & Supply Chain
Maritime

LICENSED IN

Georgia
Virginia

EDUCATION

Tulane University Law School: J.D.,
Maritime Law Certificate, 2016
University of Virginia: B.A., Foreign Affairs
& International Relations, 2012

AFFILIATIONS

State Bar of Georgia
American Bar Association: Tort Trial &
Insurance Practice Section; Admiralty and

EXPERIENCE

Justin Guthrie, a partner in the firm's Savannah office, is a civil litigator specializing in maritime and admiralty law. He has experience litigating marine casualty cases involving recreational, commercial, and oceangoing vessels.

As a P&I Port Correspondent, Justin is regularly called on to provide the P&I Clubs and their ocean carrier members with legal advice, on-scene casualty investigation, regulatory assistance, and related services for legal matters arising in the Ports of Savannah and Brunswick, including defending vessel interests in state and federal court. Justin also advises individuals, businesses, and insurance carriers concerning maritime personal injury and property damage, oil spill liability, logistical disputes, and commercial fishing and aquaculture-related casualties. In addition to assisting clients' litigation needs, he also helps navigate certain regulatory concerns involving the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Vessel Documentation Center, the Federal Maritime Commission, and Customs and Border Protection.

Justin earned his J.D. and Certificate of Specialization in Maritime Law from Tulane University and his B.A. in Foreign Affairs & International Relations from the University of Virginia. During law school, Justin was an editor on the *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*, and he clerked for the U.S. Department of Justice's Aviation & Admiralty litigation division and the Federal Maritime Commission in Washington, D.C.

Prior to law school, Justin was a collegiate sailor, a U.S. Sailing instructor and racer, and an oyster farmer for one of the largest aquaculture oyster companies on the Chesapeake Bay.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

Maritime & Insurance Defense

- Assisted foreign vessel owners in obtaining summary judgment in long-shore personal injury matters brought under Longshore Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, 33 U.S.C. § 905(b), involving the alleged failure of container vessel equipment.
- Assisted a foreign vessel owner in the expeditious release of its vessel from arrest and successfully defended a bunker broker's necessities claim against that vessel.
- Assisted a naval architect in his defense against a shipbuilder's breach of

Maritime Law Committee

Defense Research Institute

Maritime Law Association

Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute

Tulane Maritime Law Journal

Virginia State Bar

COMMUNITY WORK

UVA Club of Savannah: Past President
(2022-2024), Board Member

Tulane Maritime Law Journal: Alumni
Mentor

RECOGNITION

Best Lawyers in America, Ones to
Watch, 2026

contract claim, resulting in a defense jury verdict, and pursued a successful breach of contract counterclaim against that shipbuilder.

- Assisted a marine insurance carrier in obtaining a declaratory judgment based on a seaworthiness condition in its insurance policy and successfully defended that finding on appeal to the Fourth Circuit and on brief to the Supreme Court of the United States.
- Assisted a marine insurance carrier in obtaining a declaratory judgment based on a primary residence exclusion in its insurance policy.
- Assisted a marine insurance carrier in connection with the favorable pre-trial resolution of several lost fish catch and commercial fishing gear damage claims.
- Advised commercial aquaculture clients as to maritime personal injury and Jones Act liability, collaborated with lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C., and assisted in drafting the amendment to the Jones Act concerning aquaculture workers, 46 U.S.C. § 30104 (b).
- Advised small and large businesses as to Jones Act cabotage compliance, including advising recreational charter businesses as to Coast Guard vessel documentation/inspection requirements and serving as specialty counsel in several mergers and acquisitions involving the large-scale purchase and transfer of marine assets.
- Assisted vessel owners and insureds in successfully limiting their liability for certain marine casualties under the Limitation of Liability Act of 1851, 46 U.S.C. § 30501, et seq.
- Assisted vessel owners and insureds in their defense against maritime personal injury claims arising from various marine casualties, including collision, allision, and wake.
- Assisted vessel owners in the favorable representation and resolution of varying degrees of vessel damage claims against marinas and storage facilities, including fire, flooding, and total loss claims.

Civil Litigation

- Assisted in the defense of a national pharmaceutical distributor in an opioid lawsuit of first impression brought by twenty-one plaintiffs seeking over \$200 million in damages, resulting in a defense jury verdict after a 5-week trial.
- Assisted a real estate marketing firm in obtaining a judgment of \$1.5 mil-

lion, including treble damages and attorneys' fees, for a consumer protection act violation.

- Assisted a local bank in obtaining a judgment of \$3.2 million, including attorneys' fees and costs, for the breach of multiple promissory notes and individual guaranties.
- Assisted a local law firm and its named partners in obtaining the dismissal of a lawsuit, alleging breach of contract and fiduciary duties relating to the alleged diversion of legal fees.
- Assisted a riparian homeowner in obtaining the dismissal of a neighboring property owner's complaint seeking to restrain the riparian homeowner's ability to construct a dock.

ARTICLES

Fisheries Recent Case Update

By Justin G. Guthrie, prepared for the Maritime Law Association's Spring 2025 Meeting in New York City.

Fisheries Recent Case Update

By Justin Guthrie, this update was distributed to the Maritime Law Association and breifs recent noteworthy admiralty cases that involve fisheries-related issues, specifically decisions by the federal circuit courts as well as cases decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Loper Bright Enters. v. Raimondo*, 144 S. Ct. 2244 (2024), which overturned the landmark *Chevron, U.S.A., Inc. v. NRDC, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837 (1984) decision.

Fisheries Recent Case Update

By Justin G. Guthrie, distributed to the Maritime Law Association in October 2023.

Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law

Published in the Spring 2022 Survey Issue of the American Bar Association's *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*.

Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law

Published in the Spring 2021 Survey Issue of the American Bar Association's *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*.

Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law

Published in the Spring 2020 Survey Issue of the American Bar Association's *Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal*.

PRESENTATIONS

Fisheries Recent Case Update

Presented at the Maritime Law Association's Fall Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in October 2024.

Issues in Maritime Products Liability

Co-presented at the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys' Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in October 2023.

Fisheries Recent Case Update

Presented at the Maritime Law Association's Fall Meeting in San Francisco, California, in October 2023.

Fisheries Recent Case Update

Presented at the Maritime Law Association's Spring Meeting in New York, New York, in May 2023.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Eleventh Circuit Update

Presented at the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute (SEALI) Annual Seminar in Louisville, Kentucky, in June 2022.

Maritime Personal Injury and the Aquaculture Business

Presented at the East Coast Commercial Fishermen's & Aquaculture Trade Exposition in January 2020.

A Practical Guide to the Limitation of Liability Act

Presented to the Mid-Atlantic Mariner's Club in October 2019.

Navigating Marine Insurance from the Insured's Point of View

Presented to the Virginia Yacht Club in October 2018.

Shedding Light on the Legal Side of Aquaculture

Presented at the Virginia Aquaculture Conference in November 2017.