

Louisiana Law Review

Volume 43 | Number 4

Symposium: Maritime Personal Injury

March 1983

Introduction

Frank L. Maraist

Louisiana State University Law Center

Repository Citation

Frank L. Maraist, *Introduction*, 43 La. L. Rev. (1983)

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.lsu.edu/lalrev/vol43/iss4/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Law Reviews and Journals at LSU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Louisiana Law Review by an authorized editor of LSU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact kreed25@lsu.edu.

SYMPOSIUM: MARITIME PERSONAL INJURY

Introduction

*Frank L. Maraist**

Admiralty—the law of the sea—is of tremendous importance to Louisiana and its people. Three of the nation's leading ports—New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Lake Charles—are located in the state as is one of the nation's busiest arteries of barge traffic—the Mississippi River. Adding to the importance of maritime law in Louisiana is the fact that its territorial waters and the adjoining Outer Continental Shelf are the sites of much of the nation's offshore oil development.

It is not surprising, then, that Louisiana has an outstanding admiralty bar and that the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, whose jurisdiction encompasses Louisiana and the equally heavy maritime states of Texas and Mississippi, is perhaps the leading architect of maritime law. Several years ago, in an effort to foster scholarship in a field of law so important to the people of its state, the Louisiana State University Law School sponsored its first Maritime Personal Injury Seminar. That first seminar presented timely topics and an outstanding coterie of speakers drawn from the excellent Louisiana maritime bar, the outstanding admiralty judges in the area, and selected leaders of the admiralty bar from other areas of the country. The seminar was so successful that it was repeated in 1982 and has become a bi-annual project of the Law Center.

Several of the speakers at the 1982 seminar have reduced to writing the substance of their presentations; those writings are reproduced in this symposium. The timeliness of the topics and the expertise of the authors is illustrated by the leading presentation at the seminar and in this symposium: Judge Charles Clark's discussion of the present state of the coverage of the Longshoremen's and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act. In the period between the seminar and this publication, the United States Supreme Court decided an important issue treated by Judge Clark; not surprisingly, the Court's decision was strikingly similar to the solution proposed by Judge Clark and his colleagues on the Fifth Circuit in an earlier case.**

David Owen, a long-time leader of the Baltimore and international maritime bars, gave a thorough discussion of comparative negligence in admiralty at the seminar; his article, completed in collaboration

Copyright 1983, by LOUISIANA LAW REVIEW.

* Professor of Law, Louisiana State University.

** Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs v. Perini N. River Assocs., 51 U.S.L.W. 4074 (U.S. Jan. 11, 1983) (No. 81-897). For the Fifth Circuit's earlier decision on the issue, see *Boudreaux v. American Workover, Inc.*, 680 F.2d 1034 (5th Cir. 1982).

with J. Marks Moore, III, and Jack Allbritton's timely discussion of the application of American admiralty remedies to claims by foreign seamen are reproduced herein. Both should serve as valuable research tools for legal scholars and maritime practitioners alike.

Two of the persons who addressed the seminar and whose writings appear in this symposium deserve special mention. Judge Alvin B. Rubin of the Fifth Circuit is, of course, one of the LSU Law School's most distinguished alumni and one of the nation's preeminent maritime jurists. Warren Faris is a prominent LSU Law School alumnus and is one of the leading members of the New Orleans and international maritime bars. They have been the moving force behind the LSU Maritime Personal Injury Seminars and have earned the special gratitude of the Law Center.