

Highlights of the 2025-2026 Edition

The Law of Maritime Personal Injuries, 5th, is now in a two-volume softbound format to enhance ease of use. This format replaces the binders and loose-leaf pages and will be updated annually with replacement volumes.

- The Fifth Circuit originally held that the application of the Sanchez factors precluded an employee from invoking Jones Act status because he owed his allegiance to the independent contractor who employed him. On reconsideration, the Fifth Circuit reversed and held that a worker may have allegiance to both the vessel and his shore-side employer. *Santee v. Oceaneering International, Incorporated*, 110 F.4th 800 (5th Cir. 2024).
- Removal under the OCSLA is discussed in *Rijos v. Sanare Energy Partners, LLC*, 2025 WL 1703523 (E.D. La. 2025) and *Clapp v. Halliburton Energy Services, Inc.*, 769 F. Supp. 3d 555 (S.D. Tex. 2025).
- For a case involving removal based on Federal Enclave Jurisdiction see *Adame v. National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, Inc.*, 2025 WL 635336 (S.D. Cal. 2025).
- For a case arising out of the implosion of the submersible TITAN see *Ortoli v. OceanGate Inc.*, 2025 WL 353928 (W.D. Wash. 2025).
- An employer’s “voluntary” payment of claims under the LHWCA does not give rise to a claim for attorney’s fees. *Berry v. Air Force Central Welfare Fund*, 115 F.4th 948 (9th Cir. 2024).
- A court has refused to hold a cruise line liable for a sexual assault that occurred in a shore-side hotel that the cruise company had booked for her. *Doe v. Classica Cruise Operator Ltd.*, 2024 WL 4198169 (S.D. Fla. 2024).
- Insurance and indemnity issues arising out of activities on the OCS are illustrated in *Willis v. Barry Graham Oil Service, L.L.C.*, 122 F.4th 149 (5th Cir. 2024).
- The discretionary function doctrine defeats the claim alleging negligence in inspecting and certifying a vessel. *Fiedler v. United States*, 743 F. Supp. 3d 1152 (C.D. Cal. 2024).
- A proper stipulation can transform a multi-claimant case into the functional equivalent of a single claim case. *In re Williams Sports Rentals, Inc.*, 2024 WL 3594609 (E.D. Cal. 2024). The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, however, has concluded that a limitation of liability cases, indemnity

and contribution claims are separate claims precluding the application of the single claim exception. *In re Live Life Bella Vita LLC*, 115 F.4th 1188 (9th Cir. 2024).

- The Good Samaritan rule is discussed in *Matter of Maine Maritime Museum*, 752 F. Supp. 3d 229 (D. Me. 2024).
- For a case awarding damages under the FSIA terrorism provision, see *K.E.F.V. by and through Vickers v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 135 F.4th 988 (D.C. Cir. 2025).