

Walter P. Maestri

Partner

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Walter Maestri defends clients in maritime and energy litigation and is a member of the firm's Management Committee. Within his litigation practice, he focuses on representing companies that have contracts with oil and gas interests in the Gulf of Mexico, defending platform owners and companies that provide support to the oil and gas industry against personal injury, property damage, lost oil and gas revenue, and other claims. Walter also litigates cases under the Jones Act and general maritime law arising from operations in the Gulf, as well as cases involving collisions, allisions and offshore platform accidents.

Walter has been at Deutsch Kerrigan for more than 20 years. During this time, he has received accolades including being named to New Orleans *CityBusiness's* "Ones to Watch: Ports & Transportation", *New Orleans Magazine's* "Top Lawyers" and "The Best Lawyers in America".

Walter also currently serves as Chair of the firm's Marine & Energy practice group and the firm's Finance Committee. He is a past Chair of the firm's Recruiting and Diversity Committees. In his free time, Walter enjoys spending time with his family, spending time on the water, and working to perfect his award-winning barbeque.

Education

- Loyola University New Orleans (J.D., 1998)
- The Catholic University of America (B.A., 1993)

Admissions

- Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- The Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

Practices

- Admiralty & Maritime
- Cargo Interests
- Offshore Service Companies
- Shipyards
- Vessel Owners, Operators, and Charterers Liability
- Energy and Environmental

Professional Associations

- **Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association**
- **Maritime Law Association of the United States**, Proctor in Admiralty
- **New Orleans Bar Association**
- **Tulane University Admiralty Law Institute**, Planning Committee chair

Accolades

- Inside New Orleans Readers' Favorite Elite Lawyer, 2021
- Recognized in The Best Lawyers in America®, 2018-present
- New Orleans Magazine "Top Lawyers" List, 2018
- AV Preeminent Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Rating™
- New Orleans *CityBusiness* "Ones to Watch: Ports & Transportation"

Community

- **Coastal Conservation Association**
- **Hogs for the Cause**, Piggy Stardust Founding Member

Reported Decisions

- *Cole v. Huisman North America Services, LLC*, No. 23-30672 (5th Cir. 6/25/2024)
- *Brooks Well Servicing, Inc. v. Cudd Pressure Control, Inc.*, 34, 796, 796 So.2d 66 (La. App. 2 Cir. 2001)
- *Curran v. Fisherman Marine Products, Inc.*, 2000-0099, 773 So.2d 285 (La. App. 4 Cir. 2000)
- *In re Erin B.*, 99-496, 751 So.2d 946 (La. App. 5 Cir. 1999)
- *Herbert v. Archdiocese of New Orleans*, 98-1217, 739 So.2d 928 (La. App. 5 Cir. 1999)
- *City of Kenner v. Kenner Fire & Police Civil Service Board*, 99-86, 738 So.2d 114 (La. App. 5 Cir. 1999)

Summary Decisions

- *Tanya Leon v. State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. et al.*, 24th Judicial District Court, No. 488-519, Division "I" Jefferson Parish (La.)
- *Trico Marine Assets, Inc. et al. v. Diamond Services Corp. et al.*, No. 99-209, Section "T" (E.D. La.)
- *Vera Barnum Demery v. O.S. Johnson, Inc. et al.*, No. 01-2149, Section "A" (W.D. La.)
- *James L. Smith v. Vastar Resources, Inc.*, No. 00-2440, Section "C" (E.D. La.)

- *Charles Kerner, et al. v. Transamerican Refining Corp. et al.*, 29th Judicial District Court, No. 50,997, Division "E", St. Charles Parish (La.)
- *Dain Baudean wife of/and Chris Baudean v. The Lincoln Electric Co.*, 29th Judicial District Court, No. 51,745, Division "E", St. Charles Parish (La.)
- *Johnnie Smith and Barbara Smith v. Hall Houston Oil Co. et al.*, No.98-3433, Section "T" (E.D. La.)
- *George Hayes v. Island Operating Company, Inc.*, No. 16-12909 (E.D. La.)

Experience

Successful Appellate Recovery - Cole v. Huisman North America Services

Deutsch Kerrigan's Marine and Energy attorneys, in collaboration with its appellate practice experts, successfully reversed an adverse district court ruling. On appeal from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the U.S. Fifth Circuit determined that the firm's client should have been recognized as a contractual beneficiary pursuant to the terms of an agreement between an offshore drill ship and a contract labor provider. Deutsch Kerrigan's client was therefore entitled to complete defense and indemnity from the plaintiff's employer. Deutsch Kerrigan ultimately recovered for reimbursement to its client the entire amount paid to resolve the claim, and all costs and fees incurred.

Cole v. Huisman North America Services, LLC, No. 23-30672 (5th Cir. 6/25/2024)

Insights

April 13, 2021

U.S. Coast Guard Implements COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System

October 9, 2018

The Jones Act: Protecting U.S. Vessels and Seamen

August 20, 2015

Understanding Master Service Agreements: Don't Sink Your Own Ship