

Chris P. Reilly

Member

Practice Areas

- Admiralty and Maritime Law
- Commercial Litigation
- Insurance Defense
- General Litigation
- Intellectual Property



Personal Narrative

Since retiring from his career as a judge advocate on active duty in the Coast Guard in 2005, Chris has developed a broad litigation practice in the areas of maritime law, commercial defense, subrogation, and complex litigation. He is experienced in working with experts in many disciplines. He is frequently called upon to conduct post-injury or post-casualty analysis on behalf of vessel owners. He has practiced in both Federal and State courts in Washington and State courts in Alaska and Idaho.

Representative Matters

Represented a business owner in defending against a claim of personal injury arising from alleged water damage and mold contamination in a commercial building;

Represented vessel owners defending against merchant mariner personal injury claims;

Represented the State of Alaska and Alaska Marine Highway System in defending multiple personal injury claims arising from the grounding of a ferry vessel;

Represented a yacht builder defending a claim for negligent installation of an engine exhaust system;

Represented a vessel owner involved in a high speed collision against claims of personal injury and property damage;

Represented an insurer in a subrogation action against a marina for providing inadequate moorage;

Represented a federal agency in administrative actions before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Merit Systems Protection Board;

Represented an institution of higher learning in defending three environmental whistleblower claims before the Office of Administrative Law Judges, Department of Labor;

Represented the United States in prosecuting multiple claims in Federal District Courts for recovery of pollution removal costs under the provisions of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990;

Represented the United States in defending against a claim of negligence during the rescue of a diver with decompression sickness;

Represented the United States in defending a claim for oil spill removal costs under the Oil Pollution Act "Act of God" exception.

Education

U.S. Coast Guard Academy, B.S. in Civil Engineering, with High Honors, 1985
University of Washington School of Law, J.D., with Honors, 1995

Professional Experience

Trial Counsel, U.S. Navy Trial Service Office, 1996 – 1997
Staff Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, 1995, 1997 – 1999
Senior Appellate Government Counsel, U.S. Coast Guard, 1999 – 2001
Staff Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice (Aviation & Admiralty), 2001 – 2003
Staff Judge Advocate, 17th Coast Guard District, U.S. Coast Guard, 2003 – 2005
Special Courts-Martial Judge, U.S. Coast Guard, 2003-2005
Nicoll Black & Feig, 2005 – present

Associations

Washington State Bar Association
Alaska Bar Association
Maritime Law Association
Washington Defense Trial Lawyers
King County Bar Association

Bar Memberships

Washington
Alaska
U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. Supreme Court