

Christopher W. Nicoll

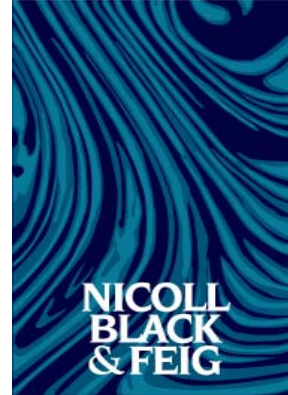
Member

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Practice Areas

- Maritime Litigation and Transactions
- Insurance Coverage
- Marine Insurance Defense
- General Commercial Litigation
- Appellate



Personal Narrative

A father of three, Chris received his B.A. degree from Boston College and his J.D. from the University of Idaho College of Law where he was a law review author and editor and was inducted into the Order of Barristers. Prior to entering private practice, Chris was a prosecuting attorney in Sun Valley, Idaho and a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Navy, attaining the Rank of Lieutenant Commander. While a Judge Advocate, Chris handled several noteworthy cases, including the 1984 collision of the USS KITTY HAWK with a Soviet nuclear submarine, an underwater collision involving a U.S. submarine, and the Iraqi missile attack on the USS STARK in 1987.

Chris began his private practice, focusing on maritime law and insurance in 1988, working for Vinson & Elkins in Houston, Texas. While there he represented vessel owners, oil rig owners and operators, and Underwriters. Chris moved to Seattle in 1991 to join the maritime practice at Bogle & Gates, where he continued to represent vessel owners and insurers and was elected to the partnership in 1993. Chris left Bogle & Gates in 1997 to join the maritime practice at Lane Powell Spears Lubersky, continuing to handle litigation in cargo matters, collisions, sinkings, groundings, fires, marine insurance coverage, tug and tow, ship construction and repair, personal injury, wrongful death, arrests and appeals. Chris left Lane Powell with many of his colleagues and joined Cozen O'Connor as a Senior Member in 1999 where he continued his maritime, energy and insurance practices. In 2004, Chris left Cozen O'Connor to form Nicoll Black where his marine and insurance practice has continued to grow.

Chris is licensed to practice in Washington, Texas (inactive) and Idaho (inactive), is a Proctor of Admiralty in the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and is a former Vice-Chair of the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the Tort & Insurance Practice Section of the American Bar Association. Chris is a regular lecturer and author on maritime and insurance topics, has been featured in the National Law Journal and selected as a "Super Lawyer" multiple times by Washington Law and Politics. Chris has tried hundreds of cases to successful conclusion in the course of his career.

Representative Published Decisions

- **Certain Underwriter's at Lloyds, London v. Inlet Fisheries, Inc.**, 518 F.3d 645, 2008 A.M.C. 305 (9th Cir. 2008) (vessel pollution insurance coverage case establishing utmost good faith as controlling rule for marine insurance in the Ninth Circuit)
- **Bordeaux Wine Locators Inc. v. Matson Navigation Co.**, 185 F.3d 865 (9th Cir. 1999) (COGSA package limit case for carrier)
- **Certain Underwriter's at Lloyds, London v. Inlet Fisheries, Inc.**, 389 F. Supp. 2d 1145 (D. Alaska 2005) (published summary judgment in favor of Lloyds, enforcing utmost good faith)
- **Seaspan International Ltd. Limitation Proceedings**, 172 F. Supp. 2d 1314, 2001 AMC 2366 (W.D. Wash. 2001) (limitation of liability case for owner)
- **Moe v. Key Bank**, 2000 AMC 2651 (W.D. Wash. 2000) (summary dismissal of vessel owner's suit against lender for damages under Jones Act and general maritime law)
- **Fireman Fund Insurance Co. v. Alaskan Pride**, 1994 AMC 2369 (W.D. Wash. 1994) (hull coverage litigation arising from sinking of crabbing vessel)
- **Strok v. F/T Northern Jaeger**, 1992 WL 503590, 1993 A.M.C. 1290 (W.D. Wash. 1992) (dismissal of Jones Act claims for failure to provide expert evidence of causation)
- **Glover v. State of Alaska**, 142 Wash. App. 442, 174 P.3d 1246, 2008 A.M.C. 177, (Wash. App. 2008) (dismissal of Jones Act case against State of Alaska on constitutional grounds)
- **Coast to Coast Seafood v. Assurances Generales**, 112 Wash. App. 624, 50 P.3d 662 (2002) (cargo insurance coverage related to fraud by cargo seller)
- **Kimta AS v. Royal Insurance Company**, 102 Wash. App. 716, 9 P.3d 239 (2000) (cargo insurance coverage litigation involving the FC&S Clause)
- **Wolstein v. Yorkshire Insurance Co.**, 97 Wash. App. 201, 985 P.2d 400 (1999) (marine builder's risk coverage litigation)

Education

Boston College, B.A. 1977

University of Idaho College of Law, J.D. 1980

Professional Experience

Vinson & Elkins, Houston, 1988-1991

Bogle & Gates, Seattle, 1991-1997

Lane Powell Spears Lubersky, Seattle, 1997-1999

Cozen O'Connor, Seattle, 1999-2004

Nicoll Black & Feig, 2004-Present

Bar Memberships

Washington, Texas (inactive) and Idaho (inactive)

U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington

U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit