



Colin A. McRae
Partner

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PRACTICE AREAS

Admiralty & Maritime
Business Litigation
Insurance Coverage & Defense
Litigation
Logistics
OSHA
Product Liability
Real Estate Litigation
Transportation
Transportation & Logistics
Zoning / Land Use

INDUSTRIES

Logistics & Supply Chain
Maritime

LICENSED IN

Georgia

EDUCATION

University of Georgia School of Law: J.D.,
cum laude, 1999

Yale University: B.A., History, 1995

EXPERIENCE

Colin McRae is a partner in the Savannah office. His practice areas include admiralty, transportation, logistics, business litigation, real estate disputes, landlord/tenant law, and tax appeal disputes involving both real and personal property.

Colin's maritime experience includes defense of personal injury claims, collisions, bill of lading and charter party disputes, cargo damage claims, oil spill and other environmental pollution cases, Coast Guard penalties, and recreational boating casualties. In addition to his experience in disputes involving real estate and commercial transactions, Colin has over fifteen years of experience representing property owners in tax appeal disputes in the Boards of Equalization and Superior Courts of southeast Georgia counties, including several jury trials representing property owners against county Boards of Assessors.

Colin is one of a select few United States-based attorneys to hold Qualification Certificates from the International Group of Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs in connection with his work as a P&I Correspondent for the Port of Savannah. As part of his twenty-year service to the P&I Clubs, which insure the oceangoing vessels that call the Port of Savannah, Colin recently sat for and passed the P&I Qualification examinations for Module 1 (The Shipping Business), Module 2 (P&I Insurance: History, Operation and Practice), and Module 3 (Underwriting, Loss Prevention and Claims Handling) of the qualification process.

In recognition of Colin's two decades of experience in the maritime law field, he has been appointed an Adjunct Professor in Admiralty Law on the faculties of both the Mercer University School of Law and the Savannah Law School.

Colin is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice in all courts of Georgia; the U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Middle, and Northern Districts of Georgia; and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. He is a member of the Savannah Bar Association, for which he served as president in 2015 and 2016. Colin has also served two terms as a member of the Savannah Bar Association's Executive Committee and as president of its Young Lawyers Division.

A native Savannahian, Colin graduated from Yale University with a B.A. in History in 1995 and from the University of Georgia School of Law with a J.D., cum laude, in 1999. Colin is the current chairperson of the Chatham County Board of Registrars and served for fifteen years as attorney coach of the High School Mock Trial team at Savannah Country Day School, his alma mater, leading to an award from the State Bar of Georgia as Outstanding Attorney

AFFILIATIONS

Maritime Law Association of the United States: Member (Proctor status)

Savannah Bar Association: President, 2015-2016

Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute: Board of Directors, Member; SEALI Newsletter, Associate Editor

Southeastern Warehouse Association: Member

State Bar of Georgia: iCivics Committee, 2016-2018; International Trade in Legal Services Committee, 2016-2017

Transportation Lawyers Association: Member

COMMUNITY WORK

Chatham County Board of Registrars: Chairperson, 2009-Present

Community Health Mission: Board of Directors, Chairman, 2010-2014

Economic Opportunity Authority of Savannah/Chatham County: Board Member

Georgia High School Mock Trial Program: Attorney Coach, 2001-2015

Leadership Savannah: Class of 2008

Propeller Club of the United States – Port of Savannah Chapter: Member

United Way of the Coastal Empire: Attorneys Division, Co-Chairman, 2006-2008

RECOGNITION

Martindale-Hubbell: AV Rated

Best Lawyers in America: Admiralty & Maritime Law, 2013-2025

Coach for the 2008-2009 season.

Colin was presented by the Savannah Bar Association with the Robbie Robinson Award for outstanding service to the Savannah community in 2010. He is AV rated by his peers on Martindale-Hubbell.

Colin and his wife, Lindsay, live with their two children in the Ardsley Park neighborhood of Savannah, where they are active members of First Presbyterian Church.

REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Service for over twenty years as local correspondent for all thirteen member Clubs of the International Group of Protection and Indemnity (P&I) Clubs, and provide their ocean carrier members legal advice, casualty investigation, regulatory assistance, and related services for legal matters arising in the Port of Savannah and the Port of Brunswick.
- Represented salvors in Supreme Court of Georgia in landmark case establishing the exclusivity of federal courts' jurisdiction over in rem claims for marine salvage. *Phillips v. Sea Tow / Sea Spill of Savannah*, 276 Ga. 352, 578 S.E.2d 846 (2003).
- Obtained a reversal of the trial court's denial of summary judgment in favor of municipal owner of recreational dock facility involved in collapse involving ferry passengers. *Chatham Area Transit Auth. v. Brantley*, 353 Ga.App. 197 (2019).
- Gained affirmance of trial court grant of summary judgment to oceangoing vessel owner sued by longshoreman injured by falling twistlock. *Horton v. Maersk Line, Ltd.*, 603 Fed.Appx. 791 (11th Cir. 2015).
- Established new law in the Eleventh Circuit regarding the "open and obvious" defense to personal injury claims brought under the "turnover duty" owed by cargo vessel owners to longshoremen. *Washington v. Nat'l Shipping Co.*, 836 Fed.Appx. 846 (11th Cir. 2020).
- Secured an appellate victory for oceangoing shipping line who had been sued under the "active control" duty by a longshoreman injured during cargo operations. *Miller v. Navalmar (UK) Ltd.*, 685 Fed.Appx. 751 (11th Cir. 2017).
- Engaged by regional warehousing provider to defend "toxic Chinese dry-wall" claims.

Georgia Super Lawyers: Transportation/
Maritime, 2016-2025

Lawyer of the Year: Admiralty & Maritime
Law, 2016 & 2022

Georgia Trend Magazine Legal Elite:
2015-2016

Community STAR: 2015

Georgia Super Lawyers Rising Star: 2007
& 2009-2013

GenerationNEXT: Savannah's Rising Stars
of Business, 2012

Savannah Bar Association: Robbie Robin-
son Award, 2010

Georgia High School Mock Trial Program:
Outstanding Attorney Coach Award,
2008-2009

ARTICLES

Savannah Logistics Lunch Focuses on Industry Disruptors

Published on June 22, 2017, in *Business in Savannah*.

The Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Container Weight Verification Requirement: An Update

Published on September 15, 2016, in the *SMN Maritime Magazine*.

Growth in Perishables Sector Creates Opportunity for Logistics Providers

Published on September 24, 2015, in *Savannah Morning News*.

Logistics Lunch brings Georgia Logistics Summit to Savannah

Published on July 15, 2015, in *Business in Savannah*.

Ship-to-Shore: Logistics and Liability

Published on February 1, 2015, in *Elegant Island Living*.

The Effect of Recent Global Affairs on Local Logistics

Published on September 26, 2014, in *Savannah Morning News*.

Does US Maritime Law Require a Captain to "Go Down With the Ship?"

Published on May 1, 2014, in *Savannah Morning News*.

Takeaways from the 2014 Georgia Logistics Summit

Published on April 16, 2014, in *Business in Savannah*.

Navigating Maritime Law and Liability

Published on June 17, 2013, in *Savannah Morning News*.

Recreational Boating and the Law

Published on May 15, 2013, in *Business in Savannah*.

Importers, Exporters Must Be Cognizant of Changing Laws

Published on May 2, 2012, in *Business in Savannah*.

Update on the Eleventh, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Circuits

Chapter published in the *Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute Program Materials* for the Annual Seminar on June 26-27, 2009.

Court of Appeals Decision Could Alter Rules on Liability for Inland Carriers

Published on November 13, 2006, in *Savannah Business Report*.

Admiralty - A Review of the Eleventh Circuit's Opinions in 2005

Published on July 1, 2006, in *Mercer Law Review* 57, no. 4.

Admiralty - A Review of the Eleventh Circuit's Opinions in 2003
Published on July 1, 2004, in *Mercer Law Review* 55, no. 4.

Admiralty - A Review of the Eleventh Circuit's Opinions in 2002
Published on July 9, 2003, in *Mercer Law Review* 54, no. 4.

Admiralty - A Review of the Eleventh Circuit's Opinions in 2001
Published on July 9, 2002, in *Mercer Law Review* 53, no. 4.

Admiralty - A Review of the Eleventh Circuit's Opinions in 2000
Published on July 9, 2001, in *Mercer Law Review* 52, no. 4.

PRESENTATIONS

2021 Current Trends and Best Practices: Occupational Safety and Health Management
Presented at Georgia Institute of Technology's OSHA Conference on April 27, 2021

Recent Maritime Law Developments in the Eleventh, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Circuits
Presented at the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute Annual Seminar on June 28, 2019

Legal Considerations in Implementing your Vision
Presented at the Southeastern Warehouse Association Convention in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on September 18, 2015.

Navigating the Troubled Waters of the Law of Salvage
Presented to the Hilton Head Sail & Power Squadron in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, on September 8, 2014.

Legal Update: Issues Our Clients Are Asking Us About
Presented by Colin McRae and Brad Harmon at the Southeastern Warehouse Association Annual Convention in Destin, Florida, on September 14, 2013.

The Trial of the Slave Ship WANDERER
Presented at the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Conference in Savannah, Georgia, on May 2, 2013, by Colin McRae, Brad Harmon, and Adam Kirk.

Update on the Eleventh, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Circuits
Presented at the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute Annual Seminar on June 26, 2009.