



Charlie Papavizas

Partner
Chair, Maritime Practice

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Chair of the firm’s top-ranked maritime and admiralty practice, Charlie is nationally recognized in major legal directories. *Chambers USA* ranks him as the only “Star Individual” in the category of “Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Regulatory,” who is “the Dean of the maritime bar” and “the godfather of maritime law.” He is widely known for his experience with Jones Act laws and the U.S. offshore wind industry.

Charlie focuses his practice on administrative, legislative, and finance matters, primarily in the maritime industry generally and the U.S. offshore wind industry in particular. He has been actively engaged in the U.S. offshore wind sector since 2009 and counsels numerous clients working in various aspects of the industry, including obtaining the first Jones Act offshore wind-related ruling in 2010.

Charlie is frequently consulted on the application of U.S.-flag laws and regulations, particularly the application of U.S. coastwise laws (“Jones Act”) to cargo, passenger, and vessel movements and investments in U.S. companies.

He has extensive experience in advocacy on behalf of maritime clients before various federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Maritime Administration, and the U.S. Congress. Such clients have included U.S. and

foreign vessel owners and operators, industrial companies, private equity firms, commercial banks, and other financial institutions, shipyards, ship managers, and marine equipment suppliers.

Key Matters

Recent projects in which Charlie has been active include:

- The sale and charter of U.S.-flag tank vessels for BP America Inc.
- U.S. citizenship advice with respect to the whole company asset financing of Centerline Logistics Corporation.
- Advice to Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. with respect to its investment in Rand Logistics, Inc.
- Representation of lenders in connection with the restructurings of several U.S.-flag Jones Act companies.
- Multiple litigation and arbitrations on behalf of Liberty Maritime Corporation with respect to its collective bargaining agreements.
- Representation of multiple offshore companies in every sector of the offshore wind industry in the U.S. market.

Recognitions

Winston's Maritime & Admiralty team has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers*® as “Law Firm of the Year” in Admiralty & Maritime Law and has been ranked by *Chambers USA* for Shipping/Maritime: Regulatory for 17 years.

Charlie has accumulated the following accolades:

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Shipping and Maritime Law since 2005 (including a “Star Individual” ranking, 2017–2023) and Offshore Energy since 2023
- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Admiralty and Maritime Law since 2008
- Received the *Best Lawyers*® 2022 Admiralty and Maritime Law “Lawyer of the Year” award in Washington, D.C.
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 U.S.* as a “Leading Lawyer” in the field of Transport – Shipping Regulation (2018–2023)
- Listed in *Who's Who Legal* as a “Thought Leader” in the U.S. for Transport – Shipping (2023–2024) and also recommended as a “Global Leader” for Transport – Shipping in the 2022 edition

Activities

- Chair of the Marine Financing Subcommittee on Coast Guard Documentation and U.S. Citizenship Matters for the Maritime Law Association of the United States (2017-present)
 - Editorial board member of the *Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce*
 - Member of the American Bureau of Shipping (2015-present)
 - Previously served as a member of the board of governors of the District of Columbia Port, Propeller Club of the United States (1996–2002)
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Credentials

EDUCATION

Charlie received a B.A. in Government from Georgetown University in 1978, a M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University in 1981, and a J.D., with honors, from the George Washington University National Law Center in 1984.

ADMISSIONS

- District of Columbia

LANGUAGES

- Greek

Related Insights & News

Charlie has recently authored the following articles:

- “The Man Behind the ‘Jones Act,’” *MarineLink*
- “[Jones Act Waiver Mess](#)” in *Maritime Magazines*
- “[The Story of the Jones Act](#)” and “Jones Act Waivers” in *Tulane Maritime Law Journal*
- “What CBP’s Jones Act Changes Mean For Offshore Industries” in *Law360*
- “NY Offshore Wind Plan Spotlights Jones Act Compliance” in *Law360*
- “Last Port of Call for the U.S. Merchant Marine?” in *Maritime Reporter & Engineering News*
- “New Leasing Accounting Rules May Impact Jones Act Vessel Financing,” in *Marine Money*
- “Working with the Jones Act in the Offshore Wind Industry,” in *Offshore Wind Journal*

Charlie’s recent speaking engagements include the following:

- “Project Financing of Offshore Wind Projects,” January 2024, Tulane Offshore Wind Conference: The Future for Offshore Wind in the Gulf and Nationally
- “The OSV Market – Let the Good Times Roll,” November 2023, Marine Finance Forum – New Orleans
- “Offshore Wind – Panel Discussion,” June 2023, Marine Money Week
- “U.S. Offshore Regulatory Update,” April 2021, Danish Shipping
- “Offshore Wind Under the New Administration: Federal Policy Update,” January 2021, The Business Network for Offshore Wind Webinar
- “U.S. Offshore Wind Market Update,” February 2020, Offshore Wind Journal Offshore Wind Conference

BLOG

When is a Vessel Built in America “U.S. Built”

MAY 7, 2024

IN THE MEDIA

Charlie Papavizas New Book *Journey to the Jones Act* Featured in *TradeWinds*

MARCH 19, 2024

ARTICLE

Application of the Jones Act to Floating Offshore Wind

FIRST QUARTER 2024

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Maritime Attorneys Recognized in *Who's Who Legal: Transport 2024*

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

BLOG

Customs Issues New Guidance on a Range of LNG Transportation Issues

JANUARY 30, 2024

BLOG

U.S. Maritime Administration Makes Government Vessel Financing More Flexible

DECEMBER 14, 2023

BLOG

Offshore Jurisdiction "Pristine Seabed" Case Dismissed

OCTOBER 18, 2023

BLOG

U.S. Legislation Introduced Restricting Use of Foreign Vessels in U.S. Offshore Projects

OCTOBER 10, 2023

BLOG

U.S. Customs Revises Jones Act Guidance for Offshore Wind Turbine Foundation Installation

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

ARTICLE

Offshore Energy Jones Act Update

THIRD QUARTER 2023

RECOGNITIONS

Winston Attorneys Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2024

AUGUST 17, 2023

BLOG

U.S. Customs Provides New Jones Act Guidance for Offshore Wind Turbine Installation

JULY 31, 2023

Capabilities

Litigation/Trials

Transactions

Maritime & Admiralty