

W. BENJAMIN WOODY

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Education

Tulane University School of Law

Master of Laws, Admiralty, May 2016

Member, Tulane Maritime Law Journal

Research Assistant for Prof. Robert Force

Elon University School of Law

Elon, North Carolina

Juris Doctor, 2014

Book Award: Criminal Law | Public Law & Leadership

Moot Court Board

Trial Advocacy Board

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, Virginia

Bachelor of Arts, English, 2011

Legal Experience

2017-Present

Associate, Kalbaugh, Pfund & Messersmith, P.C., Richmond, VA

Assist in civil litigation practice researching and drafting motions on a wide array of procedural and substantive legal matters. Subject matters of legal issues include premises liability, products liability, retail and merchandising safety, construction defect, indemnification disputes, and insurance coverage defense.

2016 – 2017

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Giles County, Pearisburg, VA

Prosecute felony misdemeanor criminal matters before Circuit Court, General District Court, and Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court; provide prompt advice to law enforcement officers concerning searches, seizures, and emergencies; prepare briefs, written discovery responses, and written plea agreements; manage expectations of victims of all types of crime; circulate memoranda regarding charging decisions; respond to constituent requests for formal opinions.

2015-2016

Attorney, Voxlibra International, LLC, New Orleans, LA

Drafted and argued motions in boutique entertainment litigation practice; conducted legal research.

2014 – 2015

Attorney, Whitehead Law Firm, PLLC, Burlington, NC

Represented employers in U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division investigations, NC Department of Employment Security appeals, and EEOC investigations; represented insurance companies in coverage disputes; represented individual clients in civil litigation involving constitutional torts, construction, employment, family, and personal injury matters; represented municipalities in matters involving constitutional torts, employment discrimination, and real estate transactions.

2015 – 2016

Bar Prep Coach, Themis Bar, New Orleans, LA

Reviewed mock bar exam responses; provided constructive and prompt feedback to NC Bar Exam candidates.

Bar Memberships

Virginia 2016

M.D.N.C., 2015

North Carolina, 2014

Publications & Presentations

Sinking *Uberrimae Fidei*: How the Eighth Circuit's Decision in *St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins. Co. v. Abhe & Svoboda* Accidentally Sank the Doctrine before the Insurance Act of 2015 Could, *TULANE MARITIME LAW JOURNAL*, 40 *TUL. MAR. L.J.* 573 (Summer 2016).

Get Back to Where You Once Belonged: Decisions on Personal Jurisdiction Should Precede Maritime Choice of Law Disputes to Prevent Unnecessary Invocation of *Forum Non Conveniens*, *UNIV. OF SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME LAW JOURNAL*, 29 *U.S.F. MAR. L.J.* 71 (2017).

There Be No Shelter Here: Why Misreading *Sinochem International Shipping Co. v. Malaysian Shipping Co.* Renders Decisional Sequencing Necessary, *TULANE MARITIME LAW JOURNAL*, 41 *TUL. MAR. L.J.* 317 (Winter 2017).

Contributing Author, Recent Developments in Admiralty and Maritime Law, *ABA TORT TRIAL & INSURANCE LAW JOURNAL* (2017 & 2018 forthcoming).

The *Lauritzen-Rhoditis* Lie: Saving Jones Act Claims from an Atrophied Choice of Law Analysis, *ABA Tort, Trial & Insurance Practice Committee's Presentation of TULANE MARITIME LAW JOURNAL*, Jones Walker, New Orleans, LA (October 27, 2016).

Insurance Act 2015 and *Uberrimae Fidei*: The Sinking of a Harsh, Anachronistic Doctrine, International Graduate Legal Research Conference, King's College, London, England (April 4, 2016).

Sinking *Uberrimae Fidei* before the Insurance Act of 2015 Could, ABA Maritime Law Committee's Presentation of TULANE MARITIME LAW JOURNAL, Liskow & Lewis, New Orleans, LA (March 17, 2016).