



Kathryn Sobotta

Associate

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Katie focuses her practice on the international ocean transportation industry. She regularly represents clients before the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) in connection with regulatory requirements, adjudicatory proceedings, and fact-finding investigations. She also has experience representing clients in non-FMC maritime litigation and in alternative dispute resolution, such as arbitration before the American Arbitration Association.

Katie has experience drafting vessel sharing agreements, space charter agreements, and other cooperative working agreements between ocean carriers as well as advising clients on a wide range of regulatory matters before the FMC. Katie also has a range of transactional experience, including assisting with vessel sale and purchase transactions, vessel charter agreements, and private equity investments in shipping.

She brings to the table valuable insight gained from prior service as both a legislative affairs extern and a law clerk for the Wounded Warrior Project, and from service as a congressional relations intern for the General Accountability Office. Her approach to legal practice is also influenced by the business-mindedness she gained while working for three years for General Electric, where she held a supervisory role, completed a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification, and ran projects that saved the business tens of millions of dollars.

Katie joined Cozen O'Connor as an associate after working as a law clerk for the firm's Transportation and Trade group. Before attending law school, she served in the U.S. Army for more than five years, attaining the rank of Captain. Her service included combat deployments to Eastern Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division in 2013 and to Northern Iraq in 2010 with the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. She also led soldiers on a two-month consequence management mission in Japan following the 2011 earthquake.

Experience

Secured an important victory before the Federal Maritime Commission ("FMC") on behalf of Hyundai Merchant Marine ("HMM") in a case publicized in the New York Times alleging violations of the Shipping Act and breach of contract. Discovery revealed that not only had HMM acted in a reasonable manner and committed no violations of the Shipping Act, but that it had in fact granted very favorable terms to the complainant in the midst of the 2021-22 supply chain crisis. The judge cited this evidence three times in her decision denying all claims.

Represented a shipowner in the negotiation of various loan facilities and other agreements providing financing for the acquisition of a fleet of ocean-going tankers and chemical carriers. This matter included the corporate structuring, financing arrangements, and vessel purchases.

Practice Areas

- Maritime Litigation
- Maritime Regulatory
- Transportation & Trade
- Intermodal & Logistics
- Aviation Regulatory

Industry Sectors

- Climate Change
- Maritime

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., 2020
- United States Military Academy, B.S., 2009

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia

Awards & Honors

- Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, 2023

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