

# Tanner Honea

## Of Counsel

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## OVERVIEW

Tanner Honea is an of counsel and a member of the Commerical Disputes practice group. Prior to joining the firm, Tanner was a partner at the New York office of an international law firm, where he focused his practice on major maritime casualties including vessel fires, collisions, oil spills, groundings, and cargo container stack collapse. He also has extensive experience litigating and arbitrating a broad range of matters, including charterparty disputes, regulatory violations, environmental pollution, cargo damage, and vessel attachment and arrest proceedings, including both P&I and FD&D matters.

As part of his practice, Tanner has led numerous shipboard investigations to develop key evidence in support of client claims or defenses, which has included representation of vessel interests during government investigations by the USCG and NTSB concerning vessel collisions, fires, MARPOL violations, and related penalties. This has included representation during criminal investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice into environmental pollution incidents, and successful completion of the USCG voluntary disclosure program.

Prior to his work as a lawyer, Tanner served as a commissioned officer in the US Navy, where he was stationed aboard a guided missile destroyer and various patrol craft. He qualified as both a deck and engineering watch officer and as the ship's principal navigator. Tanner led a team of 11 sailors responsible for the operation and maintenance of the destroyer's missile system and later oversaw patrol boat operations during two six-month deployments in the Persian Gulf, leading a maritime boarding party.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* for Shipping: Litigation and Regulation
  - Next Generation Partner, 2026
  - Recommended Lawyer, 2023-2024
  - Rising Star, 2022
- Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* for Personal Injury Defense in New York, 2025
- Named to the New York Rising Stars list 2018-2023

- Awarded the Order of the Barristers by University of Houston Law Center, 2013

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Maritime Law Association of the United States
- Propeller Club of the Port of New York & New Jersey
- Navy League of the United States
- New York Bar Association

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Houston Law Center, 2013
- B.A., The University of Texas, 2006

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New Jersey
- Bar of New York
- Bar of Texas
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 10 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Recommendations in *The Legal 500 United States* 2026 Edition

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Commercial Disputes

## INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Maritime
- Transportation and Logistics

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Arbitrated vessel owner's dispute with charterer under SMA rules regarding amounts owed under the charterparty arising from demurrage.
- Prosecuted multiple Rule B actions to attach funds of a contractual debtor under a contract of affreightment.
- Represented slot-charterer in action under 19 U.S.C. § 1782 to obtain discovery concerning major engine room fire that crippled vessel, including the depositions of multiple crewmembers, expert surveys, and development of testing protocols.
- Represented vessel owner in lawsuit concerning thousands of claims arising from vessel fire that allegedly damaged or delayed delivery of cargo and resulted in salvage and declaration of general average.
- Defended vessel owners from government investigations into alleged violation of pollution laws, including representation during government investigations and criminal prosecutions.
- Represented vessel owner in investigation by US Coast Guard and NTSB following a collision at sea where one of the vessels was lost and initiated subsequent lawsuit against offending vessel.
- Initiated limitation actions on several occasions under 46 U.S.C. § 30501, *et seq*., to protect vessel owners' interests and defend against losses arising from vessel collisions, personal injury claims, and other forms of loss.
- Arbitrated dispute culminating in a two-week hearing regarding the sale of LNG liquefaction equipment and related components, specifically focusing on arguments concerning design of the cold box.
- Successfully petitioned US Customs to reduce or remit penalties assessed against vessel owners arising from alleged regulatory violations.
- Appealed fine assessed by US Coast Guard to USCG Headquarters in Washington, DC to substantially mitigate a fine for violations of regulatory requirements.
- Defended stevedoring company from claims arising from fire aboard vessel during loading operations, including initiation of discovery action against third parties, prosecution of claims in vessel's limitation action, and supervising expert investigation to support client's claims and defenses.
- Defended vessel owner against claims by cargo interests concerning vessel grounding that resulted in extensive vessel damage and delay and included claims in general average.
- Investigated fire aboard vessel that resulted in loss of the vessel and complete loss of all cargo.

- Prosecuted multiple discovery actions on behalf of slot-charterer regarding loss of hundreds of containers during ocean voyage and defended charterer's interests in subsequent multidistrict litigation arising from the incident.
- Defended vessel owner against government investigation into oil spill occurring in port that continued for several days, requiring extensive cleanup and remediation.
- Defended vessel owner against charges asserted by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation regarding oil pollution allegedly occurring along inland waterways.
- Represented vessel owner regarding cargo fire that caused extensive damage by investigating cause of the loss and litigating dispute in federal court, including appeal to the US Fourth Circuit.