

Mark Ruge

Partner and Chair of the Firmwide Pro Bono Committee

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OVERVIEW

Mark Ruge is a lawyer in the Public Policy and Law practice group, one of the largest policy groups in the United States. He focuses his practice on the federal government, representing clients on policy matters before Congress, administrative issues before the federal agencies and departments, and, occasionally, regulatory disputes in the federal courts. He is involved in a broad range of maritime issues and issues related to the Great Lakes states. In 2018, he was inducted into the Great Lakes Marine Hall of Fame, the first attorney ever chosen.

A veteran of more than a decade as a staffer on Capitol Hill, Mark serves as counsel to the American Maritime Partnership, the largest coalition in the history of the US maritime industry, and represents numerous other transportation clients on federal policy issues. In addition, he represents and has represented a broad range of other companies, associations, higher education institutions and other entities on federal legislative tax, healthcare, commerce, appropriations, and other issues. He has represented and represents the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

Mark also counsels clients on issues before the federal agencies and departments. He has successfully helped litigate cases under the Administrative Procedure Act, which mandates rational decision-making by federal agencies. Mark has participated successfully in numerous agency administrative appeals and rulemakings and co-chairs the K&L Gates Task Force on the US Supreme Court's landmark Loper Bright administrative law decision. He is a principal author of the three editions of “The Essential Guide to the Jones Act, A Roadmap to Compliance with America's Foundational Maritime Law."

Before joining the firm, he worked on Congressional staffs, including positions as chief of staff to Rep. Bob Davis (R-MI) and as deputy staff director (minority) of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, where he focused on Michigan and Great Lakes issues. Mark is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Northern Michigan University. He received an executive certificate in Leadership and Management from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

Mark chairs the K&L Gates firmwide Pro Bono Committee. He served as the Parish Council president at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean (VA) for nearly 20 years; chairman of the Board of Directors of the Father McKenna Center; founder of the Food From the Bar legal community food drive that has raised more than 10 million meals for the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, DC; the national board chairman for the Ignatian Volunteer Corps; and the Fathers' Club president at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC.

Mark is a part owner of the Green Bay Packers.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA*
  - Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Regulatory, USA-Nationwide, 2012-2026
  - Litigation: White Collar Crime & Government Investigations in Pennsylvania, 2026
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Government Relations Practice in Washington, DC, 2023-2027
- Recognized by *Washington Business Journal*, "Best Lawyer of Washington DC 2026", 2026
- Recognized by *The Legal 500 United States* as a Recommended Lawyer for Shipping: Litigation and Regulation, 2024-2026
- Selected to Washington, DC Super Lawyers list for Government Relations, 2013

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Speaker, "The End of the "Chevron Doctrine" and Analyzing Bill Text," Understanding & Analyzing Congressional Bill Text in a Post Chevron World virtual workshop, Public Affairs Council (PAC), 14 May 2025

EDUCATION

- Certificate, University of Notre Dame, 2008 *Mendoza College of Business, Leadership and Management*
- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1992
- B.A., Northern Michigan University, 1980 *(with highest honors)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 24 July 2026, House Passes Historic NDAA Maritime Amendments
- 30 June 2026, Supreme Court Expands Presidential Control Over Independent Agencies: Key Takeaways for Regulated Businesses
- 9 April 2026, The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Request: A Historic Investment in US Maritime Dominance
- 24 March 2026 , Foreign Vessels Operating Under the Jones Act Waiver Should Consider What Other US Laws May Apply

- 25 February 2026, White House Releases Plan to "Restore America's Maritime Dominance"
- 24 February 2026, Paradigm Shift in Environmental Review of Deepwater Ports 50 Years in the Making
- 9 October 2025, The Essential Guide to the Jones Act
- 30 April 2025, Trump Administration Dials Up Deregulation
- April 2025, The Trump Administration's Deregulation Initiative: Opportunities for Industry Over the Next 30 Days
- March 2025, Loper Bright: Navigating the New Regulatory State and Implications for the Trump Administration Agenda
- 25 February 2025, Trump Administration Asserts Control Over Independent Agencies
- 18 December 2024, Rollbacks and Repeals: How a New Administration Effectuates Policy Changes
- 12 November 2024, The Post-Chevron Toolkit
- 18 July 2024, What Overturning Chevron Means for the Way Congress Does Its Business
- July 2024, Chevron Overruled: Understanding the Supreme Court's Decision in Loper Bright/Relentless and What it Could Mean For Regulated Communities
- 28 June 2024, The End of Chevron Deference: What the Supreme Court's Ruling in Loper Bright Means for the Regulated Community
- 18 June 2024, Quick Guide: Agency Deference Caselaw
- 5 September 2023, EPA Draws Near to Issuing New Regulations on Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharges
- 5 January 2023, FY23 Defense Authorization Bill Makes Changes to Address "Novel and Problematic" Jones Act Waivers
- 14 June 2021, Shipping Emissions Remain a Focus of Reintroduced House Bill
- 26 May 2021, A U.S. Perspective on Shipping Decarbonization
- May 2021, May 2021 Accolades
- April 2021, April 2021 Accolades
- 19 April 2021, Coast Guard Subcommittee Talks Decarbonization
- 13 April 2021, Congress Set to Discuss Maritime Decarbonization
- 5 March 2021, What a Clean Future Means For Maritime
- 14 January 2021, Predicting the Biden Administration's Impact on the U.S. Maritime Industry
- 20 November 2020, How Long Until Biden Nominates The MARAD Administrator?

- 26 October 2020, House Climate Bill Takes Aim At Shipping Emissions
- 1 October 2020, Things to Watch: Congressional Funding for the U.S. Coast Guard
- 8 September 2020, Five Things the Maritime Industry Should Know as the 116th Congress Concludes
- 22 July 2020, Chairman DeFazio Introduces Emergency Relief Legislation for the Maritime Industry
- 6 July 2020, Maritime Industry Prepares For Busy Legislative Stretch
- 3 April 2020, COVID-19: The Continuing Impacts of COVID-19 on Transportation & Logistics
- 26 March 2020, COVID-19: Impacts to Transportation & Logistics
- 23 March 2020, COVID-19: Impacts to Transportation & Logistics
- 5 March 2020, DOT Announces $225 Million in Port Grant Opportunities
- 5 February 2020, DOT Announces Funding Opportunity for Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects
- 23 January 2020, Industry Predictions for 2020 From the Maritime Professionals at K&L Gates
- 8 January 2020, The Can-Do Congress?
- 29 November 2018, Congress Passes Coast Guard Authorization Bill with Historic Overhaul of Vessel Discharges Standards and Other Measures
- 7 February 2018, The Eerie Similarities Between The Gulf Spill In 2010 And Hurricane Maria In Puerto Rico 7 Years Later: How the Facts About the Jones Act Got Thrown Overboard
- 3 August 2017, Senate Confirms Adm. Buzby to Head U.S. Maritime Administration
- 25 January 2017, Timing for New MARAD Administrator
- 2 November 2016, EPA Announces Timeline for VGP 3.0

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "How DOGE's Bite Can Live Up To Its Bark," *Law360*, 16 January 2025
- "The End of Chevron Deference: What the Supreme Court's Ruling in Loper Bright Means for the Regulated Community," *The Journal of Federal Agency Action*, September-October 2024
- "What Chevron's End Means For How Congress Does Business," *Law360*, 30 July 2024
- "Federal Spending Means Big Money for Great Lakes Shipping," Great Lakes/Seaway Review, July-September 2021
- "Offshore Energy Report 26," *The Maritime Executive*, March/April 2018

- Co-author, “Facts Still Matter: How Social Media and Even Mainstream Publications Got It Wrong on the Jones Act and Puerto Rico,” *The Maritime Executive*, November/December 2017

NEWS & EVENTS

- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 5 May 2026, K&L Gates Advises American Maritime Partnership on Defense of Jones Act Constitutional Challenge
- 5 June 2025, K&L Gates Receives More Than 240 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2025 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 13 November 2024, K&L Gates Releases Post-*Chevron* Toolkit
- 10 July 2024, Media Cover K&L Gates' Response to US Supreme Court's Chevron Decision
- 6 June 2024, K&L Gates Receives More Than 200 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2024 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 1 June 2023, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2023 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 1 June 2022, K&L Gates Receives Firm, Individual Rankings in 2022 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 21 May 2021, K&L Gates Policy and Regulatory Practice, Lawyers Ranked Among Leaders in 2021 Chambers USA Guide
- 23 April 2020, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized in 2020 Chambers USA Guide
- 26 April 2019, Chambers USA 2019 Guide Ranks K&L Gates, Lawyers Among Leaders
- 23 June 2016, K&L Gates, Lawyers Recognized as Leaders in Chambers USA 2016 Guide
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, “Rules Could Vanish As Soon As Saturday With No Public Notice,” *Inside Health Policy*, 18 April 2025
- Quoted, “Understanding the overturn of the Chevron deference,” *WorkBoat*, 6 November 2024
- Mentioned, “Courts Grapple With Loper Fallout Amid Doubts On New Deference Standard,” *InsideEPA.com*, *Water Policy Report*, 11 October 2024
- Quoted, “Supreme Court Ruling Empowers Carriers to Challenge Federal Regulations,” *Freight Caviar*, 3 July 2024

- Quoted, “Supreme Court ruling could boost freight carriers' legal powers,” *Freight Waves*, *Yahoo! Finance*, 28 June 2024
- Mentioned, "Emails Reveal the US Maritime Administration's 2019 Efforts to Derail a Long-Term Jones Act Waiver for LNG," *Cato Institute*, 24 October 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Administrative and Regulatory Law
- Maritime Regulatory
- Maritime Transactions and Finance

INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Maritime
- Transportation and Logistics