

James A. Kelley

James A. Kelley, the managing partner of James A. Kelley & Associates, specializes in maritime law and government contracts. Mr. Kelley's practice includes all aspects of government contracts, ocean transportation, shipbuilding and repair, construction, and industrial and marine coating issues. Mr. Kelley provides legal guidance and services to large and small government contractors and the marine industry in the US and overseas. Mr. Kelley represents U.S. shipyards, ocean transportation companies, defense contractors, marine/industrial manufacturers, tug and barge operators, offshore supply companies, bridge contractors, painting contractors, cruise lines, insurance companies, financial institutions, and service companies.

Mr. Kelley has considerable experience assisting clients with the drafting, review and interpretation of solicitations and specifications, bid and proposal preparation and presentation, drafting and negotiation of contracts, contract pricing, bid protests, contract management, change order negotiations, pricing and cost accounting issues, and the preparation, negotiation, and litigation of compensation requests and claims. As legal counsel to shipping companies and shipyards, Mr. Kelley drafts and negotiates sale and purchase agreements, as well as ship construction, ship alteration and repair contracts, vessel design and material supply contracts. He also counsels maritime clients on ship registrations, regulatory compliance issues, creditor claims, vessel chartering, special project contracts, vessel delivery and acceptance, vessel operations, and transportation service contracts.

Mr. Kelley has a broad range of experience and in-depth knowledge of the maritime industry from years of assisting maritime clients in a broad range of activities and contract matters with the Military Sealift Command ("MSC"), Military Traffic Management Command ("MTMC"), Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command ("SDDC"), Naval Sea Systems Command ("NAVSEA"), U.S. Transportation Command ("TRANSCOM"), and the U.S. Maritime Administration ("MARAD"). Mr. Kelley has been directly involved with the VISA program and other Sealift programs as well as the Universal Service Contracts ("USC"), Voluntary Contingency Contracts ("VCC"), and Drytime Contingency Contracts ("DCC") since their inception, and he is able to offer a unique understanding of the complex workings of these programs and contracts to his maritime clients.

Mr. Kelley's wide-ranging international experience includes representation of shipping companies, shipyard, and defense contractors in connection with contract issues, business matters and litigation in the Middle East, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Japan, Norway, Germany, the Azores, and the Philippines. Mr. Kelley currently represents companies involved in diverse contract matters, negotiations, and claims related to Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Mr. Kelley has extensive litigation experience before various federal Boards of Contract Appeals, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the federal courts. Mr. Kelley has also participated in matters arising under the Small Business Act, the Service Contract Act, and the False Claims Act.

From 1980 through September 1983, Mr. Kelley was an attorney with the Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Navy. Mr. Kelley served as Assistant Counsel with the Military Sealift Command (MSC) in Washington, D.C. Mr. Kelley's practice with MSC involved Government contract matters, including shipping contracts and ship repair claims, U.S. General Accounting Office protests and litigation before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals and the United States Claims Court. In addition, Mr. Kelley served as a member of the Defense Acquisition Regulation Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Master Ship Repair Contracts from 1982 through 1983.

Mr. Kelley is a member of the National Defense Transportation Association, the Shipbuilders Council of America, the Society for Protective Coatings, and the Virginia Ship Repair Association. He is also a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, the American Society of Naval Engineers, the American Bar Association, Section of Public Contract Law and the Virginia Bar Association, Construction and Public Contract Law Section. Mr. Kelley is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar. He is a graduate of Randolph-Macon College and Delaware Law School.