



Jody M. Schisel-Meslin

Associate

Houston
+1.713.815.7326

Jody.Schisel-Meslin@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Jody Schisel-Meslin is an associate in the firm's Houston office. She is a member of the Maritime practice group within the firm's Energy, Infrastructure, and Resources practice. Jody's practice assists domestic and international companies with a wide range of maritime-related issues including collisions and allisions, USCG and NTSB investigations, personal injury, shipowner's limitation of liability, economic loss, pollution, vessel arrests and attachments, salvage, cargo disputes, and class, flag state, and port state compliance. Her experience includes all phases of litigation, from initial incident investigations on behalf of vessel owners, through pre-trial, trial, and appeals.

Prior to attending law school, Jody managed a fleet of offshore research and multipurpose vessels operating out of US and international ports of call, including coordinating daily vessel operations and ensuring vessel compliance with Class, Flag State, and Port State regulations.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm Jody served as a litigation associate within the maritime, oilfield, and insurance practice of a full-service law group. Through this role, she counseled corporate clients on litigation matters within the maritime, energy, and construction industries, with a focus on Jones Act, shipowner's limitation of liability, salvage, and cargo disputes.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America*, 2023, 2024

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- Women International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA)
- Maritime Law Association
- Houston Mariners Club

- American Bar Association TIPS Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee, Member

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Oilfield Casualty Insurance - Is it Covered?," Liskow Maritime Seminar, 26 October 2022, Houston, Texas
- "Hook, Line & Sinker - Litigation Nightmares Arising When My Vessel's Anchor Ruptures Your Subsea Pipeline," 73rd Annual Energy Law Conference, 17-18 February 2022, Houston, Texas

EDUCATION

- J.D., Tulane Law School, 2018
- B.A., Gonzaga University, 2008

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Texas
- Bar of Washington
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- United States District Court for the Western District of Texas

LANGUAGES

- Spanish

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Dismissal of Louisiana's Challenge to TED Requirement for Shrimping Vessels in State Waters Affirmed," *Liskow's The Energy LawBlog*, 6 July 2023
- "Juries cannot simply pick a number and put it in the blank." – Texas Supreme Court Remands Case Involving \$15 Million Jury Award for Noneconomic Damages Where Award was Unsupported and Arguments to the Jury Unsubstantiated," *Liskow's The Energy LawBlog*, 21 June 2023
- "Third Circuit Restores Rule B Attachment Based On Breach of Contract Claim Under English Law, Implied Indemnity Claim Not Enough," *Liskow's The Energy Law Blog*, 20 June 2023

- "11th Circuit Finds Not All Disputed Medical Evidence Must be Construed in a Seaman's Favor," *Liskow's The Energy Law Blog*, 20 September 2021
- "Settling the Split: The Supreme Court Clarifies Unavailability of Punitive Damages for Seamen in *Dutra Group v. Batterton*," *Texas Association of Defense Counsel*, Fall/Winter 2019

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Maritime

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Litigated a shipowner's limitation of liability and Jones Act personal injury claims in a bench trial achieving full exoneration and dismissal of all claims against the client.
- Negotiated a full voluntary dismissal of in personam and in rem claims in excess of \$900,000 brought against a client vessel owner in a multi-party allision case.
- Negotiated a settlement for full monetary claim in excess of \$800,000 on behalf of client dock owner in an allision case involving in personam and in rem claims.
- Represented a barge owner in a barge fleet breakaway resulting from Tropical Storm Imelda, overseeing USCG and NTSB investigations, and ultimately recovering the damages associated with the loss and/or repair of the barges when they broke free from the fleet.
- Achieved a summary judgment dismissal of salvage claims brought against barge owner client, successfully litigating through the Fifth Circuit which ultimately affirmed dismissal.