

**ROBERT WILLIAM KNIGHTS – ATTORNEY AND MEDIATOR
MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA 70471**

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Louisiana Bar Association, 1998

Admitted Eastern and Middle Districts of Louisiana, U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. Supreme Court

New Zealand Law Society, 1988

New Zealand Law Society Diploma in Litigation Skills, 1994

Louisiana Trial Academy, August 1998

The Mediation Institute, March 2013

LSBA Alternative Dispute Resolution Section's Mediator Registry

WORK EXPERIENCE

August 2012 – Present Southeastern Louisiana University, Department of Accounting and Finance, Hammond.

Lecturer.

I teach Business Law to undergraduate students.

December 2011 – Present Law Office of Robert William Knights, Mandeville

Owner.

I focus on title insurance coverage claims, tax title claims, title curative work, and quieting title actions. I also deal with Home Owners Association disputes, property law disputes, and successions disputes. I am also a pro bono counsel for Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, handling divorce and child custody issues.

July 2008 - October 2011 Dwyer, Cambre & Suffern, APLC, Metairie

Associate Attorney.

Head of litigation. Conducted trials in New Orleans, Gretna, Covington, St. Bernard, and Baton Rouge. Conducted appeals in the Louisiana First, Fourth and Fifth Circuits. Litigated title insurance coverage claims. Litigated tax title claims, and quieting title actions. Litigated Louisiana Home Owners Association Act claims for damages and injunctions, including complex litigation, successfully defending the Association's rule changes. Litigated commercial servitude disputes. Litigated Public and Private Works Act claims including concursus litigation. Negotiated, mediated, and litigated commercial insurance and lease coverage issues. Litigated commercial tenant evictions. Litigated debt recoveries including firm bad-debts collection.

November 1999 - July 2008 Gertler, Gertler, Vincent & Plotkin, New Orleans

Associate Attorney

Conducted General Civil Litigation work including three multi-day jury trials, a bankruptcy case, and numerous court appearances on various interlocutory and procedural issues. Drafted complex motions and oppositions in plaintiffs' Tobacco litigation. Was in charge of obtaining, and arguing in support of, impeachment evidence (especially that of Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation) and demonstrative exhibits, to be used against tobacco companies. Also involved in preparing expert witnesses, and preparing cross examination of adverse witnesses.

Assisted in preparing and bringing to trial occupational disease cases, and medical malpractice cases. Led research and writing responsibilities for attorneys, drafted, vetted and/or edited most memoranda and pleadings filed by the office. Developed internet research resource database and managed library.

October 1998 - November 1999

Rice Fowler, New Orleans

Associate Attorney

Maritime cargo damage recovery and defense, charter party disputes, collisions and allisions, maritime lien priority issues involving preferred mortgages and necessities in relation to insolvent shipping companies, insurance disputes, general average, personal injury matters. Worked on a variety of files centered around several different clients.

September 1997 - October 1998

Burke and Mayer PLC, New Orleans

Law Clerk/Associate Attorney

Insurance litigation, maritime and environmental defense, class actions. Worked as a law clerk before being admitted to the Louisiana bar in April 1998. Thereafter, worked as an associate attorney on a range of files focusing on the matters listed above. As trial attorney in a class action against the state, argued a number of preliminary and interlocutory motions, and took several of those matters on appeal to the Fourth Circuit and to the Supreme Court. Provided advice on a range of coverage issues involving oil pollution, casualty and collision losses.

December 1994 - August 1997

McElroys, Barristers & Solicitors, Auckland,
New Zealand

Senior Solicitor

Insurance litigation, salvage, general average, cargo recovery (maritime, air, road), professional liability and indemnity, general shipping advice. Conducted three trials, approximately thirty interlocutory motions, a successful test case on an unresolved area of New Zealand transport law, and defended it successfully on appeal, a successful multi-million dollar defamation mediation and obtained a complex set of restraining orders against multiple defendants. Assisted on numerous other cases and interlocutory motions, and was responsible for more than one hundred files at any one time. Considered a specialist in admiralty jurisdictional matters, especially the arrest and detainment of vessels. Personally conducted or supervised over ten arrests of ships and large pleasurecraft, and assisted in numerous others. Restructured New Zealand Boating Industry Association.

March 1994 - August 1997

University of Auckland Law School, Auckland,
New Zealand

Tutor

Tutored Land and Property Law to second and third year law students for three and a half years. Liaised between students and faculty regarding course prescriptions, gave guidance on a number of other academic issues and lectured on exam technique and legal writing technique.

November 1993 - December 1994

Russell, McVeagh, McKenzie, Bartleet & Co,
Barristers & Solicitors, Auckland, New Zealand

Senior Solicitor

Cargo defense, P & I Club correspondent work, collision, charter-parties, admiralty procedure, arbitration, incorporation of shipping companies and general corporate advice. Maintained a bi-partite position between the litigation and commercial departments of one of the largest legal firms in New Zealand. Assisted in several trials and interlocutory motions. Bulk of work involved opinions on various aspects of shipping law.

September 1984 - May 1992

Cairns Slane, Barristers and Solicitors,
Auckland, New Zealand

Law Clerk and Solicitor.

Commercial and small business transactions and restructuring, property and commercial developments, family law cases, wills, trusts, estates and tax. Worked as a law clerk during law school. Became a solicitor upon graduation and admission to the bar and assisted the senior consultant partner in relation to large commercial landlord/commercial developers, as well as assisting other partners with various general practice needs of their smaller clients.

EDUCATION

Tulane Law School, New Orleans, Louisiana

Master of Laws in Admiralty, May 1993

Academic Honors: Rotary International Foundation Scholarship.

Highest Grade in Marine Insurance II, Marine Insurance Mini Course.

University of Auckland, School of Law, Auckland, New Zealand

Bachelor of Laws, November 1987

Highest Grade in Advanced Commercial Law

PUBLICATIONS

"The *Nagasaki Spirit*: The Final Word?" - A Casenote Presented to the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual New Zealand Conference, April 1997.

"The Salvage of the *Nagasaki Spirit*" - A paper presented to the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual New Zealand Conference, April 1996.

"Maritime Transport Bill; The Law of Salvage" - A seminar for the Department of Commercial Law, University of Auckland, September 1994.

"Putting Out Fire With Gasoline: The Oil Pollution Act Of 1990: Its Aims and Likely After-Effects" (1993) 11 OGLTR 190.

"A Young Lawyer's Handbook: A Guide to Early Years in Practice" Auckland District Law Society Press 1992.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Rotary International Foundation Scholar for New Zealand, 1992-1993
- Sub-Lieutenant, Royal New Zealand Navy, Volunteer Reserve, H.M.N.Z.S. Ngapona, commissioned January 1991
- Convener, Auckland District Law Society Recently Admitted Lawyers Committee 1990 - 1992 (Member 1989 - 1992)
- Honorary Counsel Auckland Junior Chamber of Commerce 1991 - 1992
- Counsel, Boating Industries Association of New Zealand Inc. 1995 - 1997
- Krewe du Vieux Carre, Krewe of Mama Roux, 1998 - present

Languages: French, German, and a little Dutch.