

New Orleans CITY BUSINESS

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Stephen Hanemann

2012
LEADERSHIP
in
LAW

Position: Kean Miller partner

Age: 34

Education: bachelor's degree in French, University of Texas; juris doctor, Loyola University College of Law

Stephen Hanemann of Kean Miller is a full-service attorney taking care of everything for clients, both commercial and recreational, who are buying vessels.

And those purchases range from multimillion dollar freight and tank barges, tow boats and offshore vessels, to personal sailing craft and mega-yachts around the globe.

His knowledge of U.S. Coast Guard procedures and vessel documentation allows him to help clients beyond the traditional lending process.

"It takes a lot of legwork to buy, sell or finance a vessel or marine asset, and my clients appreciate that I can provide the whole gambit of services," he said. "It also assists me in getting new clients."

Hanemann knew from a young age that he wanted to be involved in the marine industry. He grew up watching his mom's family build boats in southern Louisiana, and he recognized that oil, gas and marine operators were the backbone of the state's economy.

For the past 10 years, the bulk of his practice has involved maritime law and vessel finance, but he also assists oil and gas companies with joint ventures, and operating and exploration agreements.

He considers the most exciting case of his career to be El Paso Production GOM Inc. et al v. M/V RHE, where he represented an oil and gas company that owned a platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

A large tugboat hit the platform and knocked the helipad into the Gulf. Unlike a car accident where people pull over and exchange information, the tugboat continued on its way. Hanemann worked with the Coast Guard and U.S. Marshall Service to locate the boat, which was heading to Brazil.

"The U.S. Marshall seized the boat inside of nine miles offshore from Florida and took custody of it," he said. "It was very exciting and I had to wear a bulletproof vest during the pursuit. In the end, we worked out a settlement. But if the boat had made it to Brazil, my client would have had to wait for it to return to U.S. waters, which may never have happened, so time was critical."

Outside of the office, Hanemann spends three or four nights a week at Boys Hope Girls Hope of New Orleans, an organization that provides children between the ages of 10 and 18 with a stable home, parenting and high quality education. He tutors children in French, English and history and also assists with Race Judicata, an annual fun run to raise money for the charity. •

— Kerry Duff

