

# ON THE Horizon

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**MAY 2018**  
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## The Jones Act & Vessel Seaworthiness

Under the Jones Act, a vessel must be seaworthy and in proper working order. If the employer or vessel owner fails to provide a seaworthy vessel and a worker gets hurt or injured, the employer may be held liable for any damages that ensue.

"Seaworthy" essentially means that the ship or vessel is well-maintained, is manned by adequate and properly trained employees and that it is functioning, sound and hazard-free.

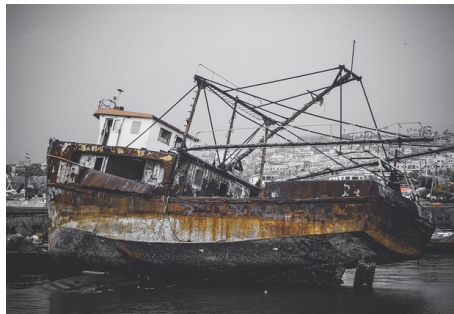
Specifically, a seaworthy vessel has enough trained crew to maintain and operate it properly; is in condition to withstand the expected dangers and hazards of waters; is capable of performing its intended use or function; has the proper safety gear and equipment on board; has adequate onboard safety practices in place; and is safe for those on board. A seaworthy ship should be safe for boarding, loading, living on, working on and, finally, debarking at the final destination.

To be considered unseaworthy under the Jones Act, a vessel must be unfit for navigation, ill-maintained or unsafe in some way and pose a danger to those on board.

Some common unseaworthy conditions include not having an adequate number of crew members to operate the ship properly; improperly trained crew members; broken, worn or old equipment that poses a danger to those on board; slippery, cluttered or hazardous decks or walkways that can cause passengers and workers to slip; inadequate safety gear and equipment, such as life vests, rafts or

fire extinguishers; inadequate evacuation plans in the event of an emergency; and the presence of asbestos or other harmful substances.

Employees hurt on board because unsafe conditions existed could have grounds for a claim based on unseaworthiness and be due compensation for the injuries they suffered.



When filing a claim of unseaworthiness under the Jones Act, the victim does not need to prove the shipowner or employer was aware of the dangerous condition or that they failed to tend to it. Unseaworthiness is an area of strict liability, so the victim simply needs to show that the hazard existed.

If successful, a claim of unseaworthiness could entitle victims to a number of benefits, including lost income and wages, including those already lost because of the injury and those that the victim expects to lose while recovering; pain and suffering; and medical costs and treatment expenses, including the expenses already incurred, as well as those that will be required in the future to continue treating the injury.

### AROUND THE OFFICE

#### BACK TO THEIR HAPPY PLACE

April and May always mean one thing for Lea: Jazz Fest! Every year, her and her husband go out to the New Orleans Fairgrounds to enjoy quality time with their large group of friends and family, taking in all the live music and tasting all the delicious food. This year they went almost every day, and enjoyed every minute of it.



#### EXPLORING THE CITY

Back in March, Bethany celebrated her golden birthday on a swamp tour of Old Pearl River in Slidell. She's lived in New Orleans for 10 years, and this was her first time on one. Not only did she spot a few gators, but also blonde raccoons, Louisiana swamp hogs, and a 'monster' (which was really just an ugly tree with a face). She highly recommends everyone give it a go.

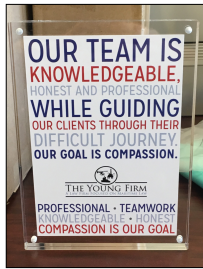


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A LAW FIRM FOCUSED ON MARITIME LAW

Serving Injured Seamen...It's all we do!

**THE YOUNG FIRM VALUES**

*Our team is knowledgeable, honest and professional while guiding our clients through their difficult journey. Our goal is compassion.*



This is the official Values Statement of The Young Firm. Our Values Statement tells you what we do, for you, and how we do it. Each of us have a plaque on our desks as a reminder of the promise we have made to and for each and every one of our clients.

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## Attorney attends expert workshop

For two days in April attorney Joseph (Josh) Marino traveled to Boston, MA to take part in a select, expert level negotiation training course at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Led by a specialist in negotiation and conflict resolution, Josh spent two rigorous days learning new techniques in the art of negotiation. This is a skill that's essential to our attorneys to ensure we working the hardest to receive the best outcomes for our clients.



This popular course has limited space and only offered three times a year. We are proud that Josh attend this time, and have plans for Tim Young to attend the same course later this year. The course covered the most current and cutting edge negotiation techniques including the art of prioritizing multiple issues to reach the most beneficial resolution and optimize the economic and subjective value of negotiations.

We look forward to implementing everything Josh learned that can help all our clients. Remember, your education only begins when you leave school!

## HAPPYTALES

## Happy Tales: Lise's Puppies Find New Homes

If you've been following our Around the Office section in the newsletter (to the right) month to month, you'll remember the story of Lise finding a stray dog, Jen, who ended up being pregnant. She gave birth to six pup-pies, who Lise and her finance fostered until they were old enough to be adopted through Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO). This is what Lise had to say about the experience:

"If you ever wonder how you can help save lives even if you can't keep a dog or cat, foster. Foster an animal so they don't have to go into shelter or can come out and give room for another. Kenny and I recently fostered a pregnant girl he found running in traffic and the 6 babies she would ultimately have in our kitchen. We now have 1 pup left of 6. Foster, help save lives! Contact ARNO shelter at [animalrescueneworleans.org](http://animalrescueneworleans.org) to see how you can help!"

Some of the families sent Lise puppy updates, and they just were too cute not to share. Take a look at these adorable photos and message!

Hi Moma Lise,

This is your little Snape to tell you about my first night in my new home. I was such a good boy on the way home. Then I saw my new house and my new Moma had it already for me. I even had toys waiting for me (I already have my favorite). I have done every pee and poop outside in the grass, just like my new big brother and sister. I only had to go in my crate at night, (I will admit I cried for about 20 min at first, but new Moma slept on the couch next to me and my new big sister kept checking on me til I fell asleep.) I slept all night and already have played myself out this morning and have to take a nap. I know you love me and yesterday was hard to let me go, but I will keep you updated on my new adventures and I want to thank you for loving me so much.

Will be in touch soon,  
Your Good Little Boy Snape





## CLIENT SPOTLIGHT



Attorney Megan Misko with former clients Sonny C. (top), and former client Christopher R. (bottom). Congrats again on your recent settlements!

*“The Young Firm handled our case superbly. Everyone on staff is nice and helpful. I would recommend them to anyone.”*

— Sheila S., finance of former The Young Firm client

### THE BIGGEST COMPLIMENT

Remember - the world moves with introductions! Assuming you think we've done a fantastic job helping to move things for you, please be sure to pass on our name to anyone who may be struggling with a maritime injury. We'd love to help them, too!

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Jalapeño Popper Chicken Casserole

What could be better than chicken layered with cream cheese, peppers, cheddar and bacon? We can't think of anything either. What's great about this recipe is it's really simple with only a few ingredients and made in one basic casserole dish - so you can get from the fridge to the oven in as little as 15 minutes.



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 375°F

Lay chicken breasts flat in a casserole dish. Season them with the garlic powder then spread the cream cheese over them evenly.

Wash the jalapeño peppers and then cut the tops off. Remove the seeds and stems, then cut the peppers into strips and lay them on top of the cream cheese then

sprinkle the cheddar cheese over top.

Bake for 40-45 minutes, remove from oven 5 minutes before cooking is complete and sprinkle with bacon then return for the remaining cook time. Chicken is done when cooked through to an internal temperature of 165°F. Serve warm with a side of potatoes, veggies, or a baked potato. Enjoy!

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 lbs boneless, skinless, chicken breast
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 pound fresh jalapeño peppers
- 4 oz sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup crumbled crispy bacon

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE





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## THE YOUNG FIRM

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*"Aspire to inspire  
before we expire."*

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## HOROSCOPE • MAY 2018



**ARIES:** Optimism is the word for the month as you tackle an important project. Keep your eye on the prize.



**TAURUS:** Taureans expect harmonious interactions this month in relationships, especially in the workplace. It may have been a long time coming. So enjoy.



**GEMINI:** Sunny days and good fortune shine on you this month. But, remember trials will come. Neither fortune nor struggle is permanent.



**CANCER:** Don't let Spring fever distract. Your work this month builds a safety net as you hit a small stumbling block by the full moon on the 29th.



**LEO:** Mother's Day on the 13th brings a family gathering. Resist competing with siblings and focus on your mother, whether she is living or passed on.



**VIRGO:** It's a good thing you like detail because this month may demand it. Focus on the narrow way to make broad advances.



**LIBRA:** A personality conflict leaves you feeling as if you have done something wrong. Stand up for yourself and make your accomplishments known.



**SCORPIO:** Don't appeal to others to handle a situation you should address yourself, on the spot. Take courage. You'll have backup. Deal with the person or problem directly.



**SAGITTARIUS:** This month brings some welcome peace and good feeling. Revel in the joys of Spring and prepare for a productive summer.



**CAPRICORN:** Time to consider long-term future plans. If you haven't made an effort in retirement planning, this is the month to get serious about it.



**AQUARIUS:** Home projects take the lead. Maybe you hate Spring cleaning, but it might just be the ticket to feeling better all summer.



**PISCES:** Picture your current loved one in other phases of your life. If you are dating, ask yourself if this is the person who you will need in 10 years or even 20.