



A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

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**McALPINE & COZAD**  
**A Professional Law Corporation**

McAlpine & Cozad is an established civil litigation firm founded in 1977 with its office located on New Orleans' historic Canal Street. The offices are situated in close proximity to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and are within a few blocks of the Louisiana District, Appellate and Supreme Courts.

The firm practices in a wide variety of federal, state and local forums. The varying fields of practice reflect the diversity of the firm's clients and their needs. The firm's principal areas of practice include admiralty, energy, general casualty, toxic tort, products liability, commercial litigation, as well as all facets of insurance litigation, negotiations and coverage disputes. In addition to the representation of numerous national and international insurance companies and underwriters, the firm's clients include independent oil companies, offshore and marine service contractors, local corporations and individuals.

The firm strives to strike a balance between the traditional one to one relationship of attorney and client and the exigencies of today's increasingly complex legal problems that often require the attention of a team of attorneys. The size and composition of the firm afford the unique opportunity to offer clients personal service and a fee advantage not always obtainable from larger law firms. The firm's size requires the close involvement of the partner in all aspects of litigation while permitting the utilization of an associate for work of a less intensive nature not always demanding the partner's personal attention. The firm also maintains a paraprofessional staff, computerized research facility, complete library, a document retrieval system, in-house computers and advanced word processing systems to support its attorneys.

Attorneys at McAlpine & Cozad are involved in their profession and community through a number of ways in addition to the private practice of law. The members of the firm are active in the American, Texas, Louisiana and New Orleans Bar Associations, as well as various professional organizations and committees including membership in the Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, Maritime Law Association, Defense Research Institute, Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute and New Orleans Mariners Club. Attorneys in the firm also frequently lecture at continuing legal education seminars.

McAlpine & Cozad is dedicated to representing its clients to the fullest extent possible in all federal, state and local courts in Louisiana. While the attorneys provide a full range of services to the firm's clients, they have obtained particular success in the course of their litigation practice. The firm is listed in Best's Directory of Recommended Insurance Attorneys and is given the highest rating by Martindale Hubbell.

## PARTNERS



**Michael L. McAlpine**

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Preparatory education: Louisiana State University; Legal education: Tulane University of Louisiana (J.D. 1969). Admitted to Bar 1969, Louisiana and all Federal Courts in the state of Louisiana as well as the United States Supreme Court (1992). Also admitted to the State Bar of Texas 2008.

Practiced with New Orleans law firm of Terriberry, Carroll, Yancey & Farrell from June, 1969 to December, 1976. A partner in that firm from January, 1974 until withdrawal. Handled both admiralty and casualty litigation matters with heavy emphasis on trial work involving personal injury and collision. Since then, at McAlpine & Cozad, he has continued to conduct a general litigation practice while trying cases in a myriad of jurisdictions across the country.

A frequent speaker at CLE and similar seminars and conferences, Mr. McAlpine has been named one of Louisiana's Super Lawyers and one of Louisiana's Top Attorneys in the Super Lawyer Section of Louisiana Life Magazine.

Memberships: New Orleans Bar Association, Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and Maritime Law Association of the United States. Chairman of Southeast States Admiralty Law and Marine Transportation Conference



**Richard A. Cozad**

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Preparatory education: Loyola University (B.A. 1972); Legal education: Tulane University (J.D. 1976, L.L.M. 1997 in Energy and Environmental Law). Member of the Tulane National Moot Court Team, Southern Regional Moot Court Team and International Law Moot Court Team. Admitted to Bar 1976, Louisiana and all Louisiana Federal Courts. United States Supreme Court, 1992; Texas, 1998. Mr. Cozad has received an AV (highest possible) rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the only nationally recognized attorney rating agency.

Law clerk to the Honorable Nauman S. Scott, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana. 1977-78. From 1978 to the present with the McAlpine firm, now McAlpine & Cozad.

Mr. Cozad also completed the Master of Laws Program at Tulane Law School obtaining a degree in Energy and Environmental Law. Mr. Cozad has received special training in Pollution Control Law, Energy Law, Hazardous Waste Law, Marine Pollution, Louisiana Environmental Law, Regulation of Toxic Substances, Toxic Tort Litigation and Marine Insurance. Mr. Cozad is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Tulane Law School teaching Marine Insurance II

Mr. Cozad has also been recognized as a Louisiana “Super Lawyer” and New Orleans “Top Lawyer”.

Memberships: Louisiana State Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, American Bar Association and Maritime Law Association. Mr. Cozad is also a former member of the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Mariner's Club



**Franklin H. Jones, III**  
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Preparatory education: University of Virginia (B.A. 1977); Legal education: Louisiana State University (J.D. 1980). Admitted to Bar 1980, Louisiana; 1995, Texas; all Louisiana Federal Courts; United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas; and the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Memberships: Louisiana State Bar Association; State Bar of Texas; Louisiana Association of Defense Counsel; Maritime Law Association of the United States

## ASSOCIATES



**Robert B. Acomb, III**  
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Preparatory education: Tulane University (B.A. 1976); Legal education: Tulane Law School (J.D., 1979). Admitted to Bar 1979, Louisiana. Trial experience in Federal State Courts in maritime litigation, general civil litigation involving collisions, personal injury, towage, death cargo, divers, offshore oil, pipeline, products liability, asbestos, silicon land casualty.

Published: Damages Recoverable in Maritime Matters, Standing Committee on Admiralty and Maritime Law, Tort and Insurance Practice Section, American Bar Association, ABA Press (1994).

Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* in Specialty of Maritime Law and named one of the Top Lawyers in the New Orleans area by *New Orleans Magazine* in Admiralty and Maritime Law on insurance and products liability.

Memberships: Louisiana State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Proctor Maritime Law Association of the United States, Resident Associate Member of Association of Average Adjusters of the United States, Mariner's Club of the Port of New Orleans



**Alina Pagani**  
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Preparatory education: Tulane University (B.A. 1994); Legal education: Tulane University (J.D., cum laude 1999). Admitted to Bar 1999, Louisiana; 2008 Texas; all Federal District Courts in Louisiana, and the Southern and Eastern District Courts in Texas. Ms. Pagani is fluent in Spanish.

While at Tulane, Ms. Pagani received the Admiralty Law Certificate, which required the completion of a variety of maritime law courses. Ms. Pagani also received the CALI Award for excellence in the study of both Admiralty Procedure and Louisiana Civil Procedure. Ms. Pagani served as an intern to Federal Magistrate Judge Alma Chazez in the Eastern District of Louisiana, and is a regular contributor to the Benedict's Maritime Bulletin.

Ms. Pagani practiced with the New Orleans law firm of Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr and Smith from 1999 to 2001 handling insurance defense, workers' compensation, and admiralty and maritime litigation. From 2001 to the present, Ms. Pagani has practiced with McAlpine & Cozad primarily handling maritime and insurance defense.

Memberships: Louisiana State Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, The Maritime Association; and The Mariners Club, New Orleans Inn of Court



**Emma A. Mekinda**  
emekinda@mcalpinelaw.com

Preparatory Education: Vassar College (B.A. 1996); Legal education: Louisiana State University (J.D., 2002). Admitted to Bar 2002, Louisiana; all Federal District Courts in Louisiana; Following undergraduate work and prior to attending law school, Ms Mekinda worked at J.S. Clark Middle School in Shreveport, Louisiana with Teach For America; Ms. Mekinda is conversational in French and German.

Law clerk to Judge Richard Avery in the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Administrative Law Judges in Metairie, Louisiana, primarily researching the Longshore Harbor Workers' Compensation Act.

Memberships: Louisiana State Bar Association, All Louisiana Federal District Courts, Wex Malone American Inns of Court, and Mariners Club