

### Firm obtains defense verdict in maritime case

The most recent maritime personal injury case that was tried by the firm involved a longshoreman who sued the shipowner claiming that he sustained a disabling neck and head injury after being struck by a low hanging beam on the vessel during a night shift. Plaintiff contended that the low hanging beam should have been painted with yellow and black safety striping because it protruded down into a walkway. Dick represented the shipowner and obtained summary judgment in the client's favor. Plaintiff appealed to the Ninth Circuit, which reversed summary judgment. The case went to trial and Dick obtained a defense verdict in federal court. He proved with the help of expert testimony that the beam was just as visible at night as yellow and black striping would have been; that the beam was not in fact in the walkway; and that the longshoreman had strayed off of the walkway and, improperly dragging equipment, was looking down at his footing rather than keeping a lookout for low head clearances.