

Chair of Maritime and Admiralty Group, Commander Richard González



As head of GVK's Maritime and Admiralty Practice Group; Lieutenant Commander Richard González, provides a unique ethos of realistic, well-rounded legal advice to insurers and insureds alike in the successful defense of all admiralty matters.

Prior Lead Marine Investigator for US Coast Guard

Richard's rare combination of US Coast Guard Investigator and attorney ensures the very best defense for our clients from the moment **GVK's Maritime Emergency Response Team (MERT)** arrives on the scene of a vessel casualty. Prior to joining the firm, Commander González served as lead marine investigator for the U.S. Coast Guard in New York and New Jersey, where he handled multiple high profile maritime accidents, casualties, and environmental pollution/crimes, including vessel groundings and collisions.

High Profile Investigations

Richard has been involved in numerous high profile investigations, including STELLAMARE (vessel overturned with multiple loss of life), and the Staten Island Ferry Crash (vessel collision with multiple casualties and loss of life).

Notable Assignments

Some of Commander González notable assignments include experience in Marine Casualty Investigations and Enforcement, Pollution Incident Investigations, Energy and Facilities Regulations, Maritime Homeland Security, Waterways Management, Deck Watch Officer (underway/inport), and as a Maritime Law Enforcement Boarding Officer.

Awards and Distinctions

Commander González is the recipient of multiple awards from the U.S. Coast Guard, including but not limited to: Commendation Medal (four); Achievement Medal; Letter of Commendation Ribbon; Presidential Unit Citation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal (two); Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Haiti); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medals (two); Cutterman Insignia; and the Marine Safety Environmental Protection Insignia.

Prior Work Experience and Teaching Engagements

Upon his retirement, from over 20 years of active duty military service, Commander González joined a boutique maritime firm in New York City, where he was instrumental in successfully handling multiple recreational and commercial admiralty legal matters.

Richard was invited to teach courses in recreational boating safety in Ecuador, which was attended by locals as well as members of the Ecuadorian Coast Guard. He also trained many U.S. Coast Guard Marine Casualty Investigators in New York and Boston.