



SHAREHOLDER
BRYAN S. PEEPLES

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EDUCATION

Regent University School of Law, 2018, magna cum laude
United States Naval War College, 2011
University of South Carolina, 1996, cum laude

ADMISSIONS

Supreme Court of Virginia, 2018
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, 2019
United States Court of Federal Claims, 2019
United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, 2023
District of Columbia, 2019

OVERVIEW

Bryan is a Pender and Coward shareholder and focuses his practice in the areas of maritime and riparian law, eminent domain/right of way law, and worker's compensation. A prolific author, Bryan has written articles on Virginia aquaculture and maritime law, including the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, the Virginia Primary Sand Dune and Beaches Act, and the Virginia Tidal Wetlands Act. He has been published in a number of professional journals on a variety of topics, ranging from Virginia real property law to the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Bryan is a member of the firm's waterfront law practice group and writes blog articles devoted to waterfront (riparian) property rights law, maritime and admiralty law, and environmental law found on our law firm's blog and a blog focused specifically on waterfront law.

Before joining the firm in 2018, Bryan retired from the U.S. Navy after 22 years of service as a pilot. He completed seven combat deployments and served as the Commanding Officer of a helicopter squadron. His last assignment was Lead Rotational Planner for the Joint Staff, where he provided strategic advice to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Secretary of Defense.

VIRGINIA BEACH

222 Central Park Ave. Suite 400
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

CHESAPEAKE

709 Greenbrier Parkway
Chesapeake, VA 23320

SUFFOLK

117 Market Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

REPRESENTATIVE CASES & TRANSACTIONS

■ *Kooiman v. Ornoff*

, 2024 Va. App. LEXIS 42 (2024)(cert. denied by Supreme Court of Virginia): Successfully represented a homeowner seeking to enforce restrictive covenants against a neighbor who was operating an Air B&B in a finished basement. We received a favorable verdict in the Circuit Court for Isle of Wight County, which issued an injunction preventing the defendants from using the lower level of their home as a separate residence. The defendants appealed, and the Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed the Circuit Court. The defendants then petitioned to the Supreme Court of Virginia, but their petition was denied.

■ *Pretty Lake 5757 LLC v. City of Norfolk.*, 2024 Va. Cir. LEXIS 186 (Va. Cir. 2024): We represented private landowners in a property dispute with the City of Norfolk. The Court ruled that a “right-of-way” which had been established in the 1930s for the purposes of constructing a road (which was never built) does not empower the City to use private land for any and all purposes. Instead, the “right-of-way” must be used for its intended purpose, or at least for something closely related to the intended purpose. Specifically, the Court found that the “right-of-way” vests the City with authority to use the land for public transit, but not for other purposes such as operating a public park on private property.

■ *Martin v. Va. Beach Pub. Sch.*

2020 Va. App. LEXIS 88 (2020): Represented Virginia Beach City Public Schools in a workers’ compensation case concerning an employee who was injured when a gust of wind blew her into a metal gate. We received a favorable opinion from the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, and the employee appealed. The Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed, finding that the injuries were caused by a “act of God” and therefore not compensable under the Virginia Workers’ Compensation Act.

■ *Polozzi v. Va. Beach City Pub. Sch*

.., 2021 Va. App. LEXIS 229 (2021): Represented Virginia Beach City Public Schools in a workers’ compensation case concerning an employee claiming multiple injuries arising from a minor workplace accident. We received a favorable opinion from the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, and the employee appealed. The Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed, finding that the employee’s alleged injuries were not causally connected to the workplace accident.

■ *Wilson v. City of Chesapeake*

, 2019 Va. App. LEXIS 250 (2019): Represented the City of Chesapeake in a workers’ compensation case concerning an employee claiming that the City had fraudulently underpaid his disability benefits. We received a favorable opinion from the Virginia Workers Compensation Commission, and the employee appealed. The Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed, finding that the City had not committed fraud or mistake.

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MEMBERSHIPS

- American Bar Association
- James Kent Inn of Court
- Maritime Law Association of the United States
- Virginia Maritime Association
- Phi Alpha Delta

HONORS & AWARDS

- Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch, Environmental Law, 2021-2026, Workers' Compensation Law – Employers, 2022-2026, Litigation – Environmental, 2024-2026
- Coastal Virginia's Top Lawyers, Land Use & Environment, 2022-2026
- Virginia's Legal Elite, Young Lawyer, 2021, Environmental Law, 2022-2025
- Virginia Super Lawyers Rising Stars, 2021-2025
- Honorable Richard T. Kellam Professionalism Award
- 12 Ronald L. Fick Book Awards, Regent University School of Law
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Air Medal
- Navy Helicopter Association East Coast Pilot of the Year, 2002
- Navy Commendation Medal, Awarded Five Times

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- LEAD 757, Class of 2022
- VMA Maritime Leadership Certification Program, Class of 2023
- Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore
- Lynnhaven River Now, Waterway Cleanup Volunteer

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- Elizabeth River Project, Waterway Cleanup Volunteer

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