

Highlighting National Maritime Day with our Partner Brian Scarry

Did you know that each year on May 22, the United States observes National Maritime Day? For those unfamiliar with the celebration, in 1933 Congress declared National Maritime Day to commemorate the U.S. steamship Savannah's voyage to England, on May 22, 1819, marking the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean with steam propulsion. From then on, the holiday has become "a time-honored tradition that recognizes one of our country's most important industries"¹, along with the sacrifices and dedication of the U.S. Merchant Marine that defend our maritime nation.

Considering this, we wanted to celebrate a member of our Sioli Alexander Pino team, partner Brian Scarry. Raised in South Florida, Brian has always had an affinity for the sea. His interest of course grew beyond recreational into marine studies as he entered high school, and even further as he pursued his bachelor's degree. During his undergraduate studies at both Tulane University and University of Miami, Brian worked on a fishing boat, which bolstered his self-proclaimed nomenclature of "Avid Outdoorsman."

Eventually, this would push Brian to apply for law school, finding himself staying in South Florida to attend the University of Miami School of Law. There he would hone his skills in Maritime/Admiralty, even landing a clerking position back in New Orleans. Once he obtained his degree in New Orleans, he found himself back in Florida as a Claims Investigator and Adjuster in 1992. Though he wasn't practicing law at the time, he completed approximately 1000 personal injury and property loss investigations, traveled to many parts of the world, and assisted with Risk Management for two different cruise lines. The sheer variety of cases that he was involved in, due to his tenure outside of the immediate law world, led to his proficient expertise that our clients benefit from to this day.

Our firm has a strong practice focus throughout Florida and the Caribbean, specifically in Maritime/Admiralty. Some of our attorneys, like Brian, find many of their cases related to recreational

¹ U.S. Department of Transportation – Maritime Administration – National Maritime Day
<https://www.maritime.dot.gov/education/national-maritime-day/national-maritime-day>

boating, tourism, as well as the cruise line industry niche. It is worth noting that Florida arguably has the largest opportunity for recreational boating, especially for personal use/individual boat owners, that become our clients. We are pleased to work with a diverse group of client interests such as snorkel/dive operators, sightseeing & dinner cruises, personal watercraft, and charter fishing operations. In the complex world of tourism and recreational boating, Sioli Alexander Pino Law Firm operates primarily in the role of investigating and defending a wide array of vessel owners, individual and corporate, with respect to contract, personal injury, and administrative problems and issues.

In his years of practice, Brian reminisces and appreciates all the other attorneys and professional colleagues that he has had the opportunity to work with. Similarly moving is his compassion for the countless clients he has defended. He stated, “different clients come with different needs, based on their different experiences—it’s all about understanding perspective.” He continued to explain how for some clients, this may be their first litigation no matter how many years they have been in business. Of course, their choice to enter these proceedings may be manifold; however, Brian sincerely believes in the nature of their ordeal. “It’s all about humanity—they may be protecting their livelihood,” Brian emphasized. No matter who you are, cases like these can be tragic and devastating. We are blessed as a firm to have someone as considerate as Brian working with our clients in their time of need. We want to thank Brian for his continued contributions, especially on this Maritime Day!