

**Legal 500 editorial comment:**

William Juska heads the department at **Freehill Hogan & Mahar LLP**, which is among the most recognizable names in the US maritime space; the team, which handles the full range of contentious matters, acts for 13 of the world's P&I clubs, as well as many of the leading shipowners. John Karpousis defended the New York State Thruway Authority in a case arising from the collision of a pleasure craft with a moored construction barge, resulting in the deaths of several of the passengers; the plaintiffs alleged that negligent lighting of the barge contributed to the deaths. Wayne Meehan also has experience in fatal crash litigation. Other key figures include John Walsh, of counsel Mark Muller and Thomas Canevari, who specialize in personal injury defense; William Pallas and Michael Unger, who are noted for their expertise defending criminal maritime and environmental charges; and Jan Gisholt and Eric Matheson, who were made partners in 2017.