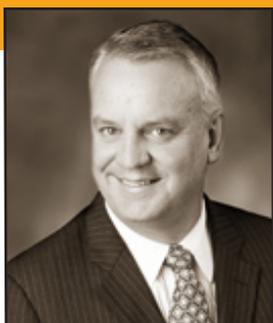


## The Propeller Club of the United States Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach

May 2012

# MEMBER *Spotlight*



### Joe Walsh

Partner  
Keesal, Young and Logan

Many professionals in the local and regional maritime industry are familiar with the law firm, Keesal, Young and Logan (KYL). Their reputation as maritime law specialists (even though they are a full-service business law firm) and generous contributors in the community is what makes them widely recognized and highly respected. The Propeller Club is fortunate to have one of the firm's partners, Joe Walsh, serving on its Board of Governors.

Raised an "Air Force Brat" and the oldest of six children, Joe lived in Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Spain, Missouri and Nevada while growing up. Joe finished high school in Las Vegas and then attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

At Kings Point, Joe took the Marine Transportation/Nautical Science academic path and the prescribed seamanship courses. During his plebe year, he knew that he intended to become an officer in the Merchant Marine or Navy.

After graduating from KP with a degree in Nautical Science in 1983, Joe served on active duty at sea in the U.S. Navy for three years and then as a Reservist in the Navy for the next 23 years. He retired in 2009 at the rank of Captain. Joe was active in debate in high school (his dad told him that when he was four, he talked himself out of a spanking!) and had heard about the maritime law field as a cadet at Kings Point. Following his active duty tour, he attended Law School at the University of Arizona where he earned his JD in 1989.

Joe applied to several maritime law firms and liked the size of KYL (a small to medium sized firm) and that the partners were heavily engaged in day-to-day activities of the practice. He also liked the opportunities a flagship maritime law firm would provide, and that it simply "felt right". He began as an associate with KYL in 1989.

Like all new associates, his initial assignments were on maritime and securities cases, but then Joe began to hone in more on maritime law. The OPA (Oil Protection Act) of 1990 provided him with a lot of interesting assignments and the excitement of learning an entirely new area of law.

KYL acts as correspondents for P&I clubs (Protection & Indemnity) relating to casualties and losses, onboard issues, cargo damage, heavy weather and environmental matters. While KYL does handle the full

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spectrum of maritime law, much of their focus today (and therefore, Joe's concentration) is environmentally related. Their major clients include tanker and oil companies, terminals and refineries.

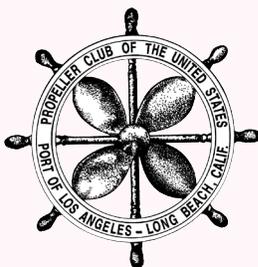
Joe also handles cases involving contaminated drinking water and air pollution; white collar crime as it relates to environmental cases. These cases span throughout the country. Crisis response/management is Joe's favorite area of practice. Cases that involve complex casualty and natural resource damage assessment are ones that intrigue him the most.

Keesal, Young and Logan has offices in Long Beach, Seattle, Anchorage, San Francisco, Hong Kong, and has a presence in Washington, DC and London. Joe says the firm has a "history and culture of giving associates significant experience early in their careers," an organizational tone set by Skip Keesal but imitated and passed on by the other partners over the years. There's a culture at KYL that reinforces treating colleagues with respect. One subtle example of this is that the individual practitioners rarely refer to "my client", but instead refer to the firm's clients as "our clients." This is unusual in a law practice, and helps define the philosophy for which the partners strive. Joe particularly enjoys the people at KYL; a smart, energetic, creative group of colleagues who strive for a team approach to doing business.

Keesal, Young and Logan are well-known and respected community stewards and Joe is proud of the firm's generosity and community involvement. He feels that one of the many reasons the firm is successful is because they give back and clients simply want to do business with people who have a reputation for caring and generosity. KYL also attracts bright, talented people who also subscribe to the tradition of philanthropy to join them.

Joe met his wife of nearly 27 years, Ann, through a Kings Point classmate. They currently reside in Orange County. Their home is a 1926 Spanish Colonial on which they spend a good deal of time (and money!) restoring, refurbishing and remodeling. They have two sons, Tres 23, a software engineer, and Ryan, 20, a drummer attending Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Ann & Joe are "new empty nesters". Ann is taking advantage of the empty nest by starting a move management business, helping seniors with transitional living, household downsizing and estate dispersal. They enjoy vacations in Cabo San Lucas a few times a year and Joe follows baseball religiously, particularly the St. Louis Cardinals and the Angels.



## **The Propeller Club of the United States Port of Los Angeles/Long Beach**

P.O. Box 4250, Sunland, CA 91041  
Phone: (818) 951-2842 • Fax: (818) 353-5976  
[propellerclub.lalb@verizon.net](mailto:propellerclub.lalb@verizon.net)