

**New York American Inn of Court and ABA International Law Section
Topical Issues in the Law of the Sea
September 16, 2025**

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Primary Sources

[United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#)

[International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: Rules of the Tribunal](#)

UNCLOS Key Concepts

[Tufts University - Law of the Sea - A Policy Primer](#)

[United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\): Living Resources Provisions, by Caitlin Keating-Bitonti \(Dec. 19, 2024\)](#)

[ASIL, The HMS Defender Incident: Innocent Passage versus Belligerent Rights in the Black Sea, by David Turns \(Sept. 7, 2021\)](#)

[Arctic Horizons: A Primer and Critical Questions on Extending US Territory in the Arctic Ocean \(December 19, 2023\)](#)

Chinese Militarization in South China Sea and Legal Status of Taiwan

[PBS News Weekend, Why global tensions are rising in the South China Sea amid recent clashes \(May 25, 2025\)](#)

[Vietnam Threatens China with Litigation over the South China Sea, Peter Dutton \(July 27, 2020\)](#)

[Peter A. Dutton, Testimony before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Committee Hearing on China's Maritime Disputes in the East and South China Seas \(April 4, 2013\)](#)

[The Legality of Militarization of the South China Sea and Its Legal Implications, by Hwon Lee \(June 2023\)](#)

[U.S.-Asia Law Institute, Talking Points: What Does International Law Say About Taiwan? \(June 16, 2025\) - Peter Dutton interview](#)

[U.S.-Asia Law Institute, Talking Points: What Does PRC Law Say About Taiwan \(June 28, 2025\)](#)

[International Status of Taiwan, by John Curtis and Nigel Walker \(November 26, 2024\)](#)

Environmental Issues - Climate Change, Seabed Mining, The Arctic

[ASIL, Climate Change, Small Island States, and the Law of the Sea: The ITLOS Advisory Opinion Request, by Donald Rothwell \(May 12, 2023\)](#)

[ITLOS Advisory Opinion: Request for an Advisory Opinion Submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law \(May 21, 2024\)](#)

[Oral Proceedings before ICJ for Alliance of Small Island States re Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change \(Dec. 12, 2024\) - Bryce Rudyk testimony](#)

[ICJ Advisory Opinion July 23, 2025: Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)

[Press Release International Court of Justice Opinion, Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change \(July 23, 2025\)](#)

[American Society of International Law - Episode 54 - Is the Trump Administration's Deep Seabed Mining Program Violating International Law?](#)

[ASIL, Understanding Executive Order 14285: On the Possibility of Authorizing Seabed Mining in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, American Society of International Law](#)

[The Arctic Institute, The Arctic Ocean as Kin: Rethinking Law through Relational Care \(April 8, 2025\)](#)

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Timed Agenda

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.....[3 minutes]

II. DISCUSSION.....[80 minutes]

1. Chinese Militarization in the South China Sea
2. UNCLOS
3. Venezuela Boat Attack
4. Legal Status of Taiwan
5. Environmental Issues and Challenges

III. AUDIENCE Q & A.....[7 minutes]

The following participated in each of the above topics:

Lucas Amodio
MarcAnthony Bonanno
Diana Haladey
Jolevette Mitchell
Capt. Jacob Romelhardt
Solomon Shinerock

Mary Boies
Prof. Peter Dutton
Sam Martin
Bruce Rashkow
Prof. Bryce Rudyk

Participants

Lucas Amodio is an associate in the Governmental Practice Sheppard Mullin's New York office. He is a member of the White Collar and Securities Enforcement Teams, and dedicates much of his time to indigent defense at the federal level in New York and Washington, D.C.

MarcAnthony Bonanno is a Senior Associate at Seiden Law who focuses on cross-border commercial litigation and arbitration where he represents public and private companies in international arbitration, securities, and high-stake complex corporate litigation. Mr. Bonanno has substantial experience litigating a variety business and corporate disputes including matters involving shareholder disputes, derivative claims, distressed debt, breach of contract, fraud, RICO, and unfair and deceptive trade practices.

Outside of practicing law, Mr. Bonanno is actively involved in Africa in the Moot as the Chair of the Education and Training Committee, which is a nonprofit dedicated to increasing African university participation in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot competition held in Vienna each year. In this role, he leads a committee of volunteers to develop a series of open-access virtual educational programs. He additionally coaches the University of Cape Town's Vis Moot team, where he helps his students assess the legal issues in the Vis Moot problem, prepare and revise a claimant's and respondent's memoranda of law, coordinate practice oral arguments, and generally aids the students refine their advocacy skills.

Mr. Bonanno received his Juris Doctor from Quinnipiac University School of Law, cum laude.

Mary McInnis Boies is Counsel to Boies Schiller Flexner LLP where she specializes in antitrust and corporate commercial litigation. She served for ten years on the Council of Foreign Relations Board of Directors where she chaired its Committee on Nominations and Governance. She is on the Board of Governors of the Middle East Institute; the Board of Directors of the Stimson Center, the Dean's Council of the Harvard Kennedy School, and Vice Chair of Business Executives for National Security.

She has served on the Board of MIT's Center for International Studies and the Board of Visitors that oversees the U.S. Air Force School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, the Air Force Research Institute, the Air War College, the National Security Space Institute and the Air Force Institute of Technology. She was a member of the Board of Directors of Paramount Global; and MBNA Bank, a public Fortune 200 Company before its merger with Bank of America. She was a member of the Congressional Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and is currently on the Smithsonian's American Women's History Museum Advisory Council.

She served a term on the Committee established by President Eisenhower to conduct nonpartisan peer review of federal judicial nominees including to the U.S. Supreme Court. Previously she has been on the Board of the International Rescue Committee; the International Center for Journalists; and the Central European and Eurasian Law Committee that trains judges in states previously controlled by the former Soviet Union.

She worked for over 30 years at the law firm she founded, Boies & McInnis LLP. She was Vice President CBS Inc; General Counsel of the U.S. Civil Aeronautics Board; Assistant Director of the Domestic Policy Staff at the White House; and Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce.

In the 1990s she founded and later sold MaryBoies Software Inc., a publisher of children's educational software titles including Top of the Key and Slam Dunk Typing. Her titles were among PC Data's Top 10 titles and Newsweek Magazine's Top Picks. Titles were translated and distributed into Spanish, Italian, French, Korean, Japanese and Chinese markets.

Peter Dutton is a Senior Research Scholar in Law and Senior Fellow in the Paul Tsai China Center at Yale Law School. Before joining the Center, he was professor of international law in the Stockton Center for International Law at the U.S. Naval War College. He also served as dean (interim) of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies, as director of the China Maritime Studies Institute, and as professor of joint military operations.

Dutton served the U.S. Navy for more than 40 years in active duty and civilian capacities. His active-duty career began as a naval flight officer in a variety of aircraft, including the A-6E Intruder, with operations in the Caribbean, Pacific, and European theaters. As a Judge Advocate, his active-duty deployments include with Carrier Group Six, on board the USS John F. Kennedy, deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch and other operations. He worked with and advised a series of Pacific Fleet Commanders, Secretaries of Defense, Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other government offices on policies in the Asia-Pacific region. He also testified before the Senate and the House of Representatives on a variety of China-related issues.

Dutton's research is interdisciplinary, combining international law, China studies, and international politics, including geostrategic theory. His writings focus on international law of the sea and air, with an emphasis on the East and South China Seas, and geo-political strategy. Additional research interests include Chinese views of sovereignty and international law, international law and Taiwan, and the strategic implications of China's maritime expansion. He is a non-resident affiliate in research at Harvard University Fairbank Center for China Studies, and a non-resident affiliated scholar at the US-Asia Law Institute at New York University School of Law. Dutton holds a Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College London, a J.D. from the College of William & Mary, an M.A. from the U.S. Naval War College, and a B.S. from Boston University.

Diana Haladey, a longtime judge of the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, was previously at White & Case LLP, and interned at the U.S. Attorney's Office EDNY Civil Division. She went to Fordham University School of Law where she won best oralist in the first-year moot court competition and competed on the Jessup International Law and National Moot Court teams. She received an A.B. in English from Dartmouth College where she co-captained the women's rugby club. She is also Co-Chair of the Inn's White Collar Team, which received national Inn awards for their programs on insider trading and the college admissions scandal (aka Varsity Blues).

Sam Martin is an assistant attorney general in the State Attorney General's Office where he represents the State's education agencies in civil rights, employment, and education policy cases. Sam also represents the State in election-related lawsuit. He is a program chair with the Inn of Court's New York Chapter, and an avid walker, true-crime podcast listener, and sports fan.

Jolevette Mitchell is Vice President and Senior Counsel at Apple Bank. She plays a critical role in supporting Consumer Banking's digital initiatives - such as Zelle, real-time payments, and online banking product expansion. She joined the bank from the FDIC, where she advised banks on their engagements with FinTechs and the various requirements of U.S. banking laws associated with a bank's use of a fintech partner. Before joining the FDIC, Jolevette worked as a senior attorney with NYDFS working on various digital asset and payment platform initiatives. Jolevette has held compliance roles at Deutsche Bank, Morgan Stanley, and J.P. Morgan.

In her spare time, Jolevette is a member of the New York City Bar Association Mindfulness and Well Being in the Law Committee, is a member of the American Bar Association Business Law Committee, and does pro bono work with Access Justice Brooklyn working on consumer debt cases.

Captain Jacob W. Romelhardt—a native of Saint Joseph, Michigan—earned his Master of Laws (LLM) at Harvard Law School in 2014, his Jurist Doctor (JD), summa cum laude, at Boston University School of Law in 2005, and his Bachelor of Arts (BA) in psychology at Northwestern University in 2001. He earned admittance to the California Bar in 2005. Captain Romelhardt has been the Director of OJAG Code 10 in Washington, DC since September 2024. Prior national security law assignments include: Legal and Oceans Policy Advisor to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, Strategy, and Warfighting Development (OPNAV N3N5N7L) at the Pentagon; Chief Counsel for National Security Law at U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Bryce Rudyk is the Climate Program Director at the New York University (NYU) Frank J. Guarini Centre on Environment, Energy and Land Use Law. He is also an adjunct professor teaching International Environmental Law, International Environmental Law Clinic, and Global Environmental Governance at NYU. From 2014-2016, he served as a Senior Legal Advisor to the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) in the UN Climate Change Negotiations. Bryce has been at the Guarini Centre since 2009, initially as a Research Fellow and then Director of the Climate Finance Project. His research focuses on the global institutional structure for climate finance and alternative transnational institutions for global climate action. He has an LLM in International Law from NYU Law, a JD from the University of Toronto, and a

BSc in Biology from McMaster University. He practiced private international law and was a lobbyist for higher education before moving to international environmental law.

Solomon Shinerock is a partner at Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss, where he focuses on white-collar crime, regulatory matters, and cases arising from civil frauds. He also serves as civilian counsel with the Military Commissions Defense Organization. Mr. Shinerock spent over seven years in public service, as both a federal prosecutor in the Northern District of New York and an Assistant District Attorney at the Manhattan District Attorney's Major Economic Crimes Bureau. In those roles, he investigated and prosecuted complex fraud, tax evasion, and money laundering cases arising from domestic and cross-border transactions. He played a lead role in several high-profile matters, including the tax fraud case against the Trump Organization and its Chief Financial Officer. In recognition of his work prosecuting a \$35 million international money laundering case involving the parent company of Newsweek, he was awarded the 2021 FinCEN Director's Law Enforcement Award in the Significant Fraud Investigation category. Mr. Shinerock served as a law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and spent four years as an associate at an international law firm in New York.