

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

Lieutenant Commander Damian Yemma

Marine Board of Investigation Recorder

U.S. Coast Guard

Lieutenant Commander Damian Yemma is currently the Attorney Advisor at the Coast Guard Investigations National Center of Expertise (NCOE), in New Orleans, Louisiana. In this position, he provides specialized legal guidance to Coast Guard Investigating Officers nation-wide.

Lt.Cmdr. Yemma was previously a Senior Staff Attorney in the Eighth Coast Guard District Legal Office in New Orleans from September 2010 to July 2014. In this role, he provided operational and general legal guidance to several district units, and was the senior attorney for operational law enforcement issues.

Lt. Cmdr. Yemma also served as trial and defense counsel at general and special courts-martial.

Lt. Cmdr. Yemma enlisted in the Coast Guard in June 2001 and served for one year as a Seaman onboard USCGC SANIBEL (WPB-1312), in Woods Hole, MA. He was then selected for Officer Candidate School, and upon commissioning as an Ensign, was assigned to Marine Safety Office Guam where he served as the Chief of Marine Environmental Response. In this position, he acted as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator's Representative for the multi-million dollar response to the sinking of a derelict fishing vessel in Tanapag Harbor, Saipan. In 2005, he transferred to the Prevention Staff at the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, FL, where he provided oversight of port state control, marine casualty, and field regulation activities in the district.

Lt. Cmdr. Yemma was selected for the Coast Guard's Funded Legal Education Program in 2007 and attended the College of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia, receiving his Juris Doctor in 2010. He is a member of the Florida bar, and is also admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Prior to enlisting in the Coast Guard, Lt. Cmdr. Yemma earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from the University of Florida.

His individual military awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2) with Operational Distinguishing Device and Basic Training Honor Graduate.