

Markus E. Apelis

Partner | Cleveland and Detroit Offices

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Markus maintains a diverse commercial transportation practice focused on the maritime and rail industries. In the marine industry, he represents vessel owners and operators in serious marine casualties, including crew injury or death, collisions, allisions, groundings, and fires. Markus also represents shippers, charterers, logistics providers, and others in cargo claims and contractual disputes, as well as marine facilities against property damage and personal injury claims. Markus' admiralty and maritime practice extends to personal injury or property damage matters arising out of the use of personal watercraft. In the rail industry, Markus defends railroads against employee injuries, grade crossing collisions, and property damage claims, and provides advice on regulatory and administrative enforcement, real property issues, eminent domain, and other matters. An important component of Markus' practice is providing emergency response and investigative services with respect to maritime and rail emergencies and other catastrophic events.

Markus also actively defends public and private companies, individuals, and insurance carriers facing litigation involving catastrophic personal injury and wrongful death claims in the firm's General Liability Group. This practice includes defending municipalities, school districts, government agencies, elected officials, and public-sector employees against municipal liability claims. Markus' municipal liability experience includes defending school boards and school administrators in complex litigation arising out of catastrophic events such as school shootings, sexual abuse claims, and student injuries, as well as representing on-duty and off-duty law enforcement personnel facing federal civil rights claims. Markus also provides counsel on administrative, regulatory, risk management, and compliance issues, as well as public records and open meetings law obligations.

Practice Areas

- Transportation
- General Liability
- Insurance
- Appellate

Bar Admissions

- 2008, Ohio
- 2015, Michigan
- United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

CLEVELAND

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420 Madison Avenue, Suite 1250
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- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin
- United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

Education

- **Case Western Reserve University School of Law** (J.D., *magna cum laude*, 2008)
Case Western Reserve Law Review
Jonathan M. Ault Mock Trial Team
The Order of the Coif
The Order of the Barristers
- **Ohio University** (B.S.J., *magna cum laude*, 2004); (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2005)

Honors & Recognition

- Rising Star, Ohio Super Lawyers 2016-2022

Professional Memberships

- Maritime Law Association of the United States (MLAUS)
- Ohio State Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
- Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (Past Chair, Young Lawyers Section)

Other

- Adjunct Faculty, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- American Latvian Youth Association (Past President)
- Secretary and General Counsel, Latvian Center Garezers, Inc.

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Publications & Presentations

- “One Year Later: Update on the Ohio Court Rules,” November 2021
- “Amendments to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure,” November 2020
- Panelist, “Court Rules Update,” Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, October 1, 2020
- “Coping with the Complexity of CMS: A Guide to Settling Claims Involving Medicare Liens,” Gallagher Sharp Spring Seminar, April 2012
- “Federal Regulations to Require Electronic On-Board Recorders for Motor Carriers”, *The Transportation Lawyer*, Vol. 13, No. 1, July 2011
- “Fit to Print? Consequences of Implementing a Federal Reporter’s Privilege”, *Case Western Reserve University Law Review*, Vol. 58, No. 4, Summer 2008

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