



## James A. Sartucci

### Government Affairs Counselor

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## OVERVIEW

Jim Sartucci, a government affairs counselor, has over a decade of experience lobbying federal agencies (especially the US Coast Guard, US Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Maritime Commission, Maritime Administration, and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) and the Congress on behalf of a wide variety of clients. He has extensive experience working with clients in the maritime, transportation, fisheries, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) export industries.

Jim is recognized as one of a handful of maritime policy advocates in Washington, DC and has been involved in the development and enactment of virtually all significant maritime legislation since 1994. He coordinated an industry coalition that led to enactment of reforms to Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spending and is a key member of another industry coalition advocating for reforming the regulation of ballast water and discharges incidental to the normal operation from commercial vessels. He has successfully advocated on behalf of several individual clients on a wide variety of policy and legislative matters.

During his Congressional staff career, Jim played an integral role in enacting significant authorizing legislation for nearly every mode of transportation. This includes establishing and reauthorizing the Maritime Security Program, reforming ocean shipping regulation, enacting multiple Water Resources Reform and Development Acts, comprehensive surface transportation authorization bills, Federal Aviation Administration and NASA reauthorization bills, and enacting pipeline safety, Amtrak reauthorization, and rail infrastructure bills. He also helped negotiate and shepherd legislation through the Congress establishing the Department of Homeland Security, several Maritime Transportation Security Acts, natural disaster preparedness and response reform legislation, the establishment of offshore oil production revenue sharing with coastal states, and two reauthorizations of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Jim spent nine years as legislative Director for Senator Trent Lott (R-MS), during which he advised the Senator on a wide range of legislative activities and negotiated several bills that were enacted into law. He developed considerable experience in the areas of maritime and other modes of transportation, land and water resources infrastructure, appropriations, disaster preparedness and response, energy, environment, and telecommunications policy.

From 1994 through 1998, Jim also served as a Professional Staff Member and Coast Guard Fellow on the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, where he was the lead staff member for merchant marine and maritime issues and legislation and supported the Committee's work on Coast Guard, oceans, and fisheries issues and legislation.

Jim spent 17 years as a commissioned officer in the United States Coast Guard, holding a variety of operational and staff assignments during that time, including six years of sea duty.

## PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

- US Chamber of Commerce Transportation, Infrastructure, and Logistics Committee, Member
- Propeller Club of the Port of Washington DC Board of Governors, Member
- National Waterways Conference Board of Directors, Member

## SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Understanding the Federal Budget," 2025 National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 10 March 2025
- "2024 (and Beyond) Water and Waterways Legislative/Regulatory Watchlist," 2024 National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 12 March 2024
- "Federal Budget Overview," 2023 National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 7 March 2023
- "Federal Budget Overview," 2020 National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 10 March 2020
- "Navigating Waterways Policy in the 115th Congress," 2017 National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 7 March 2017
- Speaker, "Elections' Wake... Opportunities and Challenges in a New Washington," *Great Lakes Waterways Conference*, 14 February 2017
- Panel moderator, "Vessel Design," *Regulation, Policy and Technology: Next Steps*, LNG As Fuel Seminar, Seattle, WA, 29 January 2014
- "Navigating Waterways Policy in the 113th Congress," National Waterways Conference Legislative Summit, Washington, DC, 13 March 2013
- "2012 Election Analysis," National Waterways Conference monthly meeting, Washington, DC, 15 November 2012

## EDUCATION

- M.P.A., George Washington University, 1994
- B.S., United States Coast Guard Academy, 1980

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- 25 February 2026, White House Releases Plan to "Restore America's Maritime Dominance"
- 9 October 2025, The Essential Guide to the Jones Act
- 2 September 2025, Angling for New Ideas: NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Comment on Boosting American Seafood Competitiveness
- 5 September 2023, EPA Draws Near to Issuing New Regulations on Commercial Vessel Incidental Discharges
- 27 October 2021, Hydrogen Rising: Hydrogen and the Maritime Sector, Part 2: Policy and Legislative Issues
- 30 April 2021, U.S. Poised to Urge the International Maritime Organization to Dramatically Accelerate Decarbonization of Shipping
- October 2020, Blue Economy Handbook
- 26 October 2020, House Climate Bill Takes Aim At Shipping Emissions
- 13 October 2020, U.S. Coast Guard Signals Intent to Require Safety Management Systems For Domestic Passenger Vessels
- 1 October 2020, Things to Watch: Congressional Funding for the U.S. Coast Guard
- 11 September 2020, USDA Provides Seafood Trade Relief
- 8 September 2020, Five Things the Maritime Industry Should Know as the 116th Congress Concludes
- 6 July 2020, Maritime Industry Prepares For Busy Legislative Stretch
- 2 July 2020, COVID-19: Renewed and Unique Opportunity for Fishing Industry in Paycheck Protection Program
- 29 April 2020, COVID-19: Vessel Entry into U.S. Ports in the Age of a Pandemic
- 2 April 2020, COVID-19: Supply Chain Impacts
- 23 January 2020, Industry Predictions for 2020 From the Maritime Professionals at K&L Gates
- 27 June 2019, New Opportunities for Port Infrastructure Investment
- 29 November 2018, Congress Passes Coast Guard Authorization Bill with Historic Overhaul of Vessel Discharges Standards and Other Measures

- 8 November 2018, Sea-zing the Day: Preparing for Maritime Issues in the 116th Congress
- 21 April 2017, Timely Response to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Notice Critical for Water Resources Development Projects
- 27 December 2016, A WIIN for Water Infrastructure
- 3 October 2016, Both Chambers Pass WRDA Bills: Race Is on to Complete WRDA Work in 2016
- 20 June 2016, Timely Response to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Notice Critical for Stakeholders Interested in Securing Congressional Authorization for Future Water Resources Development Projects
- 27 May 2016, Congress Working Aggressively to Pass a Bipartisan WRDA in 2016
- 3 May 2016, "A Lot of Ingredients" in This Year's WRDA
- 9 March 2016, \$2 Billion In Unused Earmarks Now Available for Transportation Infrastructure Projects
- 1 February 2016, Deadlines Are Fast Approaching as Congress Is Already Considering Priorities for Next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- Winter 2016, Environmental Policy Quarterly

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "[Federal Spending Means Big Money for Great Lakes Shipping](#)," Great Lakes/Seaway Review, July-September 2021

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Hydrogen
- International Trade, Investment Controls, and National Security
- Liquefied Natural Gas
- Maritime
- Maritime Compliance
- Maritime Regulatory
- Maritime Transactions and Finance
- Oil and Gas

## INDUSTRIES

- Energy
- Manufacturing
- Transportation (Manufacturing)

## REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Assisting a marine salvage company in opposing legislation that could restrict its market access and promoting legislation to facilitate the assessment of oil-laden underwater wrecks.
- Assisted State maritime academies with US Coast Guard mariner training requirements, training vessel replacement, and harbor projects.
- Assisted towing vessel operators with Mississippi River and Water Resources Development Act legislation.
- Counseled a major tanker operator regarding litigation and legislation concerning limits on foreign rebuilding of coastwise trade eligible vessels.
- Assisted a vessel operator trade association with influencing a US Army Corps of Engineers economic review of a navigation lock project to obtain a favorable benefit-to-cost ratio and obtaining Congressional authorization and funding of the project.
- Assisted a vessel operator trade association with legislation to reform federal regulation of ballast water and discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel and assisting same with influencing the Environmental Protection Agency and US Coast Guard regulations being developed for those discharges.
- Assisting a vessel operator trade association with obtaining funding for the US Coast Guard to design and build a new Great Lakes icebreaker.
- Assisted a maritime trade association enact legislation to require that the full amount of Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues be spent each year for currently authorized purposes and that the Great Lakes navigation projects be considered as an interdependent system and receive at least 13% of HMTF annual appropriations.
- Assisted a major cruise line on compliance and enforcement of coastwise passenger trade laws and regulations.
- Assisted a maritime trade association win a House of Representatives floor vote approving an amendment to fully fund the authorized HMTF spending level.
- Assisted LNG export clients with obtaining additional HMTF funding for maintenance dredging of federal navigation channels serving their facilities.
- Assisted a major tanker operator with tax legislation to support increased investment in US flag vessels.
- Advised a vessel operator on US Navy vessel acquisition plans.

- Advised non-governmental organizations on oceans policy activities and federal election outcome impacts.
- Advised maritime terminal operator regarding federal navigation channel maintenance concern.
- Assisting environmental and commercial fishing interests in defeating legislative initiatives in appropriations and authorizing bills that could result in overfishing in US fisheries.
- Represented a major environmental organization on efforts to improve fisheries management and conservation provisions, including the implementation of catch share programs, providing policy and political advice to fishermen and environmental organizations regarding fisheries management and conservation measures, including specifically measures contained in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
- Assisted an Ivy League university seeking federal funding for an infrastructure project.
- Advised ballast water management system manufacturers regarding US Coast Guard ballast water treatment regulations and policies.
- Counseled a commercial shipyard regarding US Coast Guard acquisition and cutter repair programs.
- Assisted a major port authority through the Federal NEPA process and bridge permitting process.
- Assisted a group of potential responsible parties with a federal navigation channel dredging responsibility concern.
- Assisted a property owner expedite FEMA payments for natural disaster damage.
- Assisted an Alaska Native Corporation with obtaining increased funding for Alaska Native wildlife habitat enhancement projects.
- Assisted an Alaska Native Corporation comment on proposed critical habitat designation for an endangered species.
- Assisted an Alaska Native Corporation with obtaining ferry service for its region.
- Assisted a commercial entity with federal business development regarding data center cooling systems.
- Counseled a commercial marine supplier regarding a US Coast Guard marine casualty investigation.
- Counseled a lifesaving equipment component manufacturer regarding US Coast Guard certification requirements.
- Assisted a Class I railroad with a border security issue and obtaining a US Coast Guard permit for a bridge construction project.
- Assisted offshore supply vessel operators in enacting changes in law and Coast Guard regulations and policy concerning limits on the size and operations of offshore supply vessels and their crews.
- Assisted commercial aviation transportation companies obtain Department of Transportation enforcement of US ownership and control requirements.

- Represented a biomedical company in seeking federal funding for infectious disease diagnostic tools.
- Counseled a US river terminal operator on the process for obtaining a security requirements waiver regarding the handling of certain cargoes.