

Sec. 2—Judicial Power and Jurisdiction

Cl. 1—Cases and Controversies

voked.⁸⁸⁸ Both the Court and Congress have created exceptions to the situs test for maritime tort jurisdiction to extend landward the occasions for certain connected persons or events to come within admiralty, not without a little controversy.⁸⁸⁹

From the earliest days of the Republic, the federal courts sitting in admiralty have been held to have exclusive jurisdiction of prize cases.⁸⁹⁰ Also, in contrast to other phases of admiralty jurisdiction, prize law as applied by the British courts continued to provide the basis of American law so far as practicable,⁸⁹¹ and so far as it was not modified by subsequent legislation, treaties, or executive proclamations. Finally, admiralty and maritime jurisdiction in-

⁸⁸⁸ *Executive Jet Aviation v. City of Cleveland*, 409 U.S. 249 (1972) (plane crash in which plane landed wholly fortuitously in navigable waters off the airport runway not in admiralty jurisdiction). However, so long as there is maritime activity and a general maritime commercial nexus, admiralty jurisdiction exists. Foremost *Ins. Co. v. Richardson*, 457 U.S. 668 (1982) (collision of two pleasure boats on navigable waters is within admiralty jurisdiction); *Sisson v. Ruby*, 497 U.S. 358 (1990) (fire on pleasure boat docked at marina on navigable water). See also *Grubart v. Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Co.*, 513 U.S. 527 (1995), a tort claim arising out of damages allegedly caused by negligently driving piles from a barge into the riverbed, which weakened a freight tunnel that allowed flooding of the tunnel and the basements of numerous buildings along the Chicago River. The Court found that admiralty jurisdiction could be invoked. The location test was satisfied, because the barge, even though fastened to the river bottom, was a “vessel” for admiralty tort purposes; the two-part connection test was also satisfied, inasmuch as the incident had a potential to disrupt maritime commerce and the conduct giving rise to the incident had a substantial relationship to traditional maritime activity.

⁸⁸⁹ Thus, the courts have enforced seamen’s claims for maintenance and cure for injuries incurred on land. *O’Donnell v. Great Lakes Co.*, 318 U.S. 36, 41–42 (1943). The Court has applied the doctrine of seaworthiness to permit claims by longshoremen injured on land because of some condition of the vessel or its cargo. *Gutierrez v. Waterman S.S. Corp.*, 373 U.S. 206 (1963); *Seas Shipping Co. v. Sieracki*, 328 U.S. 85 (1946); *Mahnich v. Southern S.S. Co.*, 321 U.S. 96 (1944). But see *Victory Carriers v. Law*, 404 U.S. 202 (1971). In the Jones Act, 41 Stat. 1007, 46 U.S.C. § 688, Congress gave seamen, or their personal representatives, the right to seek compensation from their employers for personal injuries arising out of their maritime employment. Respecting who is a seaman for Jones Act purposes, see *Southwest Marine, Inc. v. Gizoni*, 502 U.S. 81 (1991); *McDermott International, Inc. v. Wilander*, 498 U.S. 337 (1991). The rights exist even if the injury occurred on land. *O’Donnell v. Great Lakes Co.*, 318 U.S. at 43; *Swanson v. Mara Brothers*, 328 U.S. 1, 4 (1946). In the Extension of Admiralty Jurisdiction Act, 62 Stat. 496, 46 U.S.C. § 740, Congress provided an avenue of relief for persons injured in themselves or their property by action of a vessel on navigable water which is consummated on land, as by the collision of a ship with a bridge. By the 1972 amendments to the Longshoremen’s and Harbor Workers’ Compensation Act, 86 Stat. 1251, amending 33 U.S.C. §§ 901–950, Congress broadened the definition of “navigable waters” to include in certain cases adjoining piers, wharfs, etc., and modified the definition of “employee” to mean any worker “engaged in maritime employment” within the prescribed meanings, thus extending the Act shoreward and changing the test of eligibility from “situs” alone to the “situs” of the injury and the “status” of the injured.

⁸⁹⁰ *Jennings v. Carson*, 8 U.S. (4 Cr.) 2 (1807); *Taylor v. Carryl*, 61 U.S. (20 How.) 583 (1858).

⁸⁹¹ *Thirty Hogsheads of Sugar v. Boyle*, 13 U.S. (9 Cr.) 191 (1815); *The Siren*, 80 U.S. (13 Wall.) 389, 393 (1871).