

25-06211-CF

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April 28, 2026

LT Kevin J. Griffin  
Staff Attorney  
Prevention Law Branch  
Southeast District Legal

Sent via email to: [Kevin.J.Griffin@USCG.MIL](mailto:Kevin.J.Griffin@USCG.MIL)

**Re: Follow-Up on Touhy Request – Clearwater Ferry Collision Matter**

Dear Lieutenant Griffin,

I write to follow up on my correspondence sent in January regarding my formal request for official information and testimony pursuant to the Department of Homeland Security *Touhy* regulations.

It is my understanding that the Coast Guard's investigation is either ongoing or presently paused due to the government shutdown. To date, the investigative report has not been released, and authorization has not been granted for relevant witnesses to participate in depositions. The court is actively pressing for this matter to proceed to trial. However, we are unable to adequately prepare the defense without coordination and cooperation from the Coast Guard.

Please advise whether there are any steps we may take to help facilitate or expedite the process, or whether we should anticipate further delay pending resolution of the current government shutdown.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your guidance.

Very truly yours,

J. KEVIN HAYSLETT, ESQUIRE



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25-06211-CF

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



Commander  
United States Coast Guard  
Southeast District

909 S.E. First Ave. Ste. 918  
Miami, FL 33131  
Staff Symbol: (dl)  
Phone: (786) 812-6383

5800  
January 23, 2026

Mr. J. Kevin Hayslett, ESQ  
Carlson Meissner Hayslett, P.A.  
250 North Belcher Road, Suite 102  
Clearwater, Florida 33765

*Sent via email to:* khayslett@carlsonmeissner.com

Re: Subpoena Duces Tecum for Brian Knapp, Kyle Quimby, Ronald Gleason, Brandon Maddox, Justin Cooksie

Dear Mr. Hayslett:

On January 21, 2025, Coast Guard Sector Saint Petersburg received your request for Deposition of these Coast Guard Members: Brian Knapp, Kyle Quimby, Ronald Gleason, Brandon Maddox, Justin Cooksie, regarding the Clearwater Ferry Collision. Service of subpoenas, court orders, and other demands or requests for official information or action must be served on Department of Homeland Security offices and employees in accordance with Title 6 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 5.43 and Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.20-1 (referencing 49 CFR Part 9). Your request does not comply with this regulation. Therefore, your request is denied.

Please be aware that a litigant seeking to obtain testimony or depositions from Coast Guard members in furtherance of civil or criminal litigation must comply with the procedures described in the department's *Touhy* regulations. *See United States ex. Rel. Touhy v. Ragen*, 340 U.S. 462 (1951). The Department of Homeland Security's *Touhy* regulations set forth detailed procedures by which private litigants may request official information. They are found at 6 CFR Part 5, Subpart C, and 33 CFR § 1.20-1 (referencing 49 CFR Part 9).

Any future demands to subpoena Coast Guard members must be made to a competent authority authorized to accept on behalf of the Department. As the Southeast Coast Guard District Staff Judge Advocate, I am agency counsel for the purpose of 6 C.F.R. Part 5. I request you withdraw your subpoena from the court and submit any request for documents in accordance with the aforementioned *Touhy* regulations. Please contact Lieutenant Kevin Griffin at 786-812-6383 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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3600

Digitally signed by  
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Date: 2026.01.26 10:25:03 -05'00'

Kelly C. BLACKBURN  
Staff Judge Advocate  
U.S. Coast Guard