



BRIAN W. SCHOENEMAN
USA MARITIME

Brian W. Schoeneman is the political and legislative director for the Seafarers International Union of North America, the nation's largest maritime labor union. He has nearly fifteen years' experience advocating on behalf of the American Merchant Marine in Washington.

Prior to joining the SIU, in the private sector, he served as managing partner at Acacia Strategies LLC, a transportation-focused government relations firm he founded in August 2009. He was Executive Director of the American Maritime Congress from 2006-2008 and served as Director of Government Affairs for the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (AFL-CIO) from 2003-2006.

His public-sector experience includes an appointment as Special Assistant and Senior Speechwriter to the Secretary at the United States Department of Labor during the Bush Administration. He was also appointed to the Fairfax County Electoral Board by the judges of the Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, where he served as Vice Chairman and later as Secretary from 2013 to 2015. While in this position, he oversaw one of the closest elections and recounts in Virginia history in 2013.

He received the degree of juris doctor, magna cum laude, from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law, a Master of Arts degree in Political Management from the Graduate School of Political Management at the George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. While at Catholic Law, he clerked for the National Association of Social Workers, and he served on Law Review. He authored a Comment on lobbying reform, which was published in the Catholic Law Review in 2011. He was a member of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia 2013 Political Leaders Program class, and was elected Class Leader by his peers.

He is admitted to the Virginia State Bar, and his professional affiliations include serving as Past President of the DC Port of the International Propeller Club of the United States, and membership in the American and the Fairfax Bar Associations, where he received the FBA's President's Award in 2013. He is a co-founder and first President of the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management Alumni Association, and a former member of the George Washington University Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Schoeneman is an acknowledged maritime and election law expert, and has been seen on MSNBC, and heard on various radio outlets across Virginia, commenting on a variety of issues. He has testified before Congress on issues affecting the maritime industry, including vessel safety, mariner training, cargo preference, and international food assistance programs.

In his community, he serves on the Vestry of St. John's Church Lafayette Square and on the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission. He ran for VA House of Delegates in 2011 and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2015, and served on the Fairfax County Bi-Partisan Election Process Improvement Commission in 2013. He resides in Centreville, Virginia with his wife and son.