



News

Forrest Booth Discusses Cruise Ship Industry's COVID-19 Liability

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Hinshaw attorney Forrest Booth discussed in *Law360* the potential liabilities of the cruise ship industry for claims related to coronavirus (COVID-19). Recently, a South Florida couple quarantined on a Princess Cruise Lines Ltd. ship off the coast of California sued the cruise company for what they described as a failure to take precautions to prevent a coronavirus outbreak on the ship.

Booth indicated that such claims face significant hurdles, comparative fault among them:

"When coronavirus became a known thing in early February and people chose to go on a cruise anyway, there's the assumption-of-risk argument," he said. "If someone chooses to go on a cruise from that point on, the cruise line could say, 'You knew you were going on a cruise where coronavirus exists and you assumed the risk.'"

Booth added that the cruise industry is well set up to deal with viral and bacterial outbreaks, having previously implemented cleaning protocols mandated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention following norovirus and Legionnaires' disease outbreaks on ships in recent years: He said that a "cruise ship owes a passenger a duty of ordinary care, and if they are following all the protocols of using cleaning solutions and wiping everything down and washing everything, then they usually have met that standard."

[Read the full article](#) (*subscription required*)

"Cruise Ship Industry's COVID-19 Liability Likely Limited" was published by *Law360*, March 16, 2020.