

D. Whitehead, “Immigrant Communities in the Classical Polis: Some Principles for a Synoptic Treatment”, *AC* 53, 1984, 47-59.

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Nautodikai (ναυτοδίκαι)

The Athenian office of the *nautodikai* is mentioned in fragmentary sources (*IG* I³ 41, ll. 76-77; Cratin. fr. 251 K-A; Ar. fr. 237 K-A; Crater. *FGrHist* 342 F4a) as well as in ancient lexica (Harp. *s.v.* ναυτοδίκαι; Poll. 8.126). The earliest attestations date to the 440s BCE, and the *nautodikai* appear initially to have been involved in cases concerning the verification of citizenship status (*graphai xenias*), at least until the final decades of the fifth century BCE.

The office was likely established in response to the increasing number of fraudulent attempts to obtain Athenian citizenship after the restrictions introduced by Pericles’ citizenship law of 451/0 BCE, which limited citizenship to those born of two Athenian parents. The sources emphasise the short interval between summons and hearing, which took place on the last day of the month. This may explain why the *nautodikai* were often forced to dismiss cases without referring them to the appropriate court, thereby earning the derogatory nickname *hybristodikai* (“insolent judges”), and rendering their role essentially ineffective (Erdas 2021).

By the early fourth century BCE, the function of the *nautodikai* appears to have changed. In Lysias’ *On the Property of Eraton* (Lys. 17.5), they are found acting as judges in cases involving *emporoi* (merchants; cf. Cohen 1973, 158-98; Maffi 2016). This judicial role, confirmed by lexicographical sources (Harp. *ad loc.*; *Suda* v86 *s.v.* Ναυτοδίκαι), may have been assigned to the *nautodikai* because many merchants were foreigners. The structural incapacity to deliver swift justice in cases involving *emporoi* was likely a key factor in the office’s abolition, which had ceased to exist by the mid-fourth century BCE (see *s.v.* *xenodikai*).

E. Cohen, *Ancient Athenian Maritime Courts*, Princeton 1973.

D. Erdas, *Cratere il Macedone. Testimonianze e frammenti*, Tivoli 2002.

D. Erdas, “I *nautodikai*. Note su una magistratura ateniese tra cause di *xenia* e giurisdizione sugli *emporoi*”, *Dike* 24, 2021, 33-62.

A. Maffi, “Riflessioni su *dikai emporikai* e prestito marittimo”, in D. Leão, G. Thür (eds.), *Symposion 2015. Vorträge zur griechischen und hellenistischen Rechtsgeschichte (Coimbra, 1.–4. September 2015)*, Wien 2016, 199-208.

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