

David H. Smith

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Professional Resume

Professional Experience

1998-Present

Independent Maritime Consulting Ltd. - President

Established Independent Maritime Consulting Ltd (IMC) in order to provide a wide range of consulting services to the marine industry. IMC act as U.S. commercial correspondents for several Scandinavian Hull and Machinery Underwriters. P&I clubs and their commercial or legal correspondents frequently appoint IMC to investigate casualties, evaluate damages, assist in arranging for repairs, carry out condition surveys, and handle liability and claim matters. Maritime law firms regularly appoint IMC surveyors to act as nautical advisors or expert witnesses in personal injury and major casualty cases of all kinds. As president of IMC, I handle a wide variety of claims and casualty situations; conduct investigations and coordinate surveys. I am frequently the first point of contact by IMC's clients.

1997-1998

Haight Gardner Consulting Inc. – President

Established Haight Gardner Consulting Inc, to serve as U.S commercial claims correspondent for Assuranceforeningen Skuld, a leading Scandinavian P&I club. Responsible for handling and overseeing several hundred active claim files, assisting and advising Skuld and their shipowner members on a wide variety of problems. In close liaison with Skuld's network of legal correspondents, coordinated strategies with respect to claims in litigation or arbitration.

1990-1997

Scandinavian Marine Claims Office Inc. – Vice President

Scandinavian Marine Claims Office Inc. (SMCO) served as U.S. correspondents for several Scandinavian Hull and Machinery underwriters. They also acted as U.S correspondents for Skuld. As Vice President and Claims Manager, I was responsible for handling a wide variety of Hull and P&I problems. I was personally involved in dealing with numerous major vessel casualties, in conjunction with SMCO's team of in-house surveyors and sub-agents. I was heavily involved in developing SMCO's oil spill response service, in the wake of EXXON VALDEZ and OPA 90, and in working with the USCG, our shipowner clients and other involved parties in designing and executing realistic spill response exercises on a local or regional basis.

1984-1990

Lamorte Burns & Co. Inc.. Claims Consultant

Lamorte Burns act as U.S. correspondents for several major P&I clubs, and they represent a number of Japanese H&M underwriters. As a claims consultant, I handled a wide variety of P&I and H&M claims. I was frequently called upon to conduct shipboard investigations and to assist and advise our clients in responding to major casualties. I gained extensive experience in handling oil spills and in dealing with the USCG and other governmental agencies on spill response and other regulatory violation issues.

1969-1984

South African Marine Corps Inc. – Chief Officer
Reardon Smith Lines Ltd. – Second Officer
Blue Star Line Ltd. – Second and Third Officer
Ocean Fleets Ltd, - Apprentice Deck Officer

During my fifteen years at sea, primarily in the British Merchant Marine, I served in various capacities, up to Chief Officer, on a wide variety of vessels. I progressed through the ranks, earning my Second Mates, Chief Officers and Master Mariner's licenses, unlimited tonnage. I gained extensive experience on general cargo, refrigerated and container vessels trading in various liner services worldwide. I also sailed on bulk carriers and passenger vessels. As a Chief Officer, I was responsible for overseeing the entire deck department, reporting to the Captain. This included all cargo operations, dealing with stevedores, stability, safety, navigation and maintenance of the vessel.

Education

Between 1969 and 1980 I attended several courses at the City Of London Polytechnic College in London, leading to the following professional licenses. I also attended various related courses in Fire Fighting, Radar Observer and Simulator, Lifeboat Handling, Ship Captains Medical Certificate, etc.

Master Mariner's Certificate of Competence – Unlimited Tonnage - 1980
Chief Officer's Certificate of Competence – Unlimited Tonnage - 1976
Second Officer's Certificate of Competence – Unlimited Tonnage - 1973

Between 1968 and 1969 I attended a one-year residential training course at the Merchant Navy College in Kent, England. The course focused heavily on all aspects of seamanship, ship handling and stability, navigation, maritime law, ship's business, and related academic subjects. I also studied and passed exams in advanced mathematics, physics and English. I received a special distinction award for graduating second in my class.

Professional Affiliations:

Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers
United States Average Adjuster's Association
Connecticut Maritime Association