



Independent Maritime Consulting LLC  
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## **LIAM T. O'CONNELL, ESQ.**

### **Senior Compliance Consultant and Legal Consultant**

*IMC LLC acts as Commercial Correspondents for several major Hull and Machinery (H&M) and Protection & Indemnity (P&I) underwriters which includes providing claims handling assistance to their assured, performing surveys and investigating casualties of all kinds, mitigating and evaluating damages, assisting in coordinating repairs and providing technical advice. In addition, IMC provides surveys, technical consulting and expert witness services to maritime law firms, vessel Owners, Charterers and their liability underwriters in connection with major casualties, personal injury and cargo claims. IMC also helps clients in the marine transportation and oil and gas industries comply with environmental and emergency response regulations and requirements.*

IMC Legal Consulting provides a further service for IMC clients for those matters requiring a lawyer's analysis, or for legal handling that goes beyond the scope of claims handling. IMC Legal Consulting provides the customary high level of detail and attention to these matters which IMC customers expect with the intention of achieving real cost and time savings through an early resolution of those disputed, or complex, claims that may otherwise be subject to a lawsuit or arbitration. IMC Legal Consulting also provides service to its customers in overseeing and reporting of lawyers, experts and consultants (including vetting, selection and retention of such professionals) in those matters which are not resolved at the early stages. Liam O'Connell is a member of IMC's Legal Consulting team with respect to regulatory (USCG/PSC) compliance issues and environmental (MARPOL/APPS) issues.

### **BAR ADMISSIONS**

Massachusetts – State and Federal

Courts First Circuit Court of Appeals

## EXPERIENCE

Independent Maritime Consulting LLC – *Senior Compliance Consultant and Legal Consultant– Current*

Farrell, McAleer, & Smith LLP – *Of Counsel – Current*

United States Coast Guard – *Commissioned Officer – Current*

United States Coast Guard Reserve (2011 – Present)

US Coast Guard Legal Service Command - Norfolk, Virginia (2015 – Present)

- USCG Reserve Legal Duty Officer

US Navy Coastal Riverine Squadron EIGHT, Groton, Connecticut (2013-2015)

- Activated to serve as Officer in Charge and Mission Commander for the US Navy's first domestic High Value Unit Detachment, providing Anti-Terrorism Force Protection for 22 USN nuclear-powered Submarines. Innovations and operational successes will be the model for six other similar domestic detachments.
- Trained and Led 36 US Navy Sailors in daily operations, mission planning, and mission execution.
- Appointed as Safety Officer and Operational Risk Manager, to ensure the over 500 personnel command located across six states was in compliance of USN safety and risk mitigation policies.

United States Coast Guard (2005 – 2008)

US Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston, Texas

- As Senior Marine Inspector, I surveyed over 1500 vessels ensuring compliance with US and international regulations.
- Lead investigator for all environmental law criminal investigations in Eastern Texas and Western Louisiana, including five criminal pollution cases that were taken by the US DOJ.
- Consulting expert to the US DOJ Environmental Crimes Section for multiple criminal cases.
- Trained Coast Guard criminal investigators across the Gulf Coast on case protocols for maritime pollution cases.
- Additionally:
  - o Experienced MARPOL/APPS Investigator
  - o Highly knowledgeable on Oily Water Separator (OWS) systems and record keeping,
  - o Developed a standard Sector Houston-Galveston MARPOL Pre-Inspection Strategy and Operation Plan for potential MARPOL Investigations;
  - o Developed Oily Water Separator (OWS) Inspection procedure to be included in Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Inspector's boarding materials;
  - o Worked directly with Department of Justice and Coast Guard Investigative Service Special Agents on multiple MARPOL Cases;
  - o Lead a MARPOL Investigation in neighboring USCG unit's Area of Responsibility, and subsequently conducted many investigations and detailed analysis' which I could eliminate criminal activity;

## H&O Marine, LLC – Managing Partner 2010 - 2015

Retained by law firms, ship owners, marine terminals, and US Government agencies as: expert witness, auditor, and planner for maritime regulatory matters. Court-Appointed Monitor and Auditor for US Department of Justice mandated Environmental and Enhanced Compliance Programs. More specifically:

- Closely monitored shipping companies' Compliance Programs in accordance with their ECP;
- Conducted audits of vessels, shore offices, personnel, and training centers in accordance with international and federal maritime regulations, ECPs and company policies;
- Conducted MARPOL/APPS investigations as directed by the US Government; and
- Conducted detailed analysis of MARPOL records to ensure compliance and/or rule out criminal behavior
- Admitted as expert witness in federal court for USCG environmental criminal investigations.

## Massachusetts Maritime Academy – Contract Faculty & Deck Officer 2008-2010

Contract Faculty/Professor, Department of Continuing Education

- Created and taught an accredited course entitled, "Marine Pollution and Vessel Engineering Systems" to approximately 20 domestic and foreign personnel from entry-level to executive-level maritime professionals.

Third Mate and Training Officer, United States Training Ship USTS Kennedy

- Conducted training for 500+ merchant marine Cadets while at sea on navigation, watch-standing, fire-fighting, and lifesaving.

## **EDUCATION**

Suffolk University Law School, J.D. 2014 (*Concentration in International Law with distinction*)

Massachusetts Maritime Academy, B.S. 2005 – Marine Transportation  
US Merchant Marine Unlimited 3rd Officer Deck License (2005)

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Maritime Law Association of the United States

Propeller Club of the United States – Boston

Connecticut Maritime Association

Massachusetts Bar Association