

# SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker from  
The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

November 2019



Thank you for your maritime service and taking the time to review our Newsletter. We at the Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. hope you find the following information helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



## IS YOUR UNION REPRESENTING YOU?



In today's climate of anti-union sentiment it is becoming more of an everyday occurrence for unions to hesitate to advocate for their members against contracted employers on meritorious grievances. Generally speaking, a union owes to each union member a duty of fair representation. This representation must be without any discrimination as to its membership. Reasonable steps must be taken by the union to investigate any legitimate grievance its members may have against his/her employers. There are serious consequences for the union if action is not taken in the face of a legitimate grievance. More on this important topic next month!

## QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE



*I believe I was unfairly fired from a ship and reported it to my union agent. When nothing was done after a couple of weeks I followed up with the union and they just told me nothing could be done about it. I have been left in the dark. What can I do?*

*Lawrence, Baton Rouge, LA*

**Answer:** Lawrence, welcome to the new era of weak union representation! You should insist they tell you and document to you what they did on your behalf with regard to their investigation. You are at least entitled to know that. If they dropped the ball on this you may have to contact the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board).

### About Our Law Firm

For more than four decades, merchant mariners, longshoremen, fishermen and harbor workers plying their trades at sea, on the docks, on our U.S. coastal waters and inland waterways have turned to the maritime law firm of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates in Oakland. Today, we are proud to be recognized as one of the preeminent maritime law firms serving injured marine workers nationwide, as well as one of the most successful personal injury litigation firms serving victims of negligence in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the West Coast.

### Team Approach to Every Personal Injury and Jones Act Claim

When you retain Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates for a Jones Act injury claim, or personal injury claim, you don't get just one attorney, you get our entire team of dedicated professionals. Our attorneys offer many years of courtroom and negotiated claims settlement experience. We will represent your interests with unwavering dedication, speed and expertise.

### Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

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1888CREWLAW or 1888-273-9529

510-444-2501 Fax: 510-444-4209

428 Alice St., Suite 128, Oakland, CA 94607

[www.sealawyer.com](http://www.sealawyer.com)