

# SAFE HARBOR

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

September 2017



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.



## DON'T DELAY IN FILING SUIT!



As most of you know, the statute of limitations in a typical Jones Act injury case is three years. In other words, you have three years from the date of your injury to file a lawsuit against the shipowner. However, in some cases this deadline is shorter. Most government ships have a two year statute of limitations. For example, if you are on a Navy ship operating under the Military Sealift Command (MSC), the deadline is two years from the date of injury. However in other cases involving government vessels, you must file a claim within 18 months of injury. It can be tricky to determine what timelines apply, and if you miss the deadline you will lose your right to recover.

## QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE



*I was injured on a US Navy vessel two years ago. I contacted an attorney but he said my lawsuit was barred by the statute of limitations. I thought I had three years to file suit? What gives?*

*Mark F. in Vallejo*

### **Answer:**

Dear Mark,

It sounds like your injury occurred on a government vessel, in

which case a shorter time limit to file suit applies. These deadlines are strictly enforced by courts, and unfortunately if you miss these deadlines you likely have no recourse. If you are injured it is important to contact an experienced maritime attorney right away. In addition to blowing deadlines that completely block your case, there are other pitfalls that can harm your case if you delay.

### NOW BACK IN OAKLAND AT

The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.  
428 Alice St., Suite 128  
Oakland, CA 94607

### 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 more than 150 combined 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.

Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates  
*"Serving the Merchant Mariner Since 1970"*  
1888CREWLAW or 1888-273-9529  
510-444-2501 Fax: 510-444-4209

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

535 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100 San Francisco. CA 94133

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