

Michael Hope – Mediator Profile

“Not afraid to get into the key issues but with a calm and disarmingly friendly style” (Mediation feedback)

Overview

Since qualifying as a lawyer in 1987, Michael has practiced primarily in the maritime/shipping area. He is an accomplished maritime lawyer with significant experience in handling disputes both under US and English law. Michael also has significant experience at senior management level at a leading International Group P&I Club. He qualified as a CEDR accredited mediator in 2016, is a member of the United States Maritime Law Association and the Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association (HMAA).

Professional Background

After qualifying as a lawyer in Texas, Michael joined the Houston based maritime law firm Hill, Rivkins, Carey, Loesberg, O’Brien & Mulroy (now Hill, Rivkins LLP) where his practice focused on carriage of goods by sea as well as by air, truck, and rail. Michael then moved to another Houston based firm Eastham, Watson, Dale & Forney LLP in 1990 where he was a partner and practiced all aspects of litigation in maritime law as well as international trade disputes and insurance cover disputes up to 1999. In 1999, Michael moved to the UK to join the FD&D Department at the North of England P&I Association (North of England) as its first US qualified lawyer. During his time at North of England, Michael reached the position of being a Director in the FD&D Department with responsibilities of looking after the Club’s UK and Americas based members and managing a team of lawyers in the Newcastle office. During his time at North of England, Michael has gained extensive experience in London arbitrations and handling a wide range of shipping disputes under English law.

Professional Qualifications

Michael is admitted to the bar in Texas, District of Columbia, and Maine in the United States. In addition, he is admitted in various US Federal Courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

Experience

- Advising on English and US law issues on a broad range of contractual disputes such as Charter Parties, Contracts of Affreightment, Sale & Purchase MOA’s, New Build Contracts and other maritime contracts.
- Litigating in US Courts and advising on broad range of marine disputes – cargo, collision, marine insurance cover disputes, personal injury, pollution, and offshore disputes.

- Litigating in US Courts and advising on international trade matters, carriage of goods by air, truck and rail, and bankruptcy claims.
- Ship Sale & Purchase negotiations.
- Litigating and advising on cargo claims by ocean carriers, air carriers, and inland carriers.
- Handling through to an Award disputes in London Arbitration.
- Advising North of England P&I on legal issues affecting it.

Other Information

- Member of Houston Maritime Arbitrators Association.
- Supporting Member of London Maritime Arbitrators Association.
- Published Award as Arbitrator.
- Member Intertanko Documentary Committee.
- Proctor Member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States since 1988.

Mediation Experience and Style

As a CEDR Certified Mediator, Michael has acted as co-mediator in mediations, which included a mediation of a dispute on the development of an LNG FSRU and a mediation of a damaged cargo claim. As a lawyer with over 30 years' experience, he has participated in several mediations in both the US and in the UK. He is recognised as a good listener with a measured and pragmatic approach. Coupled with his approachable manner he can develop a good rapport with the parties allowing for a smoother mediation process and the ability to explore various alternatives to help resolve the dispute.

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