

Ryan J. Vechan

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Education

- University of Houston Law Center** *Juris Doctor* 2014
Admitted to Practice: State of Texas (all courts), U.S. District Court for the Southern, Northern, and Eastern Districts of Texas
Honors: Gus A. Schill, Jr. Maritime Law and Professionalism Scholarship (Awarded to a third year student in recognition of their dedication to the study of maritime law and professionalism)
- Texas A&M University at Galveston** *B.S. Marine Transportation* 2007
Magnum Cum Laude, GPA 3.853
Honors: Merchant Marine Midshipman of the Year 2007; SeaRiver Maritime Cadet Tankerman Award 2007; Reserve Officers Association of America Award 2007; Port of Galveston Propeller Club Scholarship 2006-2007; William Paul Ricker Leadership Scholarship 2006

Professional Licenses and Endorsements

Chief Mate of Steam or Motor Vessels of any Gross Tons

Master of Vessels not more than 1600 Gross Registered Tons

Selected Endorsements

- Standards of Training, Certification and Watching (STCW)
- Radar Observer (Unlimited)
- Dangerous Liquids Tankerman PIC (in continuity)
- Liquefied Gases Tankerman Assist (in continuity)

Work Experience

- Texas A&M University at Galveston** **September 2017-Present**
Assistant Professor of the Practice, Marine Transportation
- Courses taught:
 - MART 212 Marine Dry Cargo Operations
 - MART 310 Electronic Navigation
- Hill Rivkins LLP, Houston, Texas** **December 2014-August 2017**
Associate Attorney
- Experience in primarily commercial litigation
 - Prepared pleadings and other court filings
 - Successfully defeated motion to dismiss asserting economic loss rule in federal court; successfully defeated two special appearances retaining jurisdiction in the counties in which claims were originally filed
 - Performed extensive legal research and prepared memoranda for supervising attorneys and/or clients
 - Drafted and responding to discovery requests
 - Took and defended depositions
 - Attended hearings on behalf of clients in state and federal courts
 - Assessed and determined litigation strategy
 - Prepared client letters
 - Counseled parties on maritime matters including the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Limitations of Liability Act, port regulations and operations, cargo claims, allisions, and charter party disputes
 - Clients represented include: cargo insurers, property insurers, a port authority, a vessel classification society, a petroleum and petrochemical manufacturer, an energy trader, and a steel distributor

LyondellBasell, Houston, Texas

March 2014-December 2014

Port Captain/Port Operations

- Coordinated with internal stake holders, vessel owners, vessel operators, and marine terminals to optimize vessel schedules (20-30 per month) in the Port of Houston
- Analyzed vessel berthing rotations to identify opportunities to reduce demurrage expenses and maintain plant efficiency
- Managed third-party inspection service contractors to ensure efficient, complete, and accurate execution of LyondellBasell's quality assurance program
- Worked with LyondellBasell's Technical Services to develop and implement product quality programs to ensure complete and efficient testing of products at all stages of transportation
- Ensured third-party service providers conduct timely incident investigations
- Reviewed investigation findings of third-party service providers to ensure compliance with LyondellBasell policies and procedures
- Conducted incident investigations relating to product contaminations, loss of containments, and personal injuries
- Acted as LyondellBasell's contact and representative in industry groups, including but not limited to:
 - Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF)
 - Intertanko
 - The Greater Houston Port Bureau, Inc.
 - Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee

Legge, Farrow, Kimmitt, McGrath & Brown, LLP, Houston, Texas

July 2013-August 2013

Law Clerk

- Researched and prepared memoranda on issues relating to the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Jones Act, cargo claims, and other general maritime law matters

Gilman & Allison, LLP, Pearland, Texas

July 2012-December 2012

Law Clerk

- Prepared legal pleadings, conducted research and prepared memorandum relating to the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Jones Act and other general civil litigation matters

Honorable Judge Ron Clark

May 2012-June 2012

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, Beaumont, Texas

Judicial Intern

- Conducted legal research and prepared draft opinions for a variety of civil and criminal cases

Crowley Petroleum Services, Jacksonville, Florida

November 2009-June 2011

Second Mate (M/V Sunshine State, product tanker)

- Performed tasks required for delivery of brand new 100 million dollar vessel and final outfitting
- Conducted clean oil transfer operations as person-in-charge
- Responsible for voyage planning and safe routing of vessel in Gulf of Mexico product trade
- Trained new officers in navigation and cargo operation procedures
- Stood watch as officer-in-charge of navigational watch

US Shipping Corps, Edison, New Jersey

November 2008-November 2009

Third Mate (M/V Charleston, chemical tanker and ITB Mobile, tanker used for grain)

- Conducted chemical transfer operations as person-in-charge
- Stood watch as officer-in-charge of navigational watch
- Sailed the *ITB Mobile* to Darfur under a charter for the World Food Program; Ensured international and country specific rules and regulations were complied with

SeaRiver Maritime, Houston, Texas

June 2007-November 2008

Third Mate (S/R Baytown, product tanker, Kodiak and Sierra both crude oil tankers)

- Stood watch as officer-in-charge of navigational watch

- Conducted crude oil transfer operations as person-in-charge

Military Experience

United States Navy Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve Group **2007-2015**

Lieutenant (O-3), Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO)

- Strategic Sealift Officers provide emergency crewing and shore-side support of Military Sealift Command's Surge Fleet and the Ready Reserve Force in times of national defense or emergency
- Honorable discharge in September 2015

Union Affiliation

American Maritime Officers (AMO) Union

November 2008-October 2011

Relevant Post Graduate Courses/Training

List of Classes: Electronic Chart Display Information Systems (ECDIS), Star Center 2009
Bridge Resource Management, Star Center 2009
STCW Upgrade Stability (advanced Stability, Star Center 2009
STCW Upgrade Navigation Course (Advanced Navigation), Star Center 2009
Ship handling at the Management Level, Star Center 2009
Marine Propulsion Plants, Star Center 2010
Advanced Meteorology, Star Center 2010
Shipboard Management Course, Star Center 2010
Watch keeping (Management Level), Star Center 2010
Cargo Handling and Stowage (Management Level), Star Center 2010
Leadership and Managerial Skills (STCW Gap Closure), Maine Maritime Academy 2017
Training Course for Instructor (Train the Trainer), Texas A&M Galveston 2017

Memberships/Associations

The Propeller Club of Houston

Youngship Texas

Maritime Law Association of the United States