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(intro Son of a Son of a Sailor):

(voice of John Hughes Cooper):

Good morning to Captain and crew alike and welcome to The Admiralty Docket. This is John Hughes Cooper with a glimpse into your rights and responsibilities at sea and upon the navigable waters.

Maritime Lawyers . . . who needs them? Today we sample a few answers.

1. Owners of cargo damaged in ocean transit need maritime lawyers to review the import or export documentation, to determine the shipper's rights, to arrest the ship on which the cargo was damaged if she can be found, and to bring suit against the parties at fault for the damage. Because the available documents are often incomplete, and because the shipper's rights are often determined by commonly used clauses in bills of lading, an experienced admiralty lawyer is often needed in attempting to collect for damage to cargo during ocean carriage.

2. Wharfingers, terminal operators, and dock owners need maritime lawyers to collect past due wharfage and dockage charges . . . especially after the vessel has sailed. As a practical matter, the admiralty lawyer may be able to find the vessel and her owners and operators and make them pay. This may involve arresting the vessel to enforce the maritime lien which arises when dockage or wharfage is provided.

3. Longshoremen, harbor workers, seamen, and those working on the waterfront need an experienced maritime lawyer in case of personal injury or in case of unfair action by an employer. Because

employers do not always treat unrepresented workers fairly, workers benefit when they have an admiralty lawyer.

4. Prospective boat purchasers need admiralty counsel before the purchase to advise on the details of buying and financing the new vessel. Many secret maritime liens have been uncovered by maritime lawyers.

5. Institutions or individuals loaning money on a vessel, need admiralty attorneys to be sure that their security interest is properly protected by a preferred ship mortgage on the vessel.

6. Admiralty law is different from the law of South Carolina and will apply to you while on navigable waters. Owners of vessels of all sizes and shapes need admiralty lawyers for many reasons. Murphy was a boat owner. . . We have all heard of Murphy's Law and many find it accurate in predicting what will happen to their boat next.

All this brings to mind the advice of the old man who said, "When I needs a lawyer, I gets the one with the powerful education."

More, next week on The Admiralty Docket. Until then, remember, your rights and responsibilities may change as you approach the shore and may God Almighty grant you pleasant sailing.

(second voice with Send Lawyers, Guns and Money):

The Admiralty Docket is written and narrated by John Hughes Cooper who specializes in admiralty law litigation with the law firm of Cooper & Raley. The legal principles discussed are general in

nature. Laws change and even similar circumstances may call for application of different laws. If you have a question for a future edition of The Admiralty Docket please write to John Hughes Cooper at P. O. Box 1248, Charleston 29402.