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ROBSON FORENSIC PRESENTS

Boating

AND RECREATION SAFETY

When you have cases involving recreational boating, aquatics, or summer recreation, we can help. Our specialized marine and aquatic experts possess extensive experience and training in watercraft design, performance and operations and stand ready to assist your litigation/subrogation. Many of our marine experts honed their experience as Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine officers. Our aquatics experts have extensive experience in water activity safety and facility operations. Experts in materials, biomechanics, accident reconstruction and human factors, support the marine and aquatics group. We routinely carry out investigations for civil plaintiffs or defendants, criminal matters, and for casualty and property claims.

Visit our website www.robsonforensic.com or call us at 800-813-6736 to speak directly to one of our experts.

Robson Forensic
Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

Boating

AND RECREATION SAFETY

Boating

- ◆ Drownings
- ◆ Sinkings
- ◆ Collisions and allisions
- ◆ Fire and explosion
- ◆ Personal watercraft
- ◆ Alcohol and drug related intoxication
- ◆ Boating safety
- ◆ Rental craft operations
- ◆ Carbon monoxide poisoning
- ◆ Product and mechanical failure
- ◆ Marina and boatyard operation & safety

Recreational Activities

- ◆ Swimming/Pools
- ◆ Aquatics
- ◆ Waterskiing
- ◆ Sailing
- ◆ Fishing
- ◆ Parasailing
- ◆ Kayaks/canoes
- ◆ ATV's
- ◆ Biking
- ◆ Competitive Racing
- ◆ Amusement Parks
- ◆ Playgrounds
- ◆ Waterslides
- ◆ Go-Karts
- ◆ Camping
- ◆ Hiking
- ◆ Hang gliding
- ◆ Fireworks and pyrotechnics

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Case Examples

Vessel Collision

A 24-foot motorboat collided with a pool raft with people in and around the raft. The collision occurred during nautical twilight, offshore from a public beach and near the inlet to the boat's port-of-call. The raft and swimmer had no running lights or other illumination. It was claimed that the boater should have seen and avoided the raft. Persons in and around the raft were seriously injured when they were struck by the hull and/or propeller of the motorboat. Our marine expert reconstructed the incident by using a boat to verify approach courses to the inlet and using triangulation, compare these results to witness testimony. Our human factors expert showed that a reasonable person on the boat could not have been able to see the raft or its operators under incident conditions. Our

marine expert showed the persons in and around the raft should have had a light, and that such lights are readily available in the marketplace. Defense verdict for the boater.

Collision Between a Boat and Pushtow

A boat and barge pushtow collided on the Mississippi River, resulting in the death of one person on board the boat. The boat operator was charged with criminal homicide. The operator's sentence was plea-bargained to 90 days served after our marine expert showed that the collision likely occurred as a result of an unintended loss of power, and that the pushtow failed to post an appropriate lookout.

Drowning

One of a group of unattended young children fell from the dock at a pond

behind a private residence. The children quickly fetched adults who were unable to find him after he had drowned. The shore line of the pond was steep and uneven and the water at the end of the dock was murky and more than 9' deep. The owner had installed a diving board and ladder but no rescue equipment. We showed that state and federal standards for ponds, recreational swimming facilities and building codes all identified that the way the owner operated this pond and dock layout was a danger to children.

Fall From a Marina Dock

A woman on a fixed concrete dock attempted to assist her family land their boat in the slip. She fell into the boat and was seriously injured. Our expert showed that the dock was improperly attached and it was able to move in a manner that was imperceptible but destabilizing.

Fall on a Drydocked Boat

A customer examining a drydocked boat fell and was seriously injured when the cradle supporting the boat collapsed. Our marine expert was able to show that the marina failed to follow industry standards in properly supporting the boat. Multi-million dollar verdict at trial.

Water Slide

A rider on a high speed water slide claimed he was struck on the head by the handle of a toboggan-shaped mat as he exited the chute. The plaintiff expert claimed the mat design was dangerous and the handles were insufficiently guarded. We evaluated the trajectories of riders entering the pool and showed the transition would not have caused the type of impact the rider claimed he experienced. Our mat evaluation demonstrated how the foam mat's toboggan front protected against head to handle contact and that the soft plastic handles could not have produced an impact injury.

Feature Experts

Bartley J. Eckhardt, P.E. is a marine engineer with extensive experience in marine and industrial systems, machinery and products. He is a licensed Engineering Officer in the Merchant Marine with experience in ship design, marine structural composites, and technical operations including rigging and towing. Bart has been a recreational boater since childhood and is an avid sea kayaker. He has a B.E. in Marine Engineering from SUNY Maritime College at Fort Schuyler and is President/ CEO of Robson Forensic, Inc.

Captain Peter Squicciarini, USN, (Ret.) is a marine expert who served in the U.S. Navy for over 28 years and has commanded a variety of the Fleet's ships. He has extensive experience in maritime operations and has logged over 200,000 miles at sea. Captain Squicciarini holds a Merchant Marine Master's license and has sailed on various commercial passenger vessels and worked in the Intermodal Port industry. He is also an experienced recreational boater and is knowledgeable in marina issues. Captain Squicciarini is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Maria Bella is an aquatic safety expert with experience that comes from both professional work and personal sports competition including head coach of the U.S. swim team. Maria operates Professional Pool Solutions, LLC, which provides aquatic consulting services to colleges and universities, municipalities, school districts, general contractors and the hotel/motel industry. She has conducted investigations of aquatic accidents and injuries. Maria has certifications from the American Red Cross, National Recreation and Parks Association, National Swimming Pool Foundation, and the U.S. Water Fitness Association.

