

# NEED A LAWYER?

Advice from lawyers and clients about getting help with legal issues in Singapore, from work-related matters to divorce.

## SOUND COUNSEL

Hopefully, there aren't too many times in our lives when we need a lawyer – a bit like a doctor, really! But like doctors, when you need a lawyer, you need a good one. Whether it's a legal dispute, a divorce or an immigration issue, it's a huge help to get someone who's recommended.

American MICHAEL LITTLE works as a senior manager for a global defence prime contractor in the design and manufacture of ships. We spoke to him about a work-related legal matter and who he's been using to help manage the situation.

### What issue did you need legal help with?

It's a fairly complicated one related to government contracts. We have unique requirements in that only US personnel are allowed to work on our maritime projects – projects that include vessels like warships. So, we're working through the constraints and the different codes of employment – and they're complicated. We have to organise the immigration and employment issues related to our incoming personnel.

### Which lawyers did you choose and why?

I met Franca Ciambella, the managing director of Consilium Law Corporation, at an AmCham event, and I was talking about the challenges we were facing. She came across as someone who was very knowledgeable and calm, with the ability to handle pressure. I wanted to work with someone with these qualities, and Franca seemed ideal.

### Were the process and outcome as you'd hoped for? What's been difficult and what has worked well?

We've been working together with Consilium now for about five months and continue to do so. Franca's strength is not just the administrative side but also her relationships with people and organisations. The processes are still ongoing, so there is little that I'm able to comment on at this point in time. However, Franca understands our situations and has been able to carry out our instructions swiftly and in a timely manner, when there has been little margin for error.

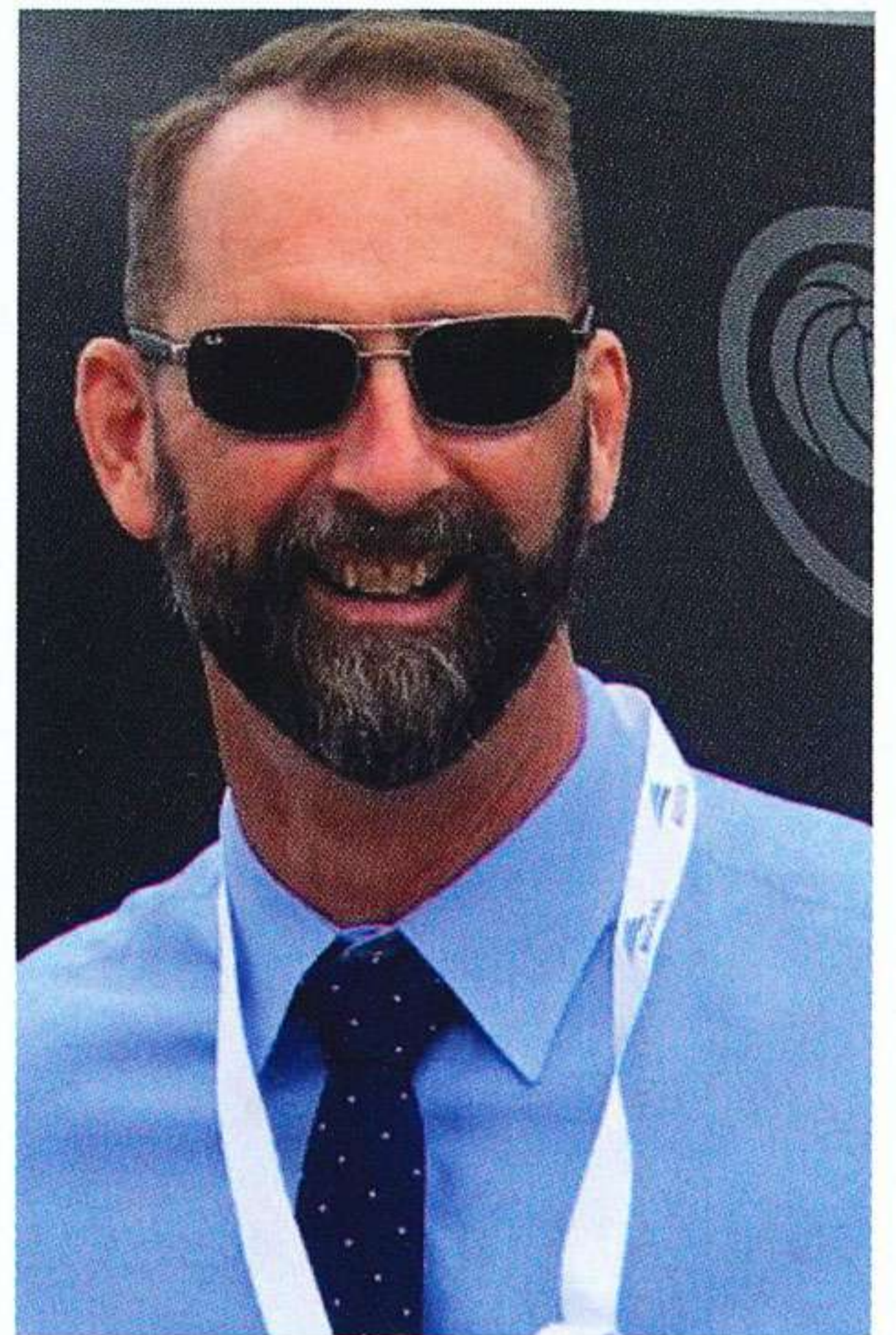
### Would you use Consilium again?

Absolutely, and we're still using them.

There's no "hard sell" in their approach. I also like Franca's demeanour and poise, and she's very experienced. It has been challenging, but that doesn't spill over into the Consilium approach.

### What would you recommend others do when they find themselves in your situation?

Our case is a unique one, so I doubt whether others would find themselves in the same situation. But, if you do, try to find the chance to talk to Franca, no matter how complex the situation is; she's the kind of person you can rely on to give sound legal counsel.



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