
Sean T. Connaughton

Mr. Sean T. Connaughton is Corporate Vice President, Government Affairs for the American Bureau of Shipping. The American Bureau of Shipping is one of the world's leading ship and marine classification societies.

Prior to joining ABS, Mr. Connaughton served as U.S. Maritime Administrator under President George W. Bush (2006 – 2009). As Maritime Administrator, he was head of the Maritime Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and responsible for the daily management of that agency and its promotional programs for the marine transportation industry. This included advising and assisting the Secretary of Transportation on commercial maritime matters, operation of over 50 ships in the Ready Reserve Force, supervision of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, oversight of the six State Maritime Academies, and administration of various shipyard and cargo programs.

Mr. Connaughton is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He has served the U.S. Coast Guard as both a commissioned officer and as a civil servant in the Office of Marine Safety, Security, and Environmental Protection. After gaining a Master's degree from Georgetown University, he joined the American Petroleum Institute, representing companies involved in the energy and marine transportation industries, during which time he also gained a law degree from George Mason University.

As a lawyer in private practice he specialized in maritime and international law. He has appeared before the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the Virginia Bar Association and the District of Columbia Bar Association. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1986 until retiring in 2006. He is a graduate (with honors) of the U.S. Naval War College.