



David Fell

SENIOR ASSOCIATE

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Office Phone	+971 4 355 8800
Years of Practice	9+ years

PRACTICE FOCUS

- Maritime & Aviation Law
- Corporate & Commercial Law

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

David Fell bridges the firm's Malta maritime registry expertise with its Dubai commercial practice, advising shipowners and charterers on vessel registration, financing, and disputes across both the Malta flag and UAE commercial shipping frameworks. His Malta-based maritime law training gives Crownstone's UAE clients a direct line into one of the world's largest ship registries.

That dual grounding proved itself directly when he secured a vessel arrest and settlement on a bulk carrier flagged in Malta over a \$22M charterparty dispute, resolved through DIFC-LCIA arbitration — a matter that required Malta flag-state procedure and Gulf arbitration practice to work together inside a single, fast-moving file rather than being handled as two separate instructions passed between advisers.

APPROACH TO CLIENT WORK

David treats maritime documentation the way a surveyor treats a structural drawing — assuming any unchecked assumption in a registry entry or mortgage instrument will eventually be tested under pressure, usually during a vessel arrest or a charterparty dispute already before a tribunal. When a matter needs a maritime lawyer, a DIFC-procedure litigator, and a corporate lawyer who understands a vessel-owning structure all at once, he can assemble that response from inside the firm the same day, rather than losing days coordinating outside specialists.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

- LLM in Maritime Law, IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta (2016)
- LLB, Cairo University (2013)
- Dubai Legal Affairs Department, 2017

HONORS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Ones to Watch – Legal 500 UAE Shipping (2024)

NOTABLE MATTERS

- Successfully arrested and secured settlement on a bulk carrier flagged in Malta over a \$22M charterparty dispute, resolved via DIFC-LCIA arbitration.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Vessel Arrest Procedure Under the Malta Flag: A Practical Guide, Malta Maritime Law Review (2024)