



Explorer Consulting® provides legal and operational advice on the “business of exploration” to companies and individuals engaged in international exploration and adventure travel. The company turns ideas into reality by offering everything from legal and operational advice to a complete fulfillment of the adventurer/explorer client’s vision of the experience of a lifetime. Services cover all aspects of the business of exploration, including: obtaining legal clearance, corporate sponsorship, negotiating film and television agreements and media partnerships, registering and licensing intellectual property, planning expeditions, developing and implementing risk management plans, recruiting team members, and on-site expedition leadership.

While many of the company’s services are provided in-house, Explorer Consulting® also offers services through its international network of world-class affiliates, including: experts in cinematography and photography, film and television production, travel logistics, ship and aircraft owners, providers of expedition medicine, evacuation and K&R insurance, private security, search and recovery, and media and public relations professionals. The company regularly works with academics and scientists to develop project-specific material, including research designs, archaeology plans, educational material, and plans for artifact conservation and exhibition.

Explorer Consulting® was founded in 2002 by David Concannon, a lifelong climber and diver whose love of exploration merged with his career as an attorney in 1996, when he became a Fellow of The Explorers Club and Chairman of its Legal Committee (General Counsel). Mr. Concannon later served as Chairman of the Philadelphia Chapter a Director of The Explorers Club from 2002 to 2006, on the Club’s prestigious Flag & Honors Committee for 12 years, and as the Vice President of Flag & Honors from 2015 to 2018.

Mr. Concannon’s professional experience extends beyond The Explorers Club. He was a Director of the Sea Space Symposium from 2003 to 2006. He was General Counsel to the X-PRIZE Foundation when it awarded a \$10 million cash prize to Paul Allen and Scaled Composites for the first privately funded space flights of SpaceShipOne in 2004 and during its expansion of the X-PRIZE model to encourage the development of other new technologies, including the Google Lunar X-PRIZE. He has served as General Counsel to a variety of other organizations associated with exploration, including the Zero Gravity Corporation (a privately held space entertainment and tourism company), Rocket Racing League, Professional Shipwreck Explorers Association, and the Anglo-Danish Maritime Archaeological Team.

Mr. Concannon has provided legal and operational advice, logistical planning and/or onsite leadership to several international projects, including: an expedition to film a documentary at the North Pole, two expeditions to climb Mt. Everest and test remote medical monitoring equipment for NASA, a dozen expeditions to explore the *R.M.S. Titanic*, an expedition to explore and film the German battleship *Bismarck*, two expeditions that discovered pristine examples of lost WW-II aircraft. He has participated in or led numerous expeditions to remote parts of the world, including a climbing expedition to Mt. Kilimanjaro in 1989, five expeditions to explore the wreck of the *Titanic* using manned submersibles, an expedition that discovered the world’s deepest wooden shipwreck in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle, an expedition that discovered two well-preserved F4U-1 Corsair fighter planes, and numerous documentaries, including to explore and film inside the *Britannic*, explore the *Titanic*, recover shipwrecks in The Bahamas and document the human-elephant conflict in the foothills of the Himalayas. Mr. Concannon has made deep submersible dives from 1,000 to 16,000 feet, he is one of only a handful of people to ever dive to a depth in excess of three miles, he has climbed to altitudes in excess of 17,000 feet, and flown in a helicopter over the North Pole.

From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Concannon organized and led the Apollo F-1 Engine Recovery Project for Bezos Expeditions, the private exploration company of Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos. Mr. Concannon organized and led the 2011 expedition that discovered the remnants the S-IC first stages from eight Apollo missions (Apollo 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16), and the 2013 expedition that recovered the F-1 engines from several Apollo missions, including *Apollo 11* and other lunar missions, at a depth of 14,000 feet in the Atlantic Ocean.



The Apollo F-1 Recovery Team

Speaking from the recovery ship upon its return to port on March 20, 2013, Mr. Bezos said:

“I’d like to call out a bunch of thank you’s. First of all to David Concannon who pulled together this team. The whole thing would simply have been impossible without the A-team, and I’m not sure anyone other than Dave could have brought them together.”

In March 2014, the team that Mr. Concannon led was awarded The Explorers Club Citation of Merit, in recognition of “an outstanding feat of exploration.” In receiving this award, Mr. Concannon, Mr. Bezos and the Apollo F-1 Project Team joined the ranks of other notable explorers that have received the honor, including the 1963 American Mount Everest Expedition; Gilbert M. Grosvenor, President of the National Geographic Society; and Robert Ballard, Ph. D. for the discovery of the *Titanic*.



*Jeff Bezos and David Concannon receiving
The Explorers Club Citation of Merit.*

In 2023, Mr. Concannon was recognized by the Accademia Internazionale Di Scienze E Tecniche Subacquee with its prestigious Tridente d'Oro (Golden Trident) award for his significant contributions to the underwater exploration. Past recipients include Jacques-Yves Cousteau (1961), Jacques Piccard (1961), Scott Carpenter (1969), Albert Buhlmann (1991), Sylvia Earle, Ph.D. (2017) and Sir Rick Stanton (2022).

From 2021 to 2025, Mr. Concannon served as the Executive Producer of the documentary “Where the Forest Roars,” which chronicles the conflict between humans and elephants in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas. The film was written, directed and narrated by Kim Frank.

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