WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS: KEY FACTS

130+ PARTNERS AND 450+ LAWYERS WORLDWIDE

CLIENTS PRAISE THE LAWYERS AS “PRAGMATIC, FLEXIBLE AND SERVICE MINDED”

JUVE 2013

14 OFFICES WORLDWIDE

3 OFFICES IN GERMANY

“ESTEEMED NAME IN SHIPPING…”

CHAMBERS EUROPE 2014

20+ PARTNERS AND 80+ LAWYERS IN GERMANY

“LONG-STANDING EXPERTISE IN SHIPPING AND MARITIME FINANCING…”

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2015
MARITIME INDUSTRY

Watson Farley & Williams is one of the leading global law firms advising and representing companies of the maritime industry. With their expert knowledge, our lawyers assist our clients worldwide and at important shipping locations.

For more than thirty years we have been legal advisors and representatives of the maritime industry. Our clients are particularly active in the shipping markets in Europe, the Americas, Scandinavia, the Baltic States, Greece, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

With our offices located at internationally important maritime places, we offer cross border advice and representation to our clients in the maritime industry in respect of all topics relevant to them. Particularly in recent years we have stood beside our clients in a number of challenging situations, so far unknown by many industry participants.

In particular the current market surrounding in the maritime industry requires the joint development of innovative and sustainable legal and tax solutions. In this regard, first class legal support is absolutely necessary in the light of all questions of shipping law, corporate law and public law as well as on employment law and tax matters and in dispute resolution in these sectors.

Our experience includes working in the maritime transport industry with merchant shipping companies, as well as having proven expertise in the areas offshore oil & gas, LNG, containers, ports and terminals, logistics as well as yachts, cruise and ferries.

We advise and represent all market participants in the maritime industry, in particular ship owners, managers, charterers, ship insurers, ship yards, terminal operators, ship brokers, classification societies and insurance brokers, as well as governments, authorities, ship financing banks and investors. Specialist teams operate from our offices in the following countries: Germany, the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, Greece, Dubai, France, Spain, Italy, Thailand and the USA. We advise our clients in the laws of the respective local jurisdiction and in addition in respect of Liberian and the Marshall Islands law.
Our aim
The first priority for us is always a successful and satisfying result for our clients. In this respect we seek, first and foremost, an amicable solution that ensures that our clients can reach their goals. Where disputes cannot be avoided, we advise our clients on appropriate strategies and risk analysis in relation to a contentious dispute. This includes representing our clients before courts as well as in arbitration and insolvency proceedings.

Shipping
Advice regarding the sale and purchase of ships, ship building including all questions relating to refund guarantees as well as ship registration, flag matters, ship management, all kinds of vessel employment, crewing and ship insurance.

Corporate law
Specialisation in joint ventures and other strategic alliances, the incorporation of domestic and international companies, M&A and divestments.

Public law
Questions on public law regulations, in particular sanctions and anti-boycott rules as well as environmental law aspects have an increasing impact on the shipping industry. Our team also has comprehensive expertise in relation to all matters of cartel law, merger control and relevant compliance matters.

Tax law
Close corporation of our experts with the shipping lawyers and colleagues in our corporate department, in particular regarding domestic and international tax structures, with an emphasis on tonnage tax in various jurisdictions.

With more than sixty lawyers, our Maritime Services Group offers our clients worldwide comprehensive advice and representation in all areas relevant to the maritime industry.
Employment law
Advising ship owners, charterers and crew managers in relation to employment contracts, company services for employees and representing clients in case of disputes as well as advising on terms of compensation.

Restructuring and insolvency
In recent years we have often been called upon to advise regarding the amendment of a variety of contracts and legal relationships due to market conditions in the aforementioned sectors. Our team also has significant experience in case of insolvency and enforcement proceedings.

Ports & Terminals
Advice in respect of investments in and the development, operation and financing of port facilities and terminals as well as advice on import rules.

Dispute resolution
Solution of disputes which are based on complex domestic and international relationships. Representation in negotiations outside of proceedings, before courts and in arbitral tribunals in accordance with a number of process and arbitration rules. Enforcement of claims by arrest of ships and the defense of arrests.
OUR EXPERIENCE: SELECTED CASES

GERMAN SHIP OWNERS
Advising two German ship owners and one insolvent administrator in a joint bidding process for the en bloc sale of a portfolio of seven bulk carriers.

US INVESTOR
Advising a US investor on the acquisition of nine bulk carriers from a German ship owner.

GERMAN SHIP OWNER
Advising a German ship owner and a private equity fund in respect of the acquisition of four 1,700 TEU container ships (newbuildings) with an option of four additional ships, including the negotiation of the building contracts.

PRIVATE EQUITY INVESTOR
Advising a private equity investor in respect of corporate and shipping law matters in connection with the formation of a joint venture with a German ship owner and the acquisition of three container ships by the joint venture.

GERMAN SHIP OWNER
Advising a German ship owner in respect of the acquisition and financing of two cruise vessels.

CLOSED END FUND
Advising a closed end fund in relation to the structuring of the participation of investors as well as on the sale and back-charter of a passenger ferry.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVE INITIATOR
Advising an international active initiator of container funds regarding various German law aspects.

GERMAN ENERGY PROVIDER
Advising a German energy provider in respect of the acquisition and operation of two raise vessels (Errichterschiffe) for the construction of wind farms in offshore wind parks.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPOWNING GROUP
Regular advice to an international shipowning group regarding the structuring and execution of various joint ventures meant to buy companies as well as to purchase and operate ships.

SHIPOWNING COMPANY
Advising and representing a shipowning company regarding the enforcement of claims against a charterer.

SHIPOWNING COMPANY
Advising and representing a shipowning company in relation to an alleged claim of a previous charterer.

INTERNATIONAL CRUISE COMPANY
Acting in the defence of an international cruise company against a claim of travel agency in first and second instance.

GREEK SHIP OWNER
Representing a Greek ship owner as charter guarantor in arbitration proceedings in accordance with the rules of the German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA) relating to time charter agreements for seven VLCCs.

GERMAN SHIPOYARD
Defending a German shipyard against a ship owner before a German arbitral tribunal according to the rules of the German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA).

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING COMPANY
Arbitration proceedings pursuant to the rules of the German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA), obtaining the declaration of enforceability before the higher regional court and enforcement against a German shipyard.

INTERNATIONAL SHIP OWNER
Representing an international ship owner in out of court negotiations with a German ship manager.

INTERNATIONAL OUTFITTER OF MEGA YACHTS
Acting in the enforcement of claims against subcontractors before the regional court.
“A GOOD EXPERIENCE: THEY SUPPORTED US WELL, GAVE US STRONG ADVICE AND THEIR TECHNICAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS ARE ALSO TO BE HIGHLY RATED.”

CHAMBERS GLOBAL 2014 – MARITIME
MAREN BRANDES
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Maren Brandes mainly assists German and international banks in ship financing matters, including syndicated loans, ECA covered loans, lease structures and restructurings and enforcements. Other experience includes shipyard related matters, marine insurance, sale and purchase, cruise and dispute resolution.

DR. CHRISTIAN FINNERN
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Dr. Christian Finnern acts for national and international companies on all aspects of maritime law, in particular the sale and purchase of ships, shipbuilding, all flag and registration matters as well as on the employment and management of ships. Furthermore, Christian has broad experience in the area of ship finance, investments in the maritime environment and in contentious matters.

DR. CHRISTIAN ULRICH WOLF
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Christian Ulrich Wolf advises companies in the maritime sector as well as in other sectors and private equity investors on M&A, joint ventures, corporate structuring and comprehensively on corporate law. He is listed as a recommended lawyer for M&A. In the JUVE Handbook 2014/2015, he is attested an ‘impressive maritime expertise’ and he is recommended for M&A.
Sebastian Baum advises German and international companies in the maritime sector and other industries as well as private equity investors active in the maritime industry in the area of mergers & acquisitions, joint ventures, corporate restructurings, infrastructure projects and dispute resolution.

Gerrit Bartsch specialises in national and international tax matters relating to the maritime and other industries. Furthermore, Gerrit advises on tonnage tax questions as well as the restructuring of companies and the tax structuring of funds.

Verena Scheibe advises companies and institutional investors on transactions and projects in the maritime industry as well as other sectors, in particular private equity, renewable energy and real estate transactions as well as on national and international tax aspects.
Dr. Christine Bader specialises in German and EU competition law and advises clients from the maritime industry as well as a number of sectors and markets on the full range of competition issues such as merger control, joint ventures, co-operations and distribution schemes, investigations by the competition authorities, and compliance programmes. Her practice also comprises public procurement and state aid.

Dr. Nikolaus Krienke advises national and international companies on individual and collective employment law issues and represents clients in employment litigation. His focus is on works-council and trade-union related issues, employment contracts for the management as well as on transactions and restructuring.
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