



NIGEL THOMAS

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SECTORS: Cruise, Maritime, LNG and Offshore, Commercial Shipping

SERVICES: ECA Finance, Asset Finance and Leasing, Finance

BIO

NIGEL IS A SENIOR ADVISOR IN THE MARITIME GROUP.

Nigel was a Partner at Watson Farley & Williams from 1988 to 2022. He also served as Chairman of the firm from 2017 to 2021. He specialises in international finance with an emphasis on shipping finance, commercial shipping and the offshore and cruise industries. He advises leading industry players in, and financiers to, the maritime sector and has previously been the firm's Singapore Office Head and Oslo Office Head. Nigel acted as project lead and sponsor of the WFW team helping in the development of the Poseidon Principles, to support the IMO's goal to reduce shipping's total annual greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2050.

Nigel is recognised as a leading shipping finance lawyer both for the UK and globally by Legal 500 UK, Chambers UK and Chambers Global. Nigel is ranked by Chambers in band 1 for Shipping: Finance – Global Market Leaders, and has been ranked in this category for 11 years. He is also ranked band 1 for Asset Finance: Shipping Finance – UK Wide for the past 14 years in Chambers UK. Chambers recognises that “He is a very good lawyer – very prominent in the industry and very knowledgeable.” and he has an “esteemed reputation in the ship finance sphere,” with a client noting that “he is very well known for his approach and expertise. He has a very deep understanding and knowledge of the sector. He is also clear, concise and commercial”.

EXPERIENCE

Acting as project lead and sponsor of the WFW team helping in the development of the Poseidon Principles, providing legal oversight and drafting input to the group of major banks and other leading industry players, to support the IMO's goal to reduce shipping's total annual greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2050.

WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS

Advising ICBC Financial Leasing Co., Ltd. (“ICBC Leasing”) on the US\$544m sale and lease back of ten 2019-built Suezmax tankers with Frontline Ltd. (“Frontline”). Frontline used the proceeds to fund the acquisition of the ten vessels from Trafigura Maritime Logistics, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Trafigura Group Pte Ltd.

Advising Virgin Voyages on its entry into the cruise sector by placing orders with Fincantieri for three 110,000gt cruise ships, financed by >US\$2bn SACE-backed loans, the largest ECA-backed non-recourse deal for a start-up cruise line to date – including most recently their second cruise ship Valiant Lady, expected to be based in the Mediterranean from 2022.

Advising ING Bank, London Branch (“ING”) in connection with a US\$87m increase to a US\$131m loan facility originally granted to Latsco Shipping Ltd (“Latsco”) to finance the construction of five new high-spec MR product tankers.

Advising Reliance Industries Ltd on shipbuilding, charter and financing contracts for the world’s first Very Large Ethane Carriers (VLEC), six vessels built at SHI in Korea and financed under a US\$572m Korean ECA-backed financing. Deal named one of Trade Finance’s Asia Pacific Deals of the Year 2017.

EDUCATION

St Catharine’s College, Cambridge University, MA

London Business School, Diploma in Corporate Finance

MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Law Society of England & Wales

INSIGHTS

PRESS

WFW CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN SINGAPORE

www.wfw.com/press/wfw-celebrates-25-years-in-singapore/

PRESS

WFW ADVISES NORDEA ON US\$1.5BN PROSAFE RESTRUCTURING

www.wfw.com/press/wfw-advises-nordea-on-us1-5bn-prosafe-restructuring/

PRESS

WFW ADVISES VIRGIN ON DELIVERY OF CRUISE SHIP VALIANT LADY

www.wfw.com/press/wfw-advises-virgin-on-delivery-of-cruise-ship-valiant-lady/

PRESS

WFW ADVISES ICBC FINANCIAL LEASING ON US\$544M SALE AND LEASEBACK WITH FRONTLINE

www.wfw.com/press/wfw-advises-icbc-financial-leasing-on-us544m-sale-and-leaseback-with-frontline/

ARTICLE

THE POSEIDON PRINCIPLES: WILL THEY AFFECT ME?

www.wfw.com/articles/the-poseidon-principles-will-they-affect-me/
