

Freehill Hogan & Mahar LLP

From the Chambers USA guide

What the team is known for Highly respected maritime litigation boutique with expertise covering areas such as maritime protection and indemnity, major casualty cases and maritime criminal defense. Represents a client base composed of shipowners and insurers, including all major P&I clubs.

Strengths One interviewee enthuses: "*They are very strong in developing personal relationships with the client, explaining the pros and cons of each case, and being forthright in dealing with the court and opposing counsel.*"

"*They've got someone who can handle any claim - they have a really broad experience and expertise range,*" observes one client.

Work highlights Represented Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, the owners of a dredge that is alleged to have caused damage to undersea cables when carrying out an operation in Puerto Rico.

Acted for West of England P&I Club in litigation resulting from a fire aboard car carrier vessel M/V 'Courage', including advising on federal investigations and defending against cargo claims.

Significant clients Britannia P&I Club, Hapag-Lloyd, AIG, Standard P&I Club, Maersk Line.

Notable practitioners

Peter Gutowski has long maintained a top-tier practice and provides clients with expertise in both arbitration and litigation arising from cargo claims, charter party disputes, casualty claims and commercial disputes. One client notes that "*he's an easy person to talk to and he gives the best advice.*"

Wayne Meehan is thought to be "*fantastic to work with,*" and to possess "*excellent overall knowledge of the subject matter*" by one interviewee. He dedicates his practice to significant maritime casualty cases and charter party disputes.

The "*excellent*" **Don Murnane** has a great track record in handling disputes covering a range of casualty and contractual disputes. He specializes further in chemical product and perishable goods litigation.

William Juska offers years of experience to a clientele of major insurers and shipping entities in charter party disputes, cargo claims and damage claims, with expertise in litigation and arbitration. He is particularly well regarded for trade sanctions work, for which one interviewee believes that "*he's the go-to guy in the USA.*"

Gina Venezia is described by one client as a "*standout attorney who works diligently to resolve matters in our favor.*" She is greatly experienced in international maritime disputes, advising on both litigation and arbitration. She is noted for her advocacy skills and praised for her "*diplomatic dealing with sensitive issues.*"

Michael Unger is especially proficient in litigation and arbitration involving marine torts, personal injury and cargo and contamination claims. He is also well versed in the exercising of both foreign and domestic provisional remedies including attachment and arrest. One interviewee characterizes him as "*knowledgeable, professional and attentive to detail.*"