

Freehill Hogan & Mahar LLP - Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Litigation (New York) Department

Band 1

Chambers Commentary (based on the Chambers research)

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. Expertise in maritime personal injury claims, workers' compensation claims and occupational disease cases.

Strengths Clients appreciate that *"the firm is very commercially oriented and definitely customer service-driven."*

The firm's attorneys *"respond quickly to requests for advice and assistance, and are extremely well versed in admiralty and maritime law,"* according to sources.

Work highlights Represented Maersk in two claims in New York and Florida concerning an allegation of improper temperature settings on containerized shipments of reactive mix monomer.

Acted for Chimbusco in a claim for payment for delivery of fuel to vessels owned by the since-bankrupted OW Bunker Group, involving a dispute over maritime liens awarded to subcontractor NuStar.

Notable practitioners

[Peter Gutowski](#) is an *"excellent lawyer who is good on his feet, articulate and skillful,"* say sources. He has extensive experience in shipping litigation and arbitration matters, including charter party disputes and enforcement of judgments pertaining to cargo losses and damages.

[William Juska](#) has extensive litigation experience in the shipping industry, representing clients in cargo loss and damage claims, commodities contracts and charter party disputes. Interviewees call him a *"smart and efficient lawyer who sees things clearly,"* and who gives *"top-rate advice."*

Highlighted as a *"premier casualty lawyer,"* [Wayne Meehan](#) specializes in casualty litigation, including cases relating to explosions, fire and collisions. His expertise also extends to charter party disputes, and he is valued for being a *"really pragmatic and upfront lawyer."*

[Don Murnane](#) is a *"very smooth, thorough and detailed attorney who is a very fine advocate for clients,"* according to interviewees. He specializes in litigation and investigation surrounding disputes between chemical product tankers, as well as casualties involving vessels and marine terminals, and terminal agreement disputes.

[Gina Venezia](#) is a "*well-respected*" attorney in the shipping litigation space and recently represented OW Bunkers in litigation before the federal district court. Her advocacy is praised by a commentator, who found her to be "*particularly good at arguing on her feet.*"

[Michael Unger](#) handles a range of matters, with a particular emphasis on personal injury cases. In addition, his litigation capacity extends to cargo claims, marine torts, and charter party and bill of lading disputes.