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Our heritage as a global law firm began in shipping finance and today our services span the maritime spectrum. We provide end-to-end coverage from vessel construction, debt and equity financing, commercial agreements such as chartering arrangements, joint ventures and new market entry and exit strategies, financial and business restructuring, tax planning and

mitigation sanctions advice, day-to-day vessel and business operations including staff payment and other employment matters, insurance coverage issues regulatory advice including environmental impacts and dispute resolution.

Through our long and deep heritage in the maritime industry, and with over 150 maritime lawyers across the world, our team in New York is part of one of the largest dedicated maritime legal practices of any law firm in the world.

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Our experience and expertise is especially valuable in turbulent economic periods and the distressed situations that arise under such conditions. This knowledge has enabled us to guide our clients successfully through a plethora of complicated foreclosures, restructurings and liquidations, including matters undertaken in U.S. Bankruptcy Court where we have acted for creditors in almost all major shipping-related bankruptcy cases since we opened for business in 1990. We regularly advise on structuring transactions to minimize bankruptcy risks including employing bankruptcy remote structures.

TEAM



JOHN KISSANE
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John's practice focuses on commercial litigation and arbitration, insolvencies and work-outs and a broad range of corporate and commercial work ranging from stock and asset acquisitions and sales to company filings and commercial contracts.

John advises and represents lenders, vessel owners, insurers, trading houses and industrial companies. He has broad experience in asset enforcement and foreclosure actions under maritime and State law. John also has extensive experience defending and prosecuting complex fraud, corporate malfeasance and alter ego actions.

John's recent performance in a high stakes arbitration was highlighted in the GAR 100 as "exemplary" and he was noted to be "a person a client may rely upon".



CHRISTOPHER BELISLE
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Chris's practice focuses on a broad range of commercial, corporate and finance transactions primarily in the maritime sector. Chris's corporate experience includes advising in relation to joint ventures, strategic alliances, and in the acquisition, disposal and restructuring of companies in addition to company filings and commercial contracts.

Having spent many years as a litigator, Chris is experienced in commercial litigation involving loan transactions, securities, swaps and derivatives and representation of creditors in insolvencies and workouts. He also advises financial institutions, borrowers and traders on commodities trading and environmental issues.



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Steve's practice focuses on corporate and securities transactions including private equity investments, joint ventures, securities offerings, mergers, acquisitions, regulatory filings, restructurings, other complex business transactions and general corporate matters primarily in the maritime sector.

Steve is admitted to practice law in New York, New Jersey and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. He also advises and issues opinions relating to entities formed in the Marshall Islands and Liberia, including corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships and general partnerships.

Steve is the author of numerous articles relating to mergers, acquisitions, securities law, Marshall Islands and Liberian law and disclosure requirements of public companies, and has taught a continuing legal education course in securities law.



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Daniel's practice focuses on the U.S. tax aspects of cross-border transactions primarily in the maritime sector. Daniel advises on U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), both in compliance and in documenting FATCA provisions in loan and other agreements.

Daniel leads the firm's U.S. sanctions practices, and advises clients in understanding and complying with the rules and regulations of the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). In addition, Daniel advises on ERISA (U.S. pension law) and the regulation of swaps and other derivatives.



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Neil's practice focuses on commercial litigation and arbitration matters (particularly those involving international or maritime issues), international contract disputes, creditors' rights in U.S. bankruptcy proceedings, obtaining pre- and post-judgment security, and vessel foreclosure. He also works on international and domestic transactions in the transportation sector, particularly those with maritime legal issues.

Neil is the immediate past Chair of the New York State Bar Association ("NYSBA"), International Section. He also co-chairs the NYSBA International Section Transportation Committee and is the Secretary of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Committee of the Maritime Law Association.



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Celinda is an Associate in the firm's Dispute Resolution Group in New York. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation and arbitration matters, including those matters involving maritime issues and business disputes.

Celinda has represented creditors in U.S. bankruptcy proceedings, and regularly advises on maritime lien rights, charter party issues, vessel sale contracts, and management and employment agreements.

**TODD JOHNSON**

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Todd is Counsel in the Corporate group in the New York office of Watson Farley & Williams. He focuses on corporate and finance transactions, primarily in capital markets, ship finance, SEC compliance, corporate governance and general corporate and securities matters.

Todd was formerly Legal Counsel at the Navios Maritime Group, where he spent eight years based in Greece advising the publicly listed maritime group on US capital market debt and equity transactions, bank financings, cross-border transactions and corporate governance. He has extensive experience in the maritime industry, having advised on vessel acquisitions and sales, including the drafting and negotiations of MOAs and shipbuilding contracts. Additionally, Todd represented the group's South American based logistics subsidiary in various financing and acquisition transactions.

**SARAH ROE**

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Sarah is an associate in the firm's Dispute Resolution Group. She is involved in the firm's US sanctions practice, and advises clients in understanding and complying with the rules and regulations of the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Sarah joined Watson Farley & Williams in 2015. She received a J.D. degree from St. John's University School of Law in 2015, where she served as the Executive Research Editor of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review.



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