



ALEXANDER WRIGHT

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Year of call 2007

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Practice Areas

- Shipping & commodities
- Shipbuilding & offshore
- Commercial/Insurance

Practice Profile

Alexander has a substantial practice in arbitration both in his own right and as part of a team in complex and high-value proceedings. His wide network of international clients includes parties based in China, Korea, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.

He has acted both in substantive arbitral proceedings, either *ad hoc* or under various different arbitral body rules (LMAA, LME, LCIA, ICC). He has experience of issues relating to challenges to arbitral awards and to their enforcement.

Shipping and Commodities

Alexander has acted in a significant number of dry shipping and commodities matters. He has considerable experience of disputes arising out of charterparties, contracts of affreightment and bills of lading, ship sale MOAs, forward freight agreements (FFAs), the international sale and carriage of goods, and commodity sale and purchase agreements. He has acted for and against guarantors within the shipping industry, and is developing a niche practice in claims against ship managers.

Alex has substantial experience in a number of wet shipping matters, particularly concerning the arrest of vessels.

Recent experience includes:

- Acting for respondent Chinese charterers in a US\$70m charterparty repudiation dispute, involving issues of waiver and non-compliance with an anti-technicality clause;
- Acting for owners in ad hoc arbitration concerning the termination of time charter for breach of oil major approvals clause;
- Acting in an LME arbitration concerning the repudiation of a consignment of copper cathode;
- Acting for sellers in a seven-day US\$20m *ad hoc* arbitration arising out of the repudiation of a ship sale agreement on the NSF 93 form;
- Acting for owners in a dispute concerning the validity of two parent company guarantees for two ten-year Capesize time charters;
- Acting for respondent ship managers in three concurrent arbitrations arising out of the alleged negligent mismanagement of three sister ships, total claims US\$3.5m;

- Acting for respondent voyage charterers in a claim for US\$1.5m by disponent owners arising out of stevedore damage;
- Acting for sellers in an MOA dispute for US\$1m over the alleged breach of a “freedom from encumbrances” warranty;
- Advising on whether a long-term aluminium sale and purchase contract could be determined on grounds of *force majeure*;
- Acting for owners in an US\$110m arbitration arising out of the repudiation of a VLCC COA by a major international oil company;
- Various charterparty disputes including laytime and demurrage, off-hire, deadfreight, speed and performance, bunkering, deviation, damages for breach of warranty / due diligence obligations, stevedore damage, etc.

Shipbuilding and Offshore

Alexander has been involved in a range of shipbuilding disputes across a range of types of vessel, including bulk carriers, oil/chemical tankers, ro-ro passenger ferries, and superyachts. He has acted for owners (and their financing banks), shipyards and yard sub-contractors. He also has experience of offshore and towage disputes.

Recent work has included:

- An ICC arbitration concerning disputes arising out of a joint venture agreement for the procurement of oil and gas drilling services offshore Saudi Arabia;
- Acting for charterers in a US\$114m dispute following the rejection of a newbuild bulk carrier on delivery ex yard into a long-term charter on grounds of “hull switching”;
- Acting for the respondent turnkey sub-contractors in an LCIA arbitration arising of delays to the completion of a ro-ro passenger ferry, claim value approx €15m and SGD 15m;
- Acting for the tugowners in a US\$10m dispute arising out of the towage of a FPSO from the Far East to the Gulf;
- Acting for owners in an LMAA arbitration concerning substantial warranty claims (approx €500,000) arising out of defects in a new luxury superyacht;
- Acting for the buyer (and their assignee financing bank) in a claim for the return of advance purchase monies following the cancellation of a shipbuilding contract, claim value approximately €12.5m;
- Acting for the yard in a four-week arbitration following the rejection of an oil/chemical tanker on tender on the grounds of various construction defects, claim value US\$20m.

General Commercial / Insurance & Reinsurance

Alexander also undertakes arbitration work in connection with general commercial disputes, particularly in the field of insurance and reinsurance.

His general commercial disputes experience includes banking, derivatives (particularly under the ISDA Master Agreement), guarantees, purchase options, agency disputes (including claims for breaches of warranty of authority against agents), commercial fraud, joint venture agreements, construction and engineering disputes, shareholders’ agreements, and other general contractual matters.

His insurance and reinsurance experience encompasses non-disclosure, misrepresentation, fraud, breaches of warranty and condition precedent, and issues over policy construction including the operation of exclusions. Specific reinsurance experience includes issues of aggregation, allocation and ascertainment.