

The Yacht Team at C Solutions

The yacht practice at C Solutions is staffed by a global team of experts with wide experience of the full range of issues that may affect those involved in the industry. Our yacht practice provides a “cradle to grave” service to owners, brokers, insurers, charterers, managers and builders. In particular we advise on finance, new building contracts, sale and purchase, insurance, casualty management and crewing. Our philosophy is to provide a high level commercial and flexible approach to legal advice and claims handling, while maintaining the standards and personal approach expected of a leading services provider.

International network

Headquartered in the City of London, we also have offices in Hamburg, Hong Kong, Piraeus, Singapore and Sydney. Through joint venture partnerships and network partner affiliations, we are able to use the services of local lawyers and claims experts as C Solutions’ consultants in a large number of jurisdictions including Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Dubai, Monaco, Mumbai, Scandinavia and Shanghai. We have commercial and legal correspondents around the World.

New Build and Sale & Purchase Contracts

A strong, well-written contract forms the bedrock of any new build project or sale and purchase transaction, and is essential in mitigating the risk of disputes and high legal costs should any problems arise during the construction of the vessel, its use thereafter and any subsequent sale. Our team has wide experience of working with clients and their service providers in negotiating and drafting such contracts, with a view to ensuring that all aspects are covered and identified in the contract.

Insurance

It is vital that there is sufficient insurance in place to cover any insurable risks that may arise. The type and extent of the cover needed will depend largely on how and where the yacht will be operated and whether it will be used for commercial or solely private purposes. C Solutions advises on all insurance matters from the drafting of policy wordings to managing claims that may arise. We have a strong understanding of our clients’ needs and our close working relationships with marine insurance brokers and underwriters enables us to provide a trustworthy and cost-effective service advising on the most suitable insurance cover for our clients’ requirements.

Crewing and Managing

Whether the yacht is being used for private or commercial purposes, many factors affect how the yacht should be crewed and managed including flag requirements, crew nationalities, ownership and cruising areas. It is important for all parties that there are legal agreements in place and our yacht team has wide knowledge of all of these.

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Casualties – 24 hour emergency response

Our yacht team advises on casualty response planning, management, investigation and coordination, including collision, salvage, towage, total loss, piracy, wreck removal and pollution cases involving all types of yacht. As well as immediate casualty response, we advise on related legal issues including salvage contracts, jurisdiction, limitation and any subsequent litigation. Our team includes qualified yacht specialists who are well-versed in the latest shipboard equipment and technology.

Our track record

Some of our recent cases are listed below.

Advising H&M underwriters of yacht damaged whilst undergoing repairs. Our role included advising on liabilities and recoveries against multiple third parties and co-ordinating proceedings in the United States.

Advising H&M underwriters following a fire on board a yacht undergoing modification in a Greek shipyard.

Advising Owners, H&M and P&I insurers following a collision whilst at berth in Monaco. Our role included evidence collection, advice on liability and jurisdiction and the co-ordination of advice and claims across several jurisdictions and involving a number of our offices.

Advising on a newbuild yacht at Lurssen Shipyard in Germany. C Solutions was instructed on behalf of owners to advise on the negotiation and drafting of the full range of contracts with the yard.

Advice to owners following the total loss of a yacht on a voyage from Spain to the UK during poor weather conditions. C Solutions was instructed to collect evidence, investigate the circumstances surrounding the sinking and advise on various insurance and coverage issues.

Acting for Owners and H&M Underwriters of a 55m superyacht damaged at berth by another vessel. Charterparty dispute on behalf of charterers, including recovering substantial outstanding fees from the other side.

Defence of a claim following a collision between two high value yachts during a regatta.

Our People

We are staffed by lawyers, experienced claims handlers from the P&I and H&M sectors, specialists in the yachting industry, Master Mariners and insurance industry professionals and offer a one stop claims facility around the clock, around the world.

Chris Beesley

Group Executive Chairman, Singapore

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After more than three decades with a leading international law firm in Hong Kong and the UK, latterly as joint head of the shipping casualty department, Chris established the C Solutions Group in 2000 and now devotes 100% of his time overseeing the insurance and legal claims division of the company with an emphasis on shipping casualty work. He relocated to Asia in April 2010 to develop the C Solutions network in the region. Chris has gained a unique knowledge and understanding of all matters relating to yacht work.

Andrew Goldsworthy

Claims Consultant, UK

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With a distinguished career in marine law in the City of London dating back to 1972, Andrew was and has many years' experience in the shipping and insurance arena. For the past 25 years, he has specialised in drafting bespoke insurance policies for all types of yacht including a number of superyachts and dealing with yacht casualty cases in which C Solutions have been engaged. He has also been involved in disputes over charters and coverage, fires and total losses. He is a passionate yachtsman with an RYA Yachtmaster qualification as well as being a qualified diver.

Clive Beesley

Chief Operations Officer, Claims Director, London & Hong Kong

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Clive has been involved in shipping and insurance claims for several decades and was London law firm trained in marine casualty related matters, from inception through the investigative stages and beyond, to conclusion via commercial settlement, arbitration or litigation. Clive has handled hundreds of cases, many of which during the 25 years he spent in South East Asia, whilst living in Hong Kong; where he has permanent resident status. He has also worked in a number of out of the way places. From our offices in London and Hong Kong, Clive's forte remains investigating, negotiating and resolving claims of a varied nature on a global basis.

Ben Horn

Consultant, London

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A veteran dry shipping lawyer, formerly a partner of Ince & Co, Ben handles all manner of charter party and cargo claims work with a staunch marine insurance portfolio in arbitration and litigation areas. He remains Senior Partner of HCO, a London law firm. Ben's expertise covers all manner of sale and purchase issues, build contracts and financing of yachts of all sizes.

Irene Ballini

Legal Consultant, Monaco

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Irene holds a PhD in International Commercial Law and a Masters in Economic and Business Law. In 2002 she joined our network partner Enrico Mazier Law Office in Monaco, which became SCS Mazier, Ballini & Cie in 2012. Irene advises on the full range of marine contracts, claims and disputes and has experience of the full range of yacht matters.