



Transportation and Logistics

**JONES
WALKER**

Jones Walker LLP advises clients across every stage of the supply chain — from contract formation and regulatory compliance to risk management and dispute resolution.

We represent clients operating across ocean, rail, air, truck, and inland waterways, delivering practical, commercially grounded legal strategies aligned with how global trade operates in practice.

With experience before federal and state courts and key regulatory agencies, our attorneys help clients navigate complex, multijurisdictional issues. Whether negotiating sophisticated transportation agreements, responding to agency inquiries, or resolving high-stakes disputes, we provide coordinated counsel designed to protect and advance business objectives.

Comprehensive Legal Solutions for Shippers, Beneficial Cargo Owners, Importers, Exporters, and Commodities Traders

Our clients operate across global commerce, each facing distinct legal and commercial pressures. We help manage risk, control costs, and integrate transportation, trade, and commercial considerations into cohesive legal strategies.



Shippers, BCOs, and Cargo Interests

- Service contract negotiation and liability management
- Cargo insurance and claims recovery
- Demurrage and detention mitigation
- Payment structuring and credit risk management
- Multimodal claims strategy
- Alignment of Incoterms® with contractual obligations

Importers, Exporters, and Commodities Traders

- Trade compliance (customs, sanctions, export controls)
- Freight pricing and indexed agreements
- Spot and forward transportation arrangements
- Tax considerations tied to logistics activities
- Letters of credit and documentary compliance
- Long-term supply agreements with embedded logistics terms

Core Capabilities

TRANSACTIONAL AND COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS

- Multimodal master service agreements
- Motor carrier, barge, and freight brokerage contracts
- Ocean carrier service contracts and Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier (NVOCC) arrangements
- Pricing, fuel surcharge, and risk allocation provisions
- Incoterms® and Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) commercial terms
- Letters of credit and trade finance structures
- Cargo insurance program review
- Strategies for managing demurrage and detention exposure

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

- Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) compliance and proceedings
- Surface Transportation Board (STB) matters
- United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) licensing, waivers, and Jones Act issues
- Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) trucking and brokerage compliance
- Common carrier classification and tariff obligations
- Demurrage and detention billing compliance (post-May 2024 rules)
- Environmental and safety regulation
- Tax considerations impacting trade and logistics



LITIGATION, ARBITRATION, AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Cargo loss, damage, and delay claims
- FMC complaint proceedings
- Ocean, rail, air, and motor carrier disputes
- Carmack Amendment and Carriage of Goods by Sea Act matters
- Freight forwarder and NVOCC liability
- Class actions and complex litigation
- Arbitration and mediation in domestic and international forums

MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS, AND DUE DILIGENCE

- M&A due diligence for companies owning transportation assets
- Trucking fleet acquisition review and regulatory clearance
- Review of inherited transportation agreement portfolios
- FMC, STB, and FMCSA regulatory approval coordination
- Post-acquisition integration of compliance programs
- Risk assessment of carrier liability exposure in transactions
- Evaluation of cargo insurance and indemnity structures
- MARAD and Jones Act implications in maritime acquisitions

Representative Experience

- Prosecution and defense of cargo loss and damage claims against ocean carriers, NVOCCs, and freight forwarders in US District Courts and state courts
- Negotiation and drafting of multimodal MSAs governing ocean, rail, and drayage services for Fortune 500 importers with complex global supply chains
- Transportation-related due diligence for private equity acquisitions of regional trucking fleets, including Carmack Amendment liability review and FMCSA compliance audits
- Representation of BCOs in STB competitive access proceedings challenging Class I railroad rate increases on grain and agricultural commodity shipments
- Structuring of letters of credit and risk allocation provisions in long-term commodity purchase agreements integrating Incoterms® 2020 and UCC Article 2
- Representation of parties involved in Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act preemption litigation involving freight broker negligent hiring claims and state-law safety regulations
- Cargo insurance program review and claim recovery for importers of perishable goods following vessel deviation and temperature excursion losses
- Environmental and safety compliance review for shippers of hazardous materials under 49 CFR, IMDG Code, and IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations

- Multidistrict arbitration of charter party disputes involving dry bulk carriers and commodity traders under London Maritime Arbitrators Association and Society of Maritime Arbitrators rules
- Advising on commodity trading rules such as National Grain and Feed Association rules
- Management of strategy related to executive and independent agency rulemakings, STB mergers, and agency investigations at DOT, the FMC, STB, Federal Trade Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Commerce
- Structuring of international sales and warehousing agreements for multinational companies, retailers, and wholesalers



Highly Coordinated, Multidisciplinary Legal Counsel

Jones Walker delivers integrated transportation and logistics counsel supported by deep experience in regulatory, transactional, and dispute resolution matters.

Our team works seamlessly with attorneys across the firm, including corporate, tax, labor and employment, environmental, and government relations, to provide coordinated, cross-disciplinary solutions aligned with clients' business objectives.

Contact Us



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