



Maritime Industry

**JONES
WALKER**

Jones Walker LLP understands the challenges involved in doing business in and navigating the complex issues of the maritime industry. For more than 80 years, we have partnered and grown with our maritime clients to resolve the unique challenges of the maritime industry.

Industry-Tailored Guidance

With one of the largest groups of maritime-focused attorneys in the United States, Jones Walker offers clients a cross-disciplinary team experienced in all aspects of the maritime industry and the ability to offer creative and effective solutions to any maritime matter.

Our clients come from across the industry spectrum, from traditional blue water, offshore, and inland markets to emerging markets like offshore wind, and include:

- Shipowners, operators, and charterers
- Towboats and barge lines
- Lenders, financial institutions, and investors
- Freight forwarders, non-vessel operating common carriers, and logistics companies
- Ports and terminals
- Shipyards
- Cargo owners and blue water shipping interests
- Offshore service companies and contractors
- Cruise lines
- Underwriters and insurers

Maritime Finance and Transactions

Jones Walker is a market leader in our region for maritime financing, M&A and commercial contracts, and has one of the broadest and deepest maritime transactional practices in the United States, representing numerous public and private companies and lenders in a diverse array of financings, acquisitions, divestitures, restructurings, and commercial contract needs. We have handled both domestic and international transactions for clients in a variety of industries. Our team of attorneys has experience with financings involving vessels flagged in the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Liberia and Vanuatu, as well as other major open registries like Panama and the Bahamas.

We regularly represent marine lenders and borrowers in financings, restructurings, Title XI financings, loans, revolving credit facilities, maritime lien enforcement, foreclosures, ship seizures, and maritime bankruptcies. We are frequently called on to counsel clients in complex ocean and inland domestic and international financings, and we have handled billions of dollars in financing and refinancing for maritime industry clients.

Jones Walker represents acquiring companies and targets in a variety of merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions in all aspects of the maritime industry, including negotiated stock purchases, asset purchases, mergers, and tender offers.

Our team has extensive experience in the negotiation and drafting of various marine contracts, including complex offshore construction agreements and related subcontractor agreements, freight agreements and broker agreements, bills of lading, terminal tariffs, berth applications, letters of credit, shipyard construction and repair contracts, naval architect contracts, international sales contracts, and maritime commercial contracts. In the offshore wind space, we advise clients on all maritime aspects for offshore projects, including permits, offshore customer and vendor contracts, EPC construction agreements, charter parties, marine manning and crewing agreements, and regulatory compliance.

“Jones Walker is a tremendous maritime firm which provides the best possible solutions to address complex legal issues.”

— *Chambers USA* client quote

Regulatory and Government Relations

Our maritime regulatory practice encompasses the Jones Act and other coastwise trade laws and regulations, the construction and documentation of vessels and marine assets, citizenship determinations for the purposes of documentation and trade eligibility, manning requirements and exemptions applicable to offshore operations on the US Outer Continental Shelf, and the US Coast Guard's enforcement of various regulations.

Our attorneys also advise on regulatory issues that significantly impact the offshore wind space and represent clients before the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Coast Guard, the Maritime Administration, US Customs and Border Protection, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Federal Maritime Commission, the National Transportation Safety Board, and other federal, state, and local agencies.

We also handle US Customs & Border Protection investigations, seizures, protests, classification disputes, fines, penalties and forfeitures, advisory rulings, convention and treaty analysis, immigration and the assessment of vessel repair duty; the US Army Corps of Engineers including permits and authorizations; deep water port licensing, and representations arising out of government-sponsored programs, such as government-impelled cargoes and federal procurement (solicitation and bid protests), and contract disputes and audits.

For more than three decades, Jones Walker's government relations practice has been actively involved in drafting and implementing laws affecting the maritime industry. We address the many legislative and regulatory issues of regional, national, and international scope that affect maritime industry clients. Our highly-experienced staff assists clients by monitoring federal legislative and executive activities; participating in regulatory agency administrative proceedings; and preparing, supporting, or opposing legislative initiatives on behalf of our clients.

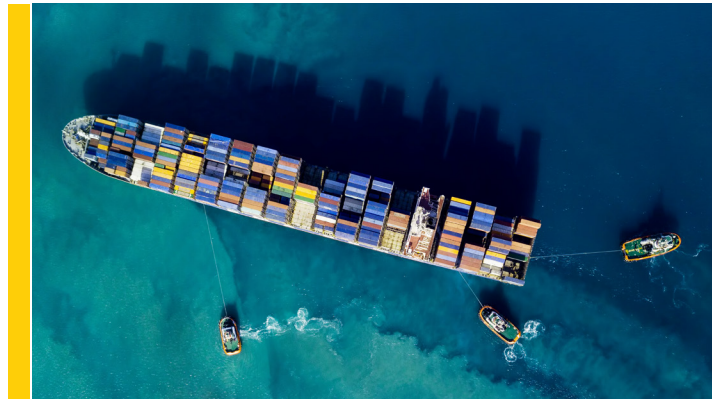
Litigation

Our attorneys routinely handle casualty litigation including collisions, allisions, and groundings. This includes pollution investigations and US Coast Guard proceedings, limitation of liability actions, property damage claims, attachment and seizures, fire, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act incidents, administrative hearings, Suits in Admiralty Act, pilotage, toxic exposure, labor disputes, OSHA, and the representation of vessel owners, manufacturers, shipyard, and cruise lines facing products liability claims.

Our team regularly works with clients concerning contractual disputes including charter parties, indemnities, insurance, terminal agreements, tariffs, master service agreements, maritime liens, salvage, general average claims, and bills of lading.

Jones Walker's maritime insurance practice handles issues such as broker's and agent's liability, subrogation, fraud, and insurance coverage analysis and resolutions including cargo liability, charterer's legal liability, excess liability, freight, demurrage, hull and machinery insurance, pollution liability, protection and indemnity insurance, anti-indemnity disputes, towage, and wharfinger's liability.

We advise on matters involving employment-related injuries and death such as personal injury and wrongful death claims, claims of Jones Act seamen, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act, Jones Act sexual harassment, maintenance and cure, blue and brown water injuries, and offshore platform claims.



Honors and Rankings

- Jones Walker ranks nationally in the 2025 edition of **Chambers USA** in the Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Litigation (outside New York), Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Regulatory, and Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Finance practices.
- The **Legal 500** United States 2025 recognizes Jones Walker as a "Top Tier" firm in Transport: Shipping – Finance and is recommended in the Transport – Shipping: Litigation and Regulation category.
- Jones Walker has been named a National Tier 1 "Best Law Firm" in Admiralty and Maritime Law in the 2026 edition of *U.S. News – Best Lawyers*® "Best Law Firms."



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