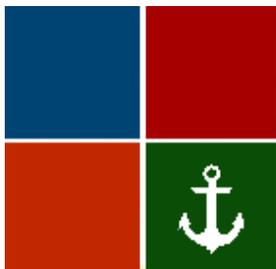


RESEARCH REPORT

SHIPPING LAW FIRMS AND LAWYERS IN INDIA
for Admiralty, Shipping & Maritime work

2024 SHIP ARREST INDIA JURISDICTION



shiparrest.co.in

shiparrest.co.in is an initiative by SALK [Ship Arrest Legal Knowledge].

We are continuously working on our research for a better and near perfect report and our next research report of shipping law firms and individual practitioners will be released during January 2026. Should you think that error may have crept in or the report is not upto date please feel free to write to us.

This report is prepared on the basis of our in-depth market study and analysis for the period December 01, 2023 –December 31, 2024.

We do not accept paid listings.

LEGAL SYSTEM IN INDIA

The Indian Judiciary is partly a continuation of the British legal system established by the English in the mid-19th century based on a typical hybrid legal system known as the Common Law System, in which customs, precedents and legislative are all components of the law. The Constitution of India is the supreme legal document of the country. There are various levels of judiciary in India – different types of courts, each with varying powers depending on the tier and jurisdiction bestowed upon them. They form a strict hierarchy of importance, in line with the order of the courts in which they sit, with the Supreme Court of India at the top, followed by High Courts of respective states with district judges sitting in District Courts and Magistrates of Second Class and Civil Judge (Junior Division) at the bottom. Courts hear criminal and civil cases, including disputes between individuals and the government. The Indian judiciary is independent of the executive and legislative branches of government according to the Constitution.

ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION IN INDIA

The Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Acts, 2017 is in force from April 1, 2018. A bill in this regard was cleared by the Rajya Sabha on July 24, 2017. The Lok Sabha passed the bill on March 10, 2017 which got the presidential assent on August 9, 2017 and was duly published in the Gazette on the said date. Vide Notification S.O. 767(E) Part-II s. 3(ii) 22-2-2018 the enforcement date is April 1, 2018 been notified.

The High Courts in India having admiralty jurisdiction are the Bombay High Court; Calcutta High Court; Odisha High Court; Madras High Court; Karnataka High Court; Gujarat High Court; Kerala High Court; Telangana High Court and Andhra Pradesh High.

A ship can be arrested anywhere in India but at the time when the admiralty suit is filed in the High Court, the ship should be present in that state territorial waters. for a maritime claim or a lien as detailed in the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Acts, 2017 on the grounds as set out therein by filing a legal action in the respective High Courts having admiralty jurisdiction and can be exercisable over the waters up to and including the territorial waters of the High Court jurisdictions.

LAW FIRMS AND LAWYERS REGISTRATION WITH THE HIGH COURT

To file appearance, vakalatnama or vakil patra on the Original Side in the High Court, it is mandatory that lawyers or law firms have to register and obtain a registration number now there is a further requirement by the High Court that all lawyers or law firms should register with NIC (National Informatics Center) and it is mandatory for all advocate on record / law firms or lawyers to provide the NIC registration number without which the computer system will not accept any court filings.

Admiralty jurisdiction is on the original side in the High Court having admiralty jurisdiction therefore all lawyers or law firms have to fulfill the above requirements.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Our methodology to understand lawyers or law firms practicing shipping law in India is an in-depth study using the most common method in combination with our in-depth methodology, market study, lawyers or law firms reputation in the market, performance, capability, education, transactions, market share, historical track records, progress and development, innovative ideas, use of technology and our continuous process on keeping a track of all admiralty matters in India and the law firms and lawyers practicing shipping work brings this report to near perfect, our methodology also includes study of the rankings and recommendations given by Legal500, Chambers and Partners, Shippinglawyers.NET and other bodies that conducts research to rank and recommend lawyers or law firms on without payment basis. This report is for the period December 01, 2019 – December 31, 2020. We are continuously working on our research for a better and near perfect report and our next research report of shipping law firms and individual practitioners will be released during January 2022. Should you think that error may have crept in or the report is not upto date please feel free to write to us. .



TOP BAND SHIPPING LAW FIRMS

Band 1 / Tier 1 : Shipping Law Firm in India

1. BRUS CHAMBERS, Advocates & Solicitors

Band 2 / Tier 2 : Shipping Law Firms in India

1. CRAWFORD BAYLEY & CO
2. BOSE & MITRA & CO

Other Recommended : Shipping Law Firm in India

1. MULLA & MULLA & CRAIGIE BLUNT & CAROE
2. ANAND, ABDUL & VINODH ASSOCIATES

Individual Lawyer: Shipping Practitioner in India

1. MS. PAURAMI SHETH
2. MR. ASHWIN SHANKAR



LEADING INDIVIDUALS AND RISING STARS IN INDIA

Leading Individuals : Shipping Practitioner in India

1. DR. SHRIKANT PARESHNATH HATHI
2. MS. BINITA SHRIKANT HATHI
3. MR. PRASHANT ASHER
4. MR. AMITAVA MAJUMDAR

Rising Stars : Shipping Practitioner in India

1. Ms. S. Priya
2. Ms. Bulbul Singh- Rajpurohit
3. Mr. Pritish Das
4. Mr. Pabitra Dutta
5. Mr. Subhojit Roy

BAND 1 / TOP TIER : THE BEST - LAW FIRM for Shipping, Maritime & Admiralty work in India

1. BRUS CHAMBERS, Advocates & Solicitors

Brus Chambers, a highly specialized law firm with a focus on shipping law since 1992, has maintained its formidable position as a preeminent force in the field and is widely recognized as "the best" shipping law firm in India. Dr. Shrikant Pareshnath Hathi is also celebrated as "the best" shipping lawyer in the nation. The firm commands an authoritative and leading presence in India for shipping matters, upholding one of the country's most respected shipping practices. Ms. Binita Hathi, working closely with Dr. Hathi, is known for her expertise in ship arrest matters. She is exceptionally strategic and result-driven, consistently delivering successful outcomes for clients.



The shipping practice of Brus Chambers is internationally esteemed for its outstanding proficiency, particularly noted for excellence in both dry and wet shipping law. As a specialized solicitor firm, Brus Chambers is composed of partners who are highly credentialed, extensively experienced, and possess in-depth knowledge, allowing them to adeptly manage complex and intricate matters in shipping law.

Dr. Shrikant Pareshnath Hathi and Ms. Binita Hathi jointly lead the firm's shipping team. Known for his strategic acumen, Dr. Hathi is highly recommended by peers for his expertise in shipping, maritime, and admiralty law. The firm's specialized attorneys work collaboratively within their respective areas of expertise to provide comprehensive legal support.

Dr. Hathi, a law graduate with a master's degree from Government Law College under Mumbai University, also holds a Ph.D., is an Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court of India, and is a dual-qualified Solicitor in India (practicing) and the United Kingdom (practicing). He has also completed specialized studies at Harvard University. His primary practice is within the Bombay High Court and other High Courts across India, with a specialization in shipping, projects, and project-related litigation.

Brus Chambers has strengthened its shipping and admiralty team by welcoming Mr. Pritish Das and Ms. Joni Oraon. The firm has expanded with a second Mumbai office for corporate and advisory work in the shipping and related sectors, managed by Uttam Hathi.

KEY CONTACTS

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BAND 2 / TIER 2 - LAW FIRMS for Shipping, Maritime & Admiralty work in India

1. CRAWFORD BAYLEY & CO

Mr. Prashant Asher, a distinguished solicitor and partner at Crawford Bayley & Co., is the head of the firm's esteemed shipping practice. With extensive experience spanning several years, he represents numerous prominent ship-breaking entities and has gained recognition as a leading legal practitioner in the specialized field of ship-breaking law. Mr. Asher has earned a reputation as one of the foremost authorities in this niche area of practice, owing to his depth of expertise and longstanding involvement in the sector.



Notably, Mr. Asher is a solicitor in India who has innovatively adapted his professional approach, effectively transitioning his operational focus and resources to cater to the dynamic and rapidly evolving needs of the ship-breaking industry. His dedication and commitment to the field are exemplified by his swift and strategic legal interventions, especially concerning ships that arrive at Alang, Gujarat, for dismantling. His proactive and responsive approach enables him to facilitate and expedite the legal processes surrounding the arrival of vessels destined for breaking, ensuring prompt resolution of shipping-related disputes and litigation matters.

Furthermore, Mr. Asher's singular ability to seamlessly combine his legal expertise with an in-depth understanding of the shipping industry uniquely positions him as a key player in the legal representation of ship-breakers. His exclusive focus on shipping litigation, particularly in relation to the regulatory, contractual, and operational complexities of ship-breaking, underscores his specialization in providing comprehensive legal solutions to the sector. His consistent advocacy in this area has solidified his standing as an exceptional legal expert in shipping litigation.

KEY CONTACTS

1. Mr. Prashant Asher

+91-9820068003

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WEBSITE:

2. BOSE & MITRA & CO

Bose & Mitra & Co., a prominent law firm headquartered in Mumbai, is spearheaded by Mr. Amitava Majumdar, known colloquially as "Raja." Mr. Majumdar is a partner in the firm, possessing substantial expertise in maritime law, specifically in the domain of shipping and ship arrest, with a marked focus on contentious and adversarial matters within the shipping and admiralty law spectrum. His knowledge in this specialized area renders him a notable figure in shipping litigation and arrest procedures, consistently leveraging his extensive understanding of admiralty law principles.

Supporting Mr. Majumdar in the firm's operations are Mr. Aditya Krishnamurthy, an associate partner, along with Ms. Damayanti Sen and Mr. Pabitra Dutta, all of whom are actively engaged in the practice. This team collaboratively drives the firm's contentious maritime matters, working closely under Mr. Majumdar's guidance to ensure strategic representation in complex shipping disputes.

Mr. Amitava Majumdar, with an academic background rooted in international legal studies, holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. This qualification not only provides him with a strong foundation in legal principles but also equips him with a nuanced perspective on global maritime law, further augmenting his competency in handling cross-border maritime disputes and ship arrest matters.



KEY CONTACTS

1. Mr. Amitava Majumdar

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OTHER RECOMMENDED - LAW FIRMS for Shipping, Maritime & Admiralty work in India

1. MULLA & MULLA & CRAIGIE BLUNT & CAROE

The shipping practice is headed by Mr. Shardul Thacker a solicitor and a partner of the firm, he also heads the firms banking and offshore practice group, is well experienced and has fantastic shipping practice.

Mr. Thacker advises foreign corporate on the legal and regulatory aspects of investing in oil and gas, LNG, port projects (including on RFQ, RFP and other bid documents); structuring of bidding entity; and assessment of risk areas. He advises foreign rig owners, LNG corporate and terminal operators on regulatory issues, bid documents and the assessment of risk areas, including pollution liability.

KEY CONTACTS

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WEBSITE: mullaandmulla.com

2. ANAND, ABDUL & VINODH ASSOCIATES

A Chennai based law firm, its shipping practice is headed by Mr. Anand David. The firm is very well known for its prompt service and assists clients giving personal attention to the matter, is frequently recommended in South of India.

KEY CONTACTS

1. Mr. Anand David

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WEBSITE:



INDIVIDUAL SHIPPING PRACTITIONER for Shipping, Maritime & Admiralty work in India

1. MS. PAURAMI SHETH

She is an Ahmedabad based lawyer practicing in the Gujarat High Court, her shipping practice has taken an upward swing mainly on ship breakers disputes and recoveries, she takes up direct client as well as instructions mainly from Mumbai law firms,. She is 'tactful'.

KEY CONTACTS

1. Ms. Paurami Sheth

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WEBSITE:

2. MR. ASHWIN SHANKAR

He concentrates on shipping litigation mainly on recoveries and has a very decent shipping practice. is a standalone lawyer who works alongside with his team under the name The Chambers of Mr. George Rebello.

KEY CONTACTS

1. Mr. Ashwin Shankar

+91-22-22620036

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RECOMMENDED COUNSELS

- 01.Mr. Venkatesh Dhond (Senior Counsel)
- 02.Mr. Sunip Sen
- 03.Mr. Rahul Narichania (Senior Counsel)
- 04.Mr. Prashant Pratap (Senior Counsel)
- 05.Mr. Janak Dwarkadas (Senior Counsel)
- 06.Mr. Akshay Kolse-Patil
- 07.Mr. Aspi Chinoy (Senior Counsel)
- 08.Mr. C.A. Sundaram (Senior Counsel)
- 09.Mr. Zarir Bharucha

Counsels in India are arguing counsels akin to barrister-at-law, they do not interact with clients or parties. They are briefed by law firms or individual practitioners only although advocates and solicitors too can appear and plead.

The legal system in England uses the term counsel as an approximate synonym for a barrister-at-law, and may apply it to mean either a single person who pleads a cause, or collectively, the body of barristers engaged in a case. Some judges and lawyers apply the term interchangeably between both barristers and solicitor advocates.

The difference between "Barrister" and "Counsel" is subtle. "Barrister" is a professional title awarded by one of the four Inns of Court, and is used in a barrister's private, academic or professional capacity. "Counsel" is used to refer to a barrister who is instructed on a particular case. It is customary to use the third person when addressing a barrister instructed on a case: "Counsel is asked to advise" rather than "You are asked to advise".

The legal term counselor, or more fully, counselor-at-law, became practically obsolete in England, but continued in use locally in Ireland as an equivalent to barrister, where a Senior Counsel (S.C.) is equivalent to the English Queen's Counsel (Q.C.)



SHIPPING LAW FIRM / LAWYERS CONTACT DETAILS

Below listed are contact details of recommended shipping law firms or lawyers in India

Brus Chambers
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(Mr. Shardul Thacker)

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(Mr. Amitava Bose)

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