

01 HARRY THEOCHARI Norton Rose Fulbright
A DOMINANT figure in the industry, Harry Theochari heads the team that scooped Maritime Lawyer of the Year at the Lloyd's List Awards 2015. A deal innovator, he remains at the very forefront of shipping finance across a wide spectrum of transactions.

02 KEVIN MARTIN, CONOR WARDE, IAN STEWART Clyde & Co
CLYDE & Co advised on the largest merger of independent third party ship management companies yet seen, in which they acted for Anglo-Eastern Ship Management Group on its global merger with Univan Ship Management Group. Earlier this year, Anglo-Eastern chief executive Peter Cremers was named Newsmaker of the Year 2015 in the Lloyd's List Awards.

03 EDWARD NEWITT Holman Fenwick Willan
HOLMAN Fenwick Willan are no strangers to this list, but this is a first appearance for partner Edward Newitt. He is a thought leader in the maritime and insurance space, with crisis management remaining an area of prominence due to piracy and other threats. He has multi-jurisdictional experience, and is well known for his work in the Middle East, having been managing partner of the firm's Dubai office. Mr Newitt has also seen success at the Court of Appeal this year.

04 JEANNE GRASSO Blank Rome
KNOWN for her work in the regulatory sphere, Ms Grasso's name is synonymous with coast guard and environmental matters. She is known for having great operational prowess with her clients, helping them to meet or exceed regulatory requirements. She is a new addition to this list.

05 SOTARO MORI Yoshida and Partners
SOTARO Mori joined this list in 2014 for his pivotal work on the fallout from the *MOL Comfort* casualty. The impact from the catastrophe has continued through 2015 amid the final report from Japan, and revisions to the classification system for container ships.

06 SUN JIN SHENG China Ocean Shipping (Group) Co
Sun Jin Sheng is in-house counsel leading the merger team at China Ocean Shipping (Group) Co, and is a new addition to this list, with the long-awaited merger plan only confirmed

by Beijing in December 2015. Early statistics indicate that the merger creates the world's largest tanker and bulk carrier fleets, and the world's third largest box leasing player.

07 TIM YOUNG QC AND SIMON MILNES
20 Essex Street Chambers
AN increasing international focus sees barristers joining this list in 2015. Tim Young QC continues a stellar shipping practice at 20 Essex Street, with his work in arbitrations highly admired, if often cloaked in confidentiality. He has led Simon Milnes on a number of key cases, with Mr Milnes practising out of an office in Maxwell Chambers, Singapore.

08 MICHAEL KIM Stephenson Harwood
THIS has been Michael Kim's first full year managing the new Seoul office of Stephenson Harwood. Mr Kim first attracted mention in Lloyd's List in 2003, calling for the opening up of the legal services market in Korea.

09 JAMES PARTRIDGE Allen & Overy
IN A case that has been testing for the industry, Mr Partridge is acting with a team at Allen & Overy for ING in the aftermath of the OW Bunker insolvency. The global fall-out from this case is being followed closely by readers of Lloyd's List, Lloyd's Law Reports and Lloyd's Maritime Law Newsletter. In October 2015 the Court of Appeal of England and Wales dismissed an appeal, meaning that Allen & Overy have had three consecutive legal successes with this case. There is a question mark over whether this case will go to the Supreme Court in 2016. Mr Partridge is a new addition to this list and has a growing caseload in shipping and aviation finance.

10 AXEL SALANDER Fleet & Co
GLOBALISATION or not, the majority of shipping contracts are written in English and settled under English law, and wading through dense thickets of legalese is daunting enough for native speakers, let alone those who were brought up speaking another tongue. However, clients of Hamburg law firm Fleet & Co can turn to Axel Salander, who boasts both flawless – and we mean absolutely perfect – English, and who qualified as a lawyer in England and Wales after studying at both Kiel and Oxford universities, and practised shipping and commercial law in London between 1987 and 1994. Mr Salander – a sometime speaker on the shipping conference circuit – specialises in dispute resolution.