

Shipping & Maritime

Lawyer of the Year

NICK HOWE
SOLICITOR

NICK HOWE

UNITED KINGDOM



ABOUT NICK HOWE

Nick first set up on his own in 1998. In 2002 he was joined by some of his former partners from the Shipping Department of a large City firm to form Howe & Keates. He went back to practice on his own as Nick Howe Solicitor in 2008.

Most of his work involves assisting clients involved in the trading and shipping of oil and petroleum products, often to or from the Sub-Saharan region of Africa. Inevitably this entails a lot of firefighting work for clients operating in such climates, seeking to resolve potential problems before they get out of hand and to help embryonic projects to get off the ground. He is frequently involved with larger matters of a both contentious and non-contentious nature: the contentious work has involved acting for clients in a number of sizeable Court actions and arbitrations; whereas the more interesting non-contentious work has included documenting some quite complex arrangements to supply the oil needs of a number of countries, both coastal and land-locked.

Nick's most notable legal achievement to date was in bringing, on behalf of the Government of St Vincent & The Grenadines, the first two cases before the panel of 21 Judges in Hamburg at the **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea** ("ITLOS"). The cases arose from one of his client's vessels and crew being shot at and taken hostage by the agencies of a West African government (**The "SAIGA" Case No's 1 & 2** - http://www.itlos.org/start2_en.html). Those proceedings led to the release of the vessel and crew, and to the subsequent recovery of damages to compensate for the losses that had been incurred. ITLOS recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary having accepted a total of 25 cases between sovereign states to date, more than half of which cases sought the release of vessels allegedly wrongfully detained by coastal states following the precedent set by the "SAIGA" Cases.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Trading of oil and petroleum products
- Shipping
- Oil refining
- Finance
- Insurance
- Hedging
- Public International Law relating to oil

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: St. Martin's House,
16 St. Martin's Le Grand, London, EC1A 4EN
Tel: (switchboard): (44) (0) 207 397 8432
Email: NickHowe@nickhowesolicitor.com



Other reported Court decisions include:

The "Wilomi Tanana" [1993] 2 Lloyd's Rep 41
Addax -v- Total & others (The "Endurance") [1996] 2 Lloyd's Rep 333
The "Red Sea" [1997] 1 LLR 610 & [1999] 1 Lloyd's Rep. 28 (CA)
Ascot -v- Northern Pacific (The "Iriini A") [1999] 1 Lloyd's Rep 189 & 196
Addax -v- Arcadia Petroleum & others [2000] 1 Lloyd's Rep 493
ANZ -v- Noga [2007] 1 Lloyd's Rep 487
Bitumex (HK) Company Ltd -v- IRPC Public Company Ltd [2012] EWHC 1065 (Comm)

Over the last decade or so Nick has been involved in a number of sizable arbitrations. One led to the Award and subsequent recovery for his clients of sums substantially in excess of US\$ 10 million from the state owned Oil Company of a country in East Africa. He has also helped to draft numerous contracts for the sale and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products to and from countries all over Africa, including a number of quite complicated projects to supply the oil needs of land-locked countries.