



Stephen B. Johnson

Owner - Seattle

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Steve Johnson practices corporate and commercial law with an emphasis on maritime transactions, including the structuring of vessel ownership arrangements, vessel documentation and vessel financing.

Mr. Johnson has unique experience with maritime and fishing industry transactions, including the formation of business entities to acquire and operate vessels, structuring U.S. and foreign investment to comply with U.S. vessel documentation laws, documenting financing arrangements in which vessels and fishing rights are used as collateral and assisting clients on a broad range of regulatory compliance issues and corporate matters.

Mr. Johnson also has broad experience structuring new business entities, negotiating and documenting stock and asset acquisitions, negotiating shareholder agreements and advising businesses on corporate and commercial matters in non-maritime contexts.

Representative Transactions

- Special maritime and fisheries counsel to purchaser on \$400 million purchase of multi-vessel fishing and fish processing company.
- Special maritime and fisheries counsel to purchaser on \$200 million purchase of a major fishing and fish processing company.
- Lead counsel for buyer on \$160 million acquisition of major factory trawler company.
- Lead counsel for seller on \$55 million sale of multi-vessel fishing company.
- Special maritime and fisheries counsel to foreign bank on \$80 million credit facility for buy-out of interests in large, integrated fishing and fish processing company.
- Lender's counsel on \$60 million secured financing for purchase and conversion of a catcher-processor vessel.
- Lender's counsel on \$21.5 million secured financing for purchase and conversion of a fish processing vessel.
- Counsel to bareboat charterer on "sale and lease-back" transaction involving long-term bareboat charter of fish processing vessel.
- Counsel to U.S. vessel owner on "U.S. build" requirements of vessel documentation laws related to vessel constructed for the coastwise trade.
- Counsel to U.S. vessel management company in structuring foreign investment to comply with U.S. vessel documentation laws applicable to coastwise trade.
- Counsel to numerous vessel owners on compliance with U.S. vessel documentation laws, including extensive

experience dealing with MARAD and the Coast Guard.

Services

- ▶ Maritime and Fisheries Law
- ▶ Transportation and Logistics
- ▶ Privately Held Companies
- ▶ Mergers and Acquisitions
- ▶ Debt Finance
- ▶ Public Policy, Lobbying and Political Law
- ▶ Environmental Law
- ▶ Natural Resources

Industries

- ▶ Maritime Companies and Fisheries
- ▶ Transportation and Logistics

Education

- ▶ Harvard University, J.D., *cum laude*, 1975
- ▶ Stanford University, B.A., Psychology, with distinction, 1972

Admissions

- ▶ Washington, 1975
- ▶ District of Columbia, 1977 (currently inactive)

Professional Recognition

- ▶ Named by peers to *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Admiralty and Maritime Law, 2012
- ▶ Martindale-Hubbell AV/5.0 Peer Review Rated

Professional Activities

- ▶ Past Chairman, Committee on Fisheries, The Maritime Law Association of the United States
- ▶ Proctor in Admiralty, The Maritime Law Association of the United States
- ▶ Past President, Maritime and Fisheries Law Section of the King County Bar Association

Events

- ▶ Bering Sea Fisheries Conference: Building the Next Generation of Bering Sea Vessels (sponsored by the Fishermens' News), "Rebuild or Replace? Changes in the Law Affecting the Bering Sea Groundfish Fleets,"

April 21, 2011

- ▶ "A Cross-Border Tune-up: Maritime Transportation, Luxury Yachts, and Fishing Industry," Garvey Schubert Barer Seminar, Vancouver, B.C., September 10, 2009