



CM ADVOCATES LLP



Blue Economy & Maritime Law Unit

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About The Unit

CM Advocates LLP's Blue Economy & Maritime Law Unit is one of the most specialized maritime law practices in Kenya and East Africa.

With offices in Nairobi, Mombasa and Diani, we advise on admiralty law, ship arrest and vessel release, maritime disputes, port and logistics law including disputes arising out of booking confirmations, cut off delivery dates and rolling over of shipments, fisheries regulation, offshore energy projects, and marine environmental compliance.

Our clients include shipping lines, trading companies (national and international), governments, regulators, shipowners, charterers, Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P&I Clubs), insurers, investors, financiers, accelerators, and development agencies. We deliver Blue Economy and Maritime legal services that are internationally benchmarked but locally grounded.

Our Approach

We integrate Kenya's maritime legal framework with international standards to deliver solutions in admiralty law, shipping disputes, vessel arrest in the ports of Mombasa and Lamu, asset recovery, debt recovery in maritime transactions, disputes arising out of non-payment of demurrage charges, port charges, accrued taxes and other storage charges; and cross-border enforcement. By combining corporate and commercial law, financial services regulations, tax law, labour and employment law, intellectual property law, real estate, dispute resolution, restructuring and insolvency laws, we provide a one-stop platform for clients across the shipping and Blue Economy sectors.

Core Capabilities

Admiralty and Maritime Law

Ship registration, vessel financing, arrest, and release of ships and vessels in Kenya at the ports of Mombasa and Lamu, and across East Africa in Kampala, Dar es Salaam, and Kigali; charterparty disputes, cargo claims, collisions, salvage, limitation of liability, and marine insurance litigation.

Port and Logistics Law

Advisory on port concessions, customs and taxation compliance, cabotage laws, logistics operations, public-private partnerships (PPPs) in port and maritime projects, and multimodal transport.

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Licensing and regulatory compliance for fishing operators, quota management, aquaculture investment, environmental, social and governance (ESG) compliance, and sustainable exploitation of marine and inland waters.

Offshore Energy and Infrastructure

Oil and gas, offshore wind, subsea cabling, liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, public-private partnerships (PPPs), and project finance transactions.

Environmental, ESG and Marine Conservation

Environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs), biodiversity protection, marine pollution claims, waste management compliance, blue and green bonds, and alignment with International Maritime Organization (IMO) decarbonisation and the Paris Agreement.

Dispute Resolution and Litigation

Admiralty disputes, ship arrest applications in Kenyan and East African courts, shipping and logistics litigation, marine and general insurance claims, debt recovery, shareholder disputes, civil fraud, PPP-related disputes, and cross-border enforcement.

Asset Recovery, Restructuring and Insolvency

Enforcement of maritime liens, tracing, and recovery of misappropriated assets, insolvency proceedings, restructuring of distressed shipping and port ventures, and creditor protection.

Tax, Labour and Employment Law

Shipping and maritime taxation advisory, value-added tax (VAT) and customs compliance, seafarer contracts, collective bargaining, immigration, and labour disputes.

Banking, Finance and Financial Services

Syndicated lending, maritime project finance, blended finance, international trade finance, insurance law and claims, financial services regulation, and advisory for lenders, investors, private equity and venture capital funds.

Corporate and Commercial Law

Entity formation for shipping and Blue Economy ventures, joint ventures, corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance, and commercial contracting.

Real Estate and Property

Coastal property acquisition, due diligence and regulatory compliance, leasing and licensing, shipyard and port facility development, coastal zoning and land use planning, and environmental compliance including oversight and issuing compliance advisories relating to riparian land.

Intellectual Property and Technology

Intellectual property protection for shipbuilding, aquaculture, and marine biotechnology innovations; advisory on digital ports, logistics platforms, and maritime technology.

Startups and Innovation Ecosystem

Legal support for Blue Economy startups, accelerators, venture funds, and early-stage companies; advisory on seed and growth financing, private equity, cross-border expansions, data protection and venture capital investment.

Regulatory and Compliance

Advisory and representation before maritime, financial, competition, and environmental regulators in Kenya and East Africa, including compliance reviews and enforcement proceedings.



Why Clients Choose Us

We are the go-to firm in Kenya for admiralty law, ship arrest and vessel release in Mombasa, Lamu and East Africa, maritime disputes, debt recovery, and Blue Economy investments. Clients value our ability to combine maritime law expertise with corporate, finance, tax, labour, real estate, intellectual property, restructuring, and ESG advisory. Our work aligns with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life Below Water), the African Union's Agenda 2063, International Maritime Organization Decarbonisation Commitments and the Paris Agreement.

Our Commitment

We are shaping the legal and regulatory frameworks that will define Africa's Blue Economy. Whether advising on admiralty disputes, ship arrests in Kenya and the wider East African region, offshore energy transactions, fisheries regulation, marine insurance claims, debt recovery, or coastal property development, CM Advocates LLP provides clarity, foresight, and trusted counsel.

Meet The Team



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