

HEAD QUARTER

Shippinglawyers.NET

[Global Networking of Shipping Law Firms]
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Networking
of
Maritime Law Firms

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Constitution

Article 1 - Objects & Goals

Shippinglawyers.NET previously known as Associate Network (Lawyers) established in February 2000, is a non-profit, non-governmental 'open source platform' of maritime law firms, a global network of maritime law firms practicing maritime laws amongst other and specializing in their jurisdiction. The aims and objects of the Shippinglawyers.NET, the network, is primarily (but not limited) to making it easy for the associates/members to interact with each other within the network; to foster community ideas; to introduce lawyers to others with common interest; to encourage lawyers to become part of the "in crowd"; streamline process that impact the client, by presenting 'The whole product concept' by fulfilling the 'compelling value proposition' by outsourcing non- jurisdictional issue from members of other relevant jurisdiction and presenting expected service to clients.

Preferred goals of Shippinglawyers.NET are preferences given to associates within the network in jurisdiction other than one's own to represent client; exchange of information, ideas and research amongst associates in the network; every associate may choose to add the name of the other associates in their website, (if any), stationeries etc as their associate; meeting of associate independently, collectively, in sub-groups is encouraged; being an "open source platform" maintaining the kernel, associates in the Network are expected to maintain, suggest, innovate, modify and expand the network for its betterment; contribute by all appropriate means and activities to the unification and growth of maritime law in all its aspects.

As already indicated it is the aim of all the associates in the network to exchange work and information on a priority basis amongst the associates in the network. This of course does not bar the associate/member from taking work outside the network, nor is there any compulsion to give work to the associates within the network. By becoming a part of Shippinglawyers.NET the associate does not lose its independent identity, but is strengthened since it is backed by all the associates in the network. But preference should be given on a priority basis to the associates within the network, in case an associate concerned is seeking to represent their clients in the jurisdiction in which the associates in the network exist, if in the associates opinion the concerned associate is capable of effectively dealing/handling the matter (though taking in view our associates expertise there is no room left for doubt about their expertise).

Associates in the network are selected very carefully and all admitted associates / members have to pass through a strict

procedure and only those are selected who satisfy the criteria laid down by the network.

Associates in the network are the law firms that strive to provide both quality legal services and superior client services. Associates are prominent local law firms recognized in their jurisdictions for maritime practice, their reputation and for the quality of their client service. Membership is not continued if a firm does not continue to meet the standards for responsive, high quality legal services.

Shippinglawyers.NET is not a gathering of any law firms but is a one of its kind of network who are the leader field of in maritime law wherein all its members are recognised and known for quality service.

Summary of the Aims , Objects & Goals

The principal aims and objects of Shippinglawyers.NET, the network of maritime law firms, primarily but not limited to are:

1. make it easy for the associate to interact with associates in the network
2. to foster community ideas
3. to introduce lawyers to others with common interest
4. to encourage lawyers to become a part of the 'in crowd'
5. streamline process that impact the client, by presenting 'The whole product concept' by fulfilling the 'compelling value proposition' by outsourcing non-jurisdictional issue from members of other relevant jurisdiction and presenting expected service to clients.

Preferred goals of Shippinglawyers.NET are:

6. Preference given to associate in the network in jurisdiction other than one's own to represent client.
7. Exchange of information, ideas and research amongst associate in the network.
8. Every associate if they wish to add the name of the other associates in their website (if any) etc as their associate.
9. Meeting of Associate independently, collectively, in sub-groups is encouraged.
10. Being an 'open source platform' maintaining the kernel, associates in the network are expected to maintain, suggest, innovate, modify and expand the network for its betterment

Article 2 – Independent Identity

By becoming Shippinglawyers.NET associate / member, the associates / members do not lose their independent identity, but on the contrary their identity is strengthened by the associate's ability to operate internationally within the framework of co-operation provided by Shippinglawyers.NET, since they are backed at all time by other associates in the network. There are no restrictive rules and regulations binding the associates in the network, so the associates though a part of the network are not shackled anyway.

It is the aim of all the associates in the network to exchange work and information on a priority basis amongst the associates within the network. This of course does not bar you/your firm from taking work outside the network, nor is there any compulsion to give work to the associates in the network. By becoming a part of Shippinglawyers.NET your firm does not lose its independent identity, but your firm strengthens because all the associates in the network back it. But preference should be given on a priority basis to the associates in the network, in case you are seeking to represent your clients in the jurisdiction in which the associates in the network exist, If in your opinion the concerned associate is capable of effectively dealing/handling the matter.

Article 3 – Membership & Fees

a) Shippinglawyers.NET members (also known as associates) shall consist only of law firms or individual lawyers (for convenience referred to as the law firm/s) specializing in maritime law amongst other laws.

b) The associates in the network are selected very carefully either on recommendation or on invitation or otherwise, but all have to pass through a strict procedure and only those are selected who satisfy the criteria laid down by Shippinglawyers.NET.

c) An associate member is selected either on recommendation of any of the existing member of the network or by the executive council or law firms fulfilling membership criteria are welcome from various jurisdiction to seek an invitation.

d) To become an associate in the network no fees are to be paid, the only criteria is the associates specialization amongst others laws in maritime law and the ability and willingness to share the network's aims, objectives and goals and work together hand-in-hand for betterment, development and expansion of the network.

e) The prospective members name and details are circulated amongst existing members for comments and acceptance as new associate member.

f) If more than ten percent of the existing members reject and/or objects to the new member, the prospective member will not be accepted as new associate member.

g) Acceptance of a new member is communicated to the prospective member within 15 days.

h) A new member admitted will be a provisional member for 15 days on acceptance of membership and will stand confirmed automatically thereafter, unless notified.

i) The basic criteria for being a part of the Shippinglawyers.NET is that the law firm should be specialising amongst others in maritime matters.

j) The member should conform with Shippinglawyers.NET aims, goals and objects.

k) Prospective member desiring to join Shippinglawyers.NET should download the membership form and forward the same as attachment to mail@Shippinglawyers.net and also by courier/ post/ airmail to Shippinglawyers.NET or upload the duly filled in form.

Article 4 – Sponsors/ Support

Shippinglawyers.NET is a non-profit, 'open source platform', a networking of maritime law firms. There are no membership fees for associates joining the network but Shippinglawyers.NET welcomes and accepts sponsors and support from any organization for promotion and development of Shippinglawyers.NET. Any international law firm / firms, research institutions (both traditional and internet based) and / or other international institutions of repute seeking to expand globally or invest in an international network with a view to provide trans – global services or research or such other activities of mutual benefit are welcome.

Article 5 – Disclaimer.

Shippinglawyers.NET a network of maritime law firms for professional exchange of information and work. The member law firms of the network maintain complete autonomy; perform their professional services on an independent basis. The information contained herein and/or in the web site is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Transmission and/or receipt of materials does not constitute an attorney-client relationship between the sender and receiver. Any activity of the member done in their individual capacity, in or via the network shall not make Shippinglawyers.NET as an autonomous body, liable in any form legally or otherwise.

Article 6 – Selecting/ Appointing a law firm as member.

Associates in the network are selected very carefully and all admitted associates / members have to pass through a strict procedure and only those are selected who satisfy the criteria laid down by the network.

Associates in the network are the law firms that strive to provide both quality legal services and superior client services. Associates are prominent local law firms recognized in their jurisdictions for maritime practice, their reputation and for the quality of their client service. Membership is not continued if a firm does not continue to meet the standards for responsive, high quality legal services.

Shippinglawyers.NET is not a gathering of any law firms but is a one of its kind of network who are the leader field of in maritime law wherein all its members are recognised and known for quality service.

Article 7 – Target & Number of Associates

Shippinglawyers.NET targets to have associates from such city/country in which the court has admiralty jurisdiction. The number of associate/s from various jurisdictions would vary on the size of the jurisdiction/country namely few from minor countries but in countries which are considered to be important financial and shipping centers a larger number of associates would be welcome.

Article 8 - Composition

The Assembly shall consist of all associates / members of Shippinglawyers.NET and the members of the Executive Council.

Associates of Shippinglawyers.NET and the members of the Executive Council shall only and always be a law firm and shall be managed and controlled by members of Shippinglawyers.NET only.

Article 9 - Coordinator

There shall be one lead coordinator and co-coordinators and the lead coordinator shall be Brus Chambers, being the founder member of Shippinglawyers.NET.

Article 10 - Meetings

The Assembly need not physically meet at a place, but the Executive Council shall circulate agenda by email that can be transacted (hereinafter referred to as “transaction”) through email, phone, fax or by any other mode of communication as may be agreed by members of the Executive Council. The transaction shall take place twice a year on a date decided by the Executive Council. Each transaction should be completed within seven working days. The Assembly may also transact at any other time, for a specified purpose, if requested by the President, Vice-President or Secretary General or on a request of atleast 10% of the existing members with atleast ten days prior notice given of such transaction.

Article 11 – Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President/s and Secretary General and the members of the executive council shall always be a member of Shippinglawyers.NET.

The lead coordinator shall appoint the President while Vice Presidents and the Secretary General shall be members willing to accept for the said post and as recommended by existing members with maximum number of approvals. The function of all members of the Executive Council are to co-ordinate within member's and / or to communicate with outsiders when required, jointly or severally.

Members of Shippinglawyers.NET are free to communicate with each other and they need not communicate through the executive council.

Proposal for Executive Council members shall be made to all the existing members every six months (1st week of February and 1st week of August) by the President failing which by the other executive council members, and if so suggested by members the previous executive council shall continue for the next six month.

All decisions of the Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of members / associate. However, amendments to this Constitution shall require the affirmative confirmation of a two-thirds majority of the proposal for amendments received by any member/ associate.

Article 12 - Functions

The functions of the Assembly/Members are:

- a) To exchange maritime information, ideas and research amongst associates in the network, when required
- b) To give preference to associates/ members to represent client.
- c) To scrutinize perspective members profile for comments.
- d) To add the name of associates in their website, stationeries etc as their associates (this clause is optional but is strongly suggested).
- e) To hold meeting of associates independently, collectively, in sub-groups and the same is encouraged being an "open source platform"
- f) To maintain, suggest, innovative ideas, modify and expand the network for its betterment.
- g) To comment on perspective new member/ associate.
- c) To give suggestions to develop and promote the network and to take decisions on all future activity of Shippinglawyers.NET
- d) To amend this Constitution as and when necessary;
- e) To adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

- f) To promote Shippinglawyers.NET and collection of external funds
or support for the said promotion or voluntary sponsorship from existing member for any promotion of Shippinglawyers.NET.
- g) To hold seminar, interviews, press conference/notes with funds collected for the same, provided the same is be for the benefit of Shippinglawyers.NET and its members
- h) To initiate new activity, within the goals of Shippinglawyers.NET
- i) Other activity for the benefit, betterment and growth of the network

Article 13 – Officers Designation

The Executive Council shall be:

- a) The President,
- b) The Vice-Presidents,
- c) The Secretary-General,

Article 14 - President

The President of the Shippinglawyers.NET shall preside over the Assembly, with the assistance of the Vice-President and Secretary-General shall carry out the decisions of the Assembly. In general, the duty of the President shall be to ensure the continuity and the development of the work of Shippinglawyers.NET, co-ordinating with members and/or outsiders and all other activities allotted by the members/ executive council of the network.

Article 15 - Vice-Presidents & Secretary General

There shall be two Vice-President and a Secretary General of Shippinglawyers.NET, who shall be at par with the President but shall be appointed by simple majority / recommendation from maximum number of members.

The additional functions of the Officers of Executive Council are:

- a) To give an official notice of all transaction of the Assembly
- b) To circulate the agendas, minutes and reports;
- c) To make all necessary administrative arrangements, generally
- d) To carry into effect the administrative decisions of the Assembly
- e) To circulate such reports and/or documents as may be requested by the member/s
- f) General administration

President

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