

HFW



WHY CHOOSE HFW?
GENEVA

“Big international law firm with sector-focused expertise, which allows our contacts to seek the best service in-house.”

LEGAL 500 EMEA 2023

What is very efficient is that they have English and Swiss qualified lawyers under one roof in Geneva, making it a one-stop shop for many commodity finance matters.”

LEGAL 500 EMEA 2021

HFW is unique as a sector-focused international law firm with over 600 lawyers. Our Geneva office is at the heart of HFW's global network.

HFW is committed to supporting the shipping, trade, corporate, banking and finance and wider business communities in Switzerland as well as international organisations.

Our Geneva team has a recognised reputation in Switzerland for:

- Commodity Trading
- Shipping
- Dispute Resolution
- Commodity Trade Finance
- Banking & Finance
- Corporate & Commercial
- Sanctions
- Swiss Law
- International Organisations

Our team of industry experts includes Swiss and international lawyers, qualified in England and Wales, Switzerland, France, Canada, New York and Australia, most of whom have been based in Switzerland for many years. They are thoroughly familiar with the local business environment and are committed to the Swiss community, given the number and the quality of the organisations and initiatives in which they participate. They have extensive experience in the legal systems within which our clients operate and are able to advise English, French, German and Russian-speaking clients in their own language. They also have capability in Dutch, Italian and Spanish.

Commodity Trading

We act across the full spectrum of the international sale of goods, including soft commodities, oil and energy, ethanol, coal, iron ore, steel, and non-ferrous and precious metals, as well as cement and fertilisers.

Our worldwide clients include multinational energy and chemical companies, coal and metal traders, soft commodity trading houses, trade finance banks, investment funds, exchanges, governments and their agencies, brokers, insurers and trade associations.

We also advise on all aspects of marine insurance, including cargo insurance, P&I insurance, charterers' liability and traders' cover.

Shipping

We are widely recognised as the best shipping law firm in the world. We deal with the full range of legal and commercial issues, from long-term charterparties and pool agreements in industry-specific sectors to the drafting of terms for bills of lading and other carriage contracts for global transportation by the largest liner operators. We also advise clients on ship sale & purchase transactions and are frequently appointed by parties to provide independent completion services.

We predominantly represent shipowners and charterers, but clients also include traders

chartering vessels to carry their own cargo, P&I Clubs, banks, insurance underwriters and brokers.

Dispute Resolution

We have a strong dispute resolution practice and have been involved in a number of leading, often groundbreaking, matters for the shipping and commodities trading community.

We act in local and international courts, and have an impressive track record before the English Commercial Court, where we have represented clients in several leading cases.

We represent clients in arbitrations undertaken under a wide range of international rules, including SIAC, LCIA, ICC, HKIAC, LMAA, FOSFA and GAFTA. In keeping with our shipping and commodities expertise, we have handled over 100 London Maritime Arbitrators Association (LMAA) arbitration cases, and are regularly involved in UNCITRAL arbitrations.

Commodity Trade Finance

Geneva is the no.1 hub worldwide for transactional commodity trade finance. Our specialist trade finance practice combines a thorough knowledge of key sectors and specific commodities, with English, Swiss and local banking expertise. We draw upon HFW's unique experience in commodity markets, commodity contracts, shipping and insurance to provide clients with effective, expert advice on all types of trade finance, from LCs and guarantees to derivatives, repos and inventory finance.

Banking & Finance

Our banking and finance team advises on the full range of financing transactions across the Swiss and international markets, as well as on complex debt restructurings, enforcement and regulatory matters.

Fully integrated in the HFW Global Finance teams in London, Paris, Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore, our Geneva finance lawyers have in-depth sector knowledge. Many have worked in-house with banks or traders, which enables us to give clear, practical and, importantly, commercially-focused advice.



Our team has the capacity to act locally on Swiss law matters, as well as lead cross-border, international finance transactions worldwide.

HFW is a leader in sustainability-linked and digitisation of financing, acting for banks or trading houses in reducing environmental impact and reducing fraud risks.

Corporate & Commercial

Our team comprises some of the most talented transactional lawyers in Switzerland, a number of whom are both civil and common law lawyers, speak many languages and are admitted to practice in several jurisdictions.

We have developed a leading practice in corporate, commercial and international business law and provide strategic counsel to a wide range of clients, from international conglomerates and organisations to private companies and individuals.

Sanctions

HFW's International Trade Regulation practice advises and resolves issues related to regulations mandated by the European Union, World Trade Organisation and Switzerland.

Our primary objective is to help clients overcome commercial obstacles related to market access and export-related difficulties that result from government intervention and market regulations worldwide.

Our Geneva team routinely liaise with local regulators and/or the US Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) to deliver rapid, commercial advice on any aspect of international sanctions, particularly on issues related to commodity trading and transport.

Swiss Law

Our Swiss lawyers advise on a wide range of Swiss law issues in many fields, including corporate law, commercial contracts, litigation and arbitration, banking and finance, sanctions and insurance.

HFW is a world leader in the insurance/reinsurance sector, with dedicated insurance lawyers across five continents.

Insurance

Our specialised insurance team in Geneva comprises of English law qualified lawyers with global experience. We regularly advise policyholders, brokers, cedants and reinsurers on a variety of risks, with a particular focus on marine, trade credit, cyber and financial lines.

Our practice encompasses both non-contentious advice (coverage, policy suitability, regulatory) as well as contentious claims work. We have a number of active insurance claims ongoing before the English Courts, DIFC Courts as well as various arbitral institutions worldwide.

Our global reach

We have scaled ourselves to an optimum size: big enough to provide the right level of support and resources globally; lean and flexible enough to adjust to our clients' needs and maintain a collaborative, personal approach. We have 20 offices around the world and work with top local firms and experts in their particular sectors.

Abu Dhabi
British Virgin Islands
Brussels
Dubai
Geneva
Hong Kong
Houston
Kuwait
London
Melbourne
Monaco
Paris
Perth
Piraeus
Rio de Janeiro
Riyadh
São Paulo
Shanghai
Singapore
Sydney



AEROSPACE



COMMODITIES



CONSTRUCTION



ENERGY



INSURANCE



SHIPPING

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“The transport team at HFW stands out for its expertise in shipping law, with a particular focus on dry shipping, admiralty and crisis management, and transactional work. The firm routinely represents the full spectrum of those involved in the industry, including shipowners, charterers, P&I clubs, banks, international agencies, and governments.”

CHAMBERS EMEA 2023 - TRANSPORT



HFW has over 600 lawyers working in offices across the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific. For further information about our Geneva office capabilities, please visit [hfw.com/Geneva](https://www.hfw.com/Geneva)