

HFW



WHY CHOOSE HFW?
GENEVA



“HFW IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE SHIPPING, TRADING, CORPORATE, COMMERCIAL, BANKING AND FINANCE SECTORS IN SWITZERLAND AND INTERNATIONALLY”

HFW is unique as a sector focused international law firm with over 550 lawyers and our Geneva office is at the heart of HFW’s global network serving the international banking and finance, shipping, trade and wider business communities.

Our Geneva team has a recognised reputation in Switzerland for:

- Trading
- Commodity trade finance
- Shipping
- Banking and finance
- Corporate and commercial
- Sanctions
- Insurance and reinsurance
- Swiss law

Our team of industry experts includes Swiss and international lawyers, qualified in England and Wales, Switzerland, France, Canada 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, Norwegian and Spanish.

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 have a strong practice in dispute resolution of commodity matters and have been involved in a number of leading cases. We act in local and international courts, and represent clients in arbitrations undertaken under a wide range of international rules.

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



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. Trade finance lawyers draw upon the unique experience of HFW in commodity markets, commodity contracts, shipping, insurance, derivatives and commercial disputes to provide clients with fast and practical advice on all types of trade finance.

Banking and 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.

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 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.

Corporate and 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 clients on, 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 practice in Geneva consists of a team of lawyers who 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 provide advice on a wide range of Swiss law issues and are experienced in many fields, including corporate law, commercial contracts, litigation and arbitration, banking and finance, sanctions and insurance.

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
Beirut
Brussels
Dubai
Geneva
Hong Kong
Houston
Jakarta
Kuwait
London
Melbourne
Paris
Perth
Piraeus
Rio de Janeiro
Riyadh
São Paulo
Shanghai
Singapore
Sydney



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