

Collin Seah

Collin Seah Law Practice

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Collin is a commercial lawyer called in 1993 who has handled a wide range of advisory, litigation, arbitration and appellate matters. These include admiralty, commercial and marine insurance, international sale of goods, and shipping and maritime law (including charterparty disputes and cargo claims, shipping collisions and other shipping casualties, ship building and repair disputes, and ship sale disputes).

He has acted as counsel in litigation, arbitration and appellate proceedings in Singapore, and has been appointed an arbitrator in maritime cases.

Collin is a Fellow of the Singapore Institute of Arbitrators, an Associate Mediator on the panel of the Singapore Mediation Centre, and a representative of the Singapore Law Society on the Singapore Admiralty Court Users Committee.

Some matters which Collin has handled include:

- Acting for Natixis and Societe Generale in claims against judicial managers for failure to comply with provisions of the Insolvency, Restructuring and Dissolution Act 2018, reported in *Natixis, Singapore Branch v Seshadri Rajagopalan and others and other suits* [2024] SGHC 113.
- Acting for the owners of the “NAVIGATOR ARIES” in their appeal to the Court of Appeal in respect of a collision with “LEO PERDANA” off Surabaya, reported in *The “Navigator Aries”* [2023] 2 SLR 182 (Court of Appeal) (liability judgment), and *The “Navigator Aries”* [2023] 2 SLR 358 (Court of Appeal) (costs judgment).
- Acting for owners of the oil tanker “ALYARMOUK” and its P&I Club to investigate and successfully defend and dismiss claims in the Singapore High Court by 1,206 claimants for alleged oil pollution loss and damage following a collision between “ALYARMOUK” and “SINAR KAPUAS” in the South China Sea.
- Acting for owners of 5 bunker barges to defend claims following the collapse of O.W. Bunker, for delivery of bunkers without production of bills of lading, reported in *The “Star Quest”* [2016] 3 SLR 1280 (Court of Appeal judgment reported in *The “Luna” and another appeal* [2021] 2 SLR 1054).
- Acting for a company in the High Court and Court of Appeal to recover monies from a director liable to account, reported in *Alphire Group Pte Ltd v. Law Chau Loon* [2017] SGHC 297.
- Drafting and advising on the terms of commercial and marine insurance policies for the Singapore branch of a US insurer.
- Acting for P.T. Berlian Laju Tanker Tbk in relation to the transfer its fleet of tankers as part of its restructuring.

- Acting for HSBC Australia to get freezing orders in Singapore in relation to mis-selling of investment products in Australia.
- Acting for the owners of “POE Giant 12” which ran aground on Pedra Branca threatening the Horsburgh Lighthouse while carrying quay cranes, including liaising with the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) and salvage contractors for the removal of the wreck and cargo.
- Acting for a SGX listed shipyard in SIAC arbitration against its auditors for losses in excess of \$250m arising from unauthorised forex transactions.
- Acting in disputes involving breach of directors’ duties and conspiracy, reported in *Raffles Town Club v Peter Lim & Others* [2010] SGHC 163 (High Court) and [2013] 1 SLR 374 (Court of Appeal).
- Acting for IBM Singapore in a IT contract dispute with the Singapore Central Provident Fund (CPF) Board over an IT system turnkey project.
- Acting for P&O Australia in a shareholder oppression claim, reported in *Ng Sing King v. PSA International Pte Ltd* [2003] 3 SLR(R) 591 and [2005] 2 SLR 56.
- Acting for owners and P&I clubs of various cruise ships involved in collisions and other maritime casualties, including the fire and sinking of the “SUN VISTA” in the Straits of Malacca, the collision between the “LANGKA PURI STAR AQUARIUS” and “STRESA” off Singapore, and the sinking of the “ROYAL PACIFIC” following collision with “TE FU 51” in the Straits of Malacca.
- Acting for the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) in relation to oil pollution arising from the escape of 28,000 tons of oil from “EVOIKOS” following collision with “ORAPIN GLOBAL”.
- Acting for the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) to preserve its priority over port dues, reported in *The ‘Hurst’* [1999] 1 SLR 237 (High Court) and *Planmarine AG v. MPA* [1999] 2 SLR 1 (Court of Appeal).
- Acting for the (then) Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) in a judicial review of its decision to deny berthing rights to a cruise ship providing casino gambling on “cruises to nowhere”, reported in *Lines International Holding (S) Pte Ltd v. STPB* [1997] 1 SLR(R) 52.
- Acting for the Allseas Group, the owners of the dynamically-positioned pipe-laying vessel “SOLITAIRE”, in their dispute with Sembawang Shipyard over the conversion of the vessel, including the release of the vessel and the transfer of the vessel and her equipment to Swan Hunter Shipyard in Newcastle upon Tyne for completion.
- Advising a European helicopter manufacturer on potential claims arising from grounding of its customers’ helicopters.
- Advising an oil major on potential liabilities arising in the event of pollution from oil refinery and storage facilities.
- Advising an oil major on regulatory liabilities arising from ownership of a VLCC jetty.
- Advising an oil major on ownership rights over an oil pipeline.

- Advising a US-listed insurance company on Lehman Brothers-related Minibonds including potential regulatory breaches, investigations by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), and resolution of disputes.
- Advising an oil major on statutory and leasehold rights in relation to land reclamation on Jurong Island.
- Acting for a transnational IT corporation to investigate a troubled IT government project in Hong Kong.

A list of ship collisions and other maritime casualties handled by Collin is available on request.

Maritime Casualties

Collin has handled among others, the following ship collisions and maritime casualties:

- “Asean Pioneer” c/w “Samudra Ayu” – Collision off Sumatra
- “Sin Hua” c/w “Bluebird 1” – Collision in the South China Sea
- “Vermilion Bay” – Containers washed overboard in Arabian Sea
- “Sun Shine I” – Lost off Phuket
- “Jayapura” – Lost in the Andaman Sea
- “Sea Jewel” c/w “Neptune Sardonyx” – Collision off Singapore
- “Bonito” c/w “Ah Lam II” towing “PU 1804” – Collision off Singapore
- “Gloria Ace” c/w “Jago” towing “PU 2002” – Collision off Singapore
- “Royal Pacific” c/w “Te Fu 51” – Collision and sinking in the Malacca Straits
- “Indiana” – Fire and explosion at Sembawang Shipyard and subsequent Committee of Inquiry
- “Nedlloyd Rochester” c/w “Gloria” – Collision off Port Klang, Malaysia
- “Tricula” c/w “Chrysanthi” – Collision off Singapore
- “Lennon” c/w “Flash II” towing “Greenville VI” – Collision off Singapore
- “Nedlloyd Rouen” – Allision with wharf at Pasir Panjang
- “Scorpa II” – Collision off Kalimantan
- “Antara Dua” c/w “Kris Lemona” – Collision off Kuching
- “Saybolt” c/w “Sun Pulse” – Collision and oil spill off Singapore and constitution of limitation fund under CLC 92
- “Hua San” c/w “Astro Gamma” – Collision off Singapore
- “Nanta Bhum” c/w “Kapitan Shvetsov” – Collision in the Bangkok river (application to stay Hong Kong proceedings reported in *The Kapitan Shvetsov* [1998] 1 Lloyd's Rep 199)
- “Langka Puri Star Aquarius” c/w “Stresa” – Collision off Singapore
- “Ocean Success” – Oil spill at Zhanjiang, China
- “Algoa Bay” c/w “Xetha Bhum” – Collision in the Bangkok River
- “Festivity” – Fouling of power cable off Surabaya
- “V54” – Damage to mooring dolphins in Indonesia

- “Marine Promise” c/w “Kantek” – Collision off Singapore
- “Herceg Novi” c/w “Ming Galaxy” – Collision off Singapore (application to stay English proceedings reported in *The Herceg Novi v The Ming Galaxy* [1998] 1 Lloyd's Rep 167)
- “Eun Hee” c/w “Semco L88” – Collision off Singapore
- “Seaway” c/w “Viva Lee” – Collision off Singapore
- “Spiros C” c/w “Wawasan Megah” – Collision off Singapore
- “Successor” – Grounding off Qingdao, China
- “Irenes Horizon” c/w “Shinline 1” – Collision off Singapore
- “Mutiara” – Contact with underwater object
- “Crystal 2” – Sinking off Singapore
- “Ocean Sapphire” c/w “Anella” – Collision off Singapore
- “Evoikos” c/w “Orapin Global” – Collision and oil spill off Singapore (acted for MPA in relation to oil pollution)
- “Pacific Mercury” and “Angel River” – Fouled by oil pollution off Singapore
- “Majullah I” c/w “Pacifica I” – Collision off Singapore
- “New Olympic” c/w “Nugraha 1” – Collision in the Arafura Sea
- “Wan Ling” – Damage to hull in the Pacific Ocean and refuge in Hawaii
- “Ocean Queen” c/w “Hua Tong” – Collision off Singapore
- “Asean Power” c/w “Sea Champion” – Collision off Singapore
- “Fortune” c/w “Caraka Jaya Niaga III-2” – Collision off Sampit, Indonesia
- “Hakata” c/w “Amur” – Collision off Korea
- “Asean Crystal”, “Asean Victory” and “Jupiter” – Hit by cyclone, Kandla, India
- “Irufa” – Grounding at Bedi Bunder, India after cyclone
- “Sentek” c/w “Nha Rhong 9” – Collision off Singapore
- “Spring Glory” – Fire at Bandar Imam Khomeini, Iran,
- “Asean Carrier” – Sinking in the Arabian Sea
- “Kantan Jaya Express” – Fire and explosion at Sembawang Shipyard
- “Env 6” c/w “Spar Buoy” towing “BP-1” – Collision off Singapore

- “Ocean Glory” c/w “Nidia” and “Falcon Duchess” – Collision off Singapore
- “H.H.A” – Grounding at Taiwan after typhoon
- “Berlian” c/w “Sentek” – Collision off Singapore
- “Oriental Glory” – Shifting of cargo, Kagoshima, Japan
- “Lumoso Express” c/w “Dan Yang” – Collision off Surabaya, Indonesia
- “Rubin Laurel” and “Sea Emerald” – Fouling of anchor chains off Singapore
- “MPP 2” – Damage to Tuas Jetty, Singapore
- “Sun Vista” – Fire and sinking in Malacca Straits
- “Ocean Trader” c/w “Blue Ocean Marine” – Collision off Singapore
- “Pacific Puma” towing “Deep Sea Ice” – Grounding off Singapore
- “Graceous” c/w “Lula 1” – Collision off Singapore
- “Gemini” – Oil pollution at Oil Tanking, Singapore
- “E.T. Offshore 1” – Cargo washed overboard
- “Maritime Victory” – Holed by barge “SPS 1” at Biringkasi, Sulawesi, Indonesia
- “Ocean Jewel” – Claim for Jet A1 contamination off Karimun, Indonesia
- “Prime Value” – Aground at River Hooghly, Bengal, India
- “Amyndas” – Claim for oil spill at Oil Tanking, Singapore
- “Buxmoon” – Engine breakdown en route to Calcutta, India
- “Natuna Sea” – Escape of oil and pollution following grounding off Singapore
- “Paola” c/w “Mineral Venture” – Collision off Singapore
- “Asean Liberty” – Grounding, salvage and wreck removal at Yangon
- “Sulawesi II” c/w “Andhika Aryandhi” – Collision off Pasir Gudang, Johor, Malaysia
- “Sunrise Crane” – Sinking of “Pristine” off Singapore
- “POE Giant 12” – Grounding and wreck removal at Pedra Branca
- “Alyarmouk” – Escape of oil and pollution claims following collision with “SINAR KAPUAS” in the South China Sea
- “Navigator Aries” c/w “Leo Perdana” – Collision off Surabaya