



RAVI ASWANI


Call: England & Wales (2000)

Shipping & Commodities CV

Practice Profile

Ravi Aswani is a commercial dispute resolution barrister. He has a broad practice which covers a number of areas including in particular shipping and international trade, commodities, energy and oil and gas, metals and mining, insurance and re-insurance, banking and finance. Ravi has an extensive international arbitration practice. He has been instructed in arbitrations seated in several jurisdictions under a number of applicable laws, both ad hoc (in particular LMAA and UNCITRAL Rules) as well as institutional arbitration (in particular ICC, LCIA and SIAC). In addition, he is often instructed in commercial litigation in the Business and Property Courts, primarily the Commercial Court.

Ravi spent his formative years practicing all aspects of wet and dry shipping, and still retains a very substantial shipping and commodities practice which dovetails with his general commercial international arbitration practice. Ravi has significant experience not just of conventional bill of lading / charterparty, commodities and admiralty disputes, but also in relation to shipbuilding, ship sale and purchase, ship repair, ship management and all aspects of port operation. Novel questions of jurisdiction, security and limitation of liability often arise in his cases, which often extends out wide to related areas such as banking, insurance, energy, and construction, and the analogous areas of contracts for the sale / transport of goods by air, road and rail as well as by sea (with particular experience advising on BIFA / RHA terms and CMR for carriage by road).

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 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/raviaswani/>

EDUCATION

LLB (First Class), University
College London
MCI Arb; CEDR Accredited
Mediator

LANGUAGE

Gujarati (fluent spoken)

APPOINTMENTS & MEMBERSHIPS

Advocate
Arbitration Ireland
Bentham Association
British Maritime Law Association
CEDR Exchange Network
Chartered Institute of Arbitrators – MCI Arb
Commercial Bar Association
FDI International Moot Competition – College
of Arbitrators
ICC Global Commission on Arbitration and
ADR
Indian Maritime Association (UK)
International Bar Association
International Council for Commercial Arbitration
Inter-Pacific Bar Association
London Common Law and Commercial Bar
Association
London Court of International Arbitration –
European Users' Council
London Maritime Arbitrators' Association –
Supporting Member
Scottish Arbitration Centre
Singapore Chamber of Maritime Arbitration –
Individual Member
UK India Business Council – Next Generation
Network Member
Worshipful Company of Arbitrators – Freeman



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Much of Ravi's work involves him being instructed without a leader against KCs, SCs and SAs in various jurisdictions across the world; he has significant experience of acting without a leader against senior silks. He has been recommended in all the principal legal directories for many years for international arbitration, commodities and shipping (UK, Global and Asia Pacific directories).

Ravi also has a growing arbitrator practice and has been nominated / appointed as arbitrator in over 20 arbitrations to date.

Ravi is a co-author of the forthcoming sixth edition of *The Arbitration Act 1996: A Commentary* and a contributor to the forthcoming first edition of *England and Wales Court Judgments on Arbitration: Shaping English Arbitration Law and Practice*.

In recent years, Ravi has been shortlisted for / awarded a number of prestigious awards in recognition both of the excellence of his legal practice and of his longstanding commitments to equality and diversity and mentoring:

- Winner: 2025 Legal 500 UK Bar Awards – Shipping Junior of the Year
- Shortlisted: 2024 Legal 500 UK Bar Awards – Shipping Junior of the Year
- Shortlisted: 2024 and 2021 Chambers & Partners UK Bar Awards – Shipping Junior of the Year
- Shortlisted: 2023 and 2022 Legal 500 UK Bar Awards – International Arbitration Junior of the Year
- Winner: 2021 Society of Asian Lawyers Awards – Company / Commercial Lawyer of the Year



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- Shortlisted: 2021 Chambers & Partners UK Bar Awards – Shipping Junior of the Year
- Shortlisted: 2020 UCL Alumni Awards – Alumni Volunteer of the Year

Ravi is regularly instructed to provide expert evidence on English law for use in foreign courts and arbitral tribunals. He frequently speaks at conferences and at law firms on subjects arising out of his practice areas, both in the UK and abroad.

An early adopter of social media for business purposes, Ravi has a large following within the dispute resolution community (and beyond) on LinkedIn.

Ravi has a longstanding interest in matters of equality, diversity (especially intersectional), inclusion and belonging, and has over the years attended numerous cross-sector and cross-discipline advanced training events and seminars on these topics, observing considerable changes in thinking and practice over that time. Ravi also has a keen interest in mentoring and assisting the next generation of practitioners. He has participated in mentoring programmes run by Young ICCA, UCL and the University of Greenwich and participates in a number of schemes aimed at mentoring and promoting a career in law, especially the self-employed bar, to various historically underrepresented groups. He is also often sought out informally for mentorship and career guidance by aspiring / junior practitioners. He has sat on the E&D Committee in his Chambers for over 20 years.



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Current Shipping / Commodities Directory Testimonials



“Ravi is an excellent and knowledgeable shipping lawyer who shared his knowledge and assisted with the case in a thorough way.” | “Ravi is an outstanding senior junior who really goes all out for the client. He is a very good advocate and is highly supportive when working with him.” | “Ravi is an able advocate and lawyer.”

Chambers UK / Global Bar 2026 – Shipping and Commodities

“Once Ravi has been instructed it lifts a burden from your shoulders, as he is calm and so well prepared he takes the judge or tribunal with him.”

Legal 500 UK Bar 2026 – Commodities

“Ravi is particularly skilled at handling complex technical issues and explaining them clearly to clients and opponents.”

Legal 500 UK Bar 2026 – Shipping

“He is very user-friendly and communicative.”

Legal 500 Asia Pacific 2025 - Shipping and Commodities





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Dry Shipping / Commodities

- Admiralty Court litigation arising out of claim for general average following grounding
- LMAA arbitration (Saudi Arabia seat, English law) arising out of multiple related high value ship management contracts. Difficult legal issues arising – two retired senior common law judges on the tribunal. Unled against a KC.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of high value freight forwarding contract performed during the Covid-19 pandemic acted unled against a KC.
- GAFTA arbitrations (first instance, appeal board and challenges in Commercial Court) arising out of multiple contracts for the sale of India wheat affected by Indian government measures prohibiting the export of wheat to preserve domestic food security.
- LMAA arbitrations (former Master of the Rolls / Supreme Court Justice presiding) arising out of alleged breach / non-performance of contract for supply of security escort vessels in high risk areas off West African coast, involving intricate issues of analysis under English law of relevance and effect of allegations of illegality under Nigerian law; acted unled against a KC.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of contract to carry petroleum products from Venezuela in potential breach of sanctions provisions.
- LMAA arbitration (and related Commercial Court challenge) relating to the shifting of a timber cargo in bad weather leading to damage to both the cargo and the vessel.
- *A v B* [2019] 1 Lloyd's Rep 385 – s67 and s68 challenges relate to complex damages calculations in the context of an admitted irregularity.
- *Dera Commercial Estate v Derya Inc* [2019] 1 Lloyd's Rep 57 – the leading modern authority in English law about the application of the Hague Rules Article III Rule 6 limitation in the context of a geographic deviation, as well as the proper approach to the dismissal of claims in arbitration for inordinate and inexcusable delay. After being instructed in this case, Ravi has been instructed in several similar cases involving an attempt to apply to have a claim dismissed for inordinate and inexcusable delay, both to advance and to resist such applications.
- SIAC arbitration arising out of a complex operation to relocate a large jack up drilling platform.
- SIAC arbitration arising out of a commodity sale and purchase.
- GAFTA arbitration appeal to the Commercial Court on a novel point of law.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of late arrival of a vessel at a terminal, following which under the terminal's rules which were contractually incorporated into the charterparty she was sent to the back of a long queue of vessels and a large demurrage / detention claim arose.
- Commercial Court litigation arising out of the contamination of a gasoil consignment.
- LMAA consolidated arbitrations in a long chartering chain arising out of explosion in a silicon carbide cargo.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of contamination of a pygas cargo.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of alleged repudiation of high value shipbuilding contracts.



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- LMAA arbitration instructed unled against a LC in a multiphase dispute arising out a high value ship sale and purchase in which jurisdiction, liability and quantum were in issue.
- GAFTA arbitrations arising out of multiple contracts for the sale of soyabean meal and corn, and related challenge to s66 enforcement action on the basis that appeals to the GAFTA appeal board were pending such that the first tier awards could not be enforced.
- *Navalmar UK Ltd v Kale Maden* [2017] 1 Lloyd's Rep 370 – consideration of the meaning of “port limits”.

Wet Shipping / Admiralty

- LOF arbitration (first instance and appeal arbitration) arising out of assistance provided to a vessel carrying Russian oil. Difficult legal issues regarding EU and UK sanctions scheme arising. Led by a senior KC.
- Admiralty Court litigation arising out of the well known explosion and sinking of the yacht *Rendezvous* in Torquay Harbour in 2022; novel issues arising out of a multi-party limitation and substantive proceedings.
- LOF arbitration arising out of massive containership fire, multiple novel issues and unprecedented elements to case, led by a senior KC and leading a junior junior, against three KCs on the other side.
- Wreckhire arbitration arising out of attempt to repair a vessel following a collision, acted unled against a KC.
- LOF arbitration arising out of the immobilisation of a large containership in the vicinity of a sensitive area of the Mexican coast, acted unled against a KC.
- Ad hoc common law salvage arbitration (led by a senior KC) representing ship interests in the salvage of car carrier following a fire.
- LOF arbitration (led by a senior KC) representing cargo interests in the salvage of a large 15,000 TEU container ship following a fire (largest known salvaged fund ever administered by Lloyd's Salvage Branch at the time). Conducted some interim work unled against KC opponents.
- LOF arbitration instructed unled against a KC in a dispute arising out of a prolonged wreck removal operation.
- LOF arbitration instructed unled against a KC in a dispute arising out of grounding of a vessel in a sensitive area of natural beauty in Greek waters.



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Marine Insurance

- Instructed in relation to Commercial Court litigation and concurrent LMAA arbitration arising out of marine insurance policy incorporating Institute Cargo Clauses and concerning damage to a cargo of steel coils.
- Instructed to advise in relation to a complex question of whether a hull and machinery policy on its true construction contained a “pay to be paid” provision analogous to a protection and indemnity policy.
- *Sea Glory Maritime Co v Al Sagr National Insurance Co* [2014] 1 Lloyd’s Rep 14 - A substantial trial in the Commercial Court where Ravi was instructed to appear unled against a senior KC and a senior junior. Ravi represented the defendant insurer resisting multimillion dollar claim in which the defence raised matters of misrepresentation and non-disclosure, as well as a number of novel questions of illegality.

Shipbuilding / Ship Sale and Purchase / Ship Repair / Ship Management

- Proceedings in the Technology and Construction Court seeking to challenge a US\$320m ad hoc award arising out of a shipbuilding dispute.
- LMAA arbitration relating to the performance of two related contracts to purchase Chinese built Kamsarmax vessels (instructed alone against a KC).
- Ad hoc arbitration arising out of a ship management contract.
- LMAA arbitration arising out of a number of related contracts for the construction and purchase of jack up oil drilling rigs.
- A number of examples of shipbuilding disputes (including related disputes under documentary credits and detailed consideration of critical path analyses).

Shipping and Insolvency

- A number of instructions in relation to various legal issues arising out of the 2008 credit crunch and the 2020-2021 Covid-19 pandemic and their lasting consequences.
- *D/S Norden A/S v Samsun Logix Corporation* [2009] BPIR 1367 – factors to be considered by Court when determining application for permission to bring proceedings and/or enforce security against a foreign insolvent company.



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Shipping and Civil Fraud

Ravi has been instructed in a number of recent cases across the shipping spectrum which have included allegations of fraud in the procuring or performing of contracts.

Shipping and Commodities Speaking Engagements in the last five years

- September 2025 - "Women in Arbitration" - Breakfast panel and workshop
- May 2025 – "The Arbitration Act 2025 - an LMAA Perspective" – spring seminar of the London Maritime Arbitrators Association
- February 2025 – "Maritime Limitation of Liability" – London Shipping Law Centre seminar
- March 2024 – "Anti-suit Injunctions – *RusChemAlliance*" – London Shipping Law Centre seminar
- July 2022 - "The new BIMCO Infectious or Contagious Diseases Clause 2022" - London Shipping Law Centre seminar
- May 2021 – "Emerging Trends in Arbitration: Looking at Decarbonisation and Diversity" – CEPANI40 / Osborne Clarke webinar

Contact the clerks

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