
Shelley Chapelski

Partner, Vancouver

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Shelley Chapelski leads a team of experienced shipping lawyers at Norton Rose Fulbright Canada. Her practice encompasses both transactional and litigation aspects of maritime law, including maritime contracts, torts, liability claims, creditor's remedies and marine insurance matters. She has been recognized by her clients and colleagues as one of the leading Maritime lawyers in Canada by Chambers & Partners, Best Lawyers, Lexpert, Legal 500 and others.

Her practice includes all manner of contracts used in the marine and transportation industries including charter parties, contracts of affreightment, towage agreements, ship management arrangements, port liability conditions and logistics contracts.

Shelley has handled the investigation and defence of hundreds of casualties and liability incidents including collisions, terminal damage cases, fires, cargo losses, and pollution events. She has resolved many passenger injury and death claims, including ones subject to the Athens Convention.

Shelley has drafted or revised an array of insurance policies, especially those dealing with liability exposures. Shelley is a frequent advisor to insurers on coverage matters, both primary and excess.

Shelley's clients include commercial vessel owners and operators, users of marine transportation services, marine and non-marine insurers, P&I Clubs, ports and terminals and maritime service providers.

Shelley is a past president of the Canadian Maritime Law Association and frequently meets with government representatives with regard to the development of maritime law matters in Canada.

Education

LL.B., University of Alberta, 1990

B.A., University of Alberta, 1986, with distinction

Admissions

- British Columbia 1991

Rankings and recognitions

- *Chambers Canada*, Nationwide: Transportation - Shipping (Band 1), *Chambers and Partners*, (2012 -2025)
- *Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory*, (2010-2017): recommended in Shipping & Maritime
- *Chambers Global*: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business: Recognized as a leading lawyer in the area of Shipping Law (since 2013)

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- *Best Lawyers in Canada*: Recognized as a leading lawyer in the area of Maritime Law (since 2010)
 - *The International Who's Who of Shipping & Maritime Lawyers*: Recognized as one of top World's Leading Shipping and Maritime Lawyers (since 2007)
 - *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*: Recommended in the area of Shipping and Maritime Law
 - *Who's Who Legal: Canada*: Recognized as a leading business lawyer in Shipping & Maritime Law
 - *LexisNexis – Martindale-Hubbell*: Peer Review Rated
 - *Expert Guides - Guide to the World's Leading Shipping and Maritime Lawyers*: Recognized as a leading practitioner in the area of Shipping and Maritime Law
 - *Expert Guides - Guide to the World's Leading Women in Business Law*: Recognized as an outstanding practitioner in the field of Business Law
 - *The Legal 500 Canada*: Transport: shipping (Leading Lawyer)

Memberships and activities

- CMI MORU Working Group and Marine Insurance Committee
- Past President, Canadian Maritime Law Association
- Arbitrating Member, Vancouver Maritime Arbitrators' Association
- Canadian Bar Association - Maritime Law Section, B.C. Branch
- Marine Insurance Association of British Columbia
- Western Marine Community Coalition
- Women's International Shipping and Trading Association
- Plimsoll Club - Vancouver