



Neil Quartaro

Vice Chair, Japan Practice

New York

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Neil focuses his practice on international and domestic transportation and trade matters — particularly those involving cross-border investments, disputes, and maritime issues. He handles inbound investments, international contract disputes, creditors' rights in U.S. bankruptcy proceedings, obtaining pre- and post-judgment security, vessel and aircraft foreclosure, and charter and aircraft lease disputes. In addition, he handles various transactions, including those in the transportation space such as ship and aircraft charters and leases, sale and purchase, vessel construction contracts, purchase agreements, terminal agreements, and private equity investments in shipping.

As Vice Chair of the firm's Japan Practice, Neil assists his Japanese clients with many aspects of their investments and operations in the United States, including mergers and acquisitions, regulatory compliance, and general U.S. law advice. He often assembles working teams of specialists in various areas to support acquisitions, investments and other activities in the United States across the firm's many practice areas and offices.

Neil is a past chair of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) International Section and serves on the NYSBA President's Committee on State Bar Governance. He also co-chairs the NYSBA International Section Transportation Committee and is the Chair of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Committee of the Maritime Law Association. He has also lectured at Columbia University, teaching a class on Transportation, Law & Public Policy. Neil is regularly interviewed on the radio and television, and, in addition to his public speaking engagements, is regularly interviewed and quoted in leading business and transportation publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Fairplay*, *Global Restructuring Review*, and *Tradewinds*.

Neil earned his bachelor's degree from York University and earned his law degree from Fordham University School of Law.

Experience

Represented a Japanese company acquiring a U.S.-based entity in the automotive industry. Working closely with the client's Japanese counsel, the Cozen O'Connor team supported the U.S. aspects of the transaction and the successful acquisition of the target.

Secured an arbitration award of more than \$40 million for a leading aircraft manufacturer in an International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC") arbitration in New York against an Argentine air carrier for its alleged failure to fully pay for two aircraft pursuant to a conditional sale contract. In an effort to derail the arbitration, the defendant filed a Concurso Preventivo (a type of preliminary insolvency) in Argentina. This effort was defeated with favorable jurisdictional rulings from both the ICC tribunal and the Argentine courts, and the arbitration hearings were conducted remotely at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Represented a Marshall Islands company in the negotiation of a loan used to finance the acquisition of an equity position in a publicly traded entity listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange. The cross-border matter included issues involving the laws of the United States, Singapore, Germany, and the Marshall Islands.

Represented the mortgagee in foreclosing on a bulk carrier in the United States, employing a unique

Practice Areas

- Transportation & Trade
- Maritime Litigation
- International
- International Arbitration
- Commercial Litigation

Industry Sectors

- Aviation
- Climate Change
- Maritime

Education

- Fordham University School of Law, J.D., 2002
- York University, B.A., 1998

Bar Admissions

- New York

Affiliations

New York State Bar Association, International Section, Past Chair

Maritime Law Association of the United States, Proctor

American Bar Association, International Section, Member

Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Member

Fordham Law Alumni Association, Member

New York State Bar Association, President's Committee on State Bar Governance, Member

New York State Bar Association, International Section Transportation Committee, Co-Chair

Maritime Law Association, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Committee, Chair

Awards & Honors

- *Chambers & Partners USA*: Transportation: Shipping/Maritime: Litigation 2023, 2024
- Martindale-Hubbell "AV" rated
- Maritime Law Association, Proctor in Admiralty
- Super Lawyers New York in Transportation & Maritime Law, 2015 – present
- Who's Who Legal, expert in shipping law, 2015 – present
- Best Lawyers in America, 2025

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legal strategy to protect the creditor's rights. The case included crew claims and third-party claims.

Represented a ship owner in defending against corporate alter ego and related claims following the acquisition of vessels. This long-running case involved complex cross-border issues of jurisdiction, discovery, and foreign law.

Represented a Japanese client in the acquisition and consolidation of a group of logistics companies in the U.S. and elsewhere. This matter included significant due diligence and regulatory compliance issues as well as complex post-acquisition merger issues, including regulatory compliance and license transfers.

Represented various mortgagee banks and other secured creditors in Chapter 7, 11, and 15 bankruptcies filed by ship owners and operators.

Secured an important victory before the Federal Maritime Commission ("FMC") on behalf of Hyundai Merchant Marine ("HMM") in a case publicized in the New York Times alleging violations of the Shipping Act and breach of contract. Discovery revealed that not only had HMM acted in a reasonable manner and committed no violations of the Shipping Act, but that it had in fact granted very favorable terms to the complainant in the midst of the 2021-22 supply chain crisis. The judge cited this evidence three times in her decision denying all claims.

Represented United Launch Alliance in the negotiation and drafting of a vessel construction agreement and related financing agreement for SpaceShip, a purpose-built U.S. Flag roll-on roll-off cargo vessel. SpaceShip is intended to transport ULA's new Vulcan next generation rocket from ULA's manufacturing facility to launch sites in Florida and California.