



**Dr. Klaus Kostka**  
Rechtsanwalt

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## Dr. Klaus Kostka

Since 25 years, Klaus Kostka is specialized on maritime and marine insurance law as well as aviation, road transport and logistics law. He regularly represents German and foreign ship owners, ship managers and marine insurers in contentious and non-contentious matters as well as in the handling of casualties. Apart from that, developers and manufacturers of ship's equipment, ship and insurance brokers as well as international freight forwarders form his client base.

## Recent work:

- Representing the Federal Republic of Germany, several insurers and re-insurers in connection with the midair collision of two airplanes over Überlingen in 2002 and the resulting lengthy legal disputes.
- Representing a German ship-owner in the cancellation of shipbuilding contracts with a Chinese shipyard and the ensuing enforcement of claims against the shipyard and refund guarantors (total volume: exceeding 100 mio. US \$).
- Advising and representing clients in relation to various major marine and commercial insurance matters, including cover disputes.
- Drafting and negotiating the Charter Party for an accommodation vessel for refugees on behalf of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.
- Drafting and negotiating project and consortia agreements for a manufacturer of central component parts for innovative LNG-propulsion systems for ships.

## Appraisals:

- Klaus Kostka has been recognized as one of the "Leading Individuals" for Maritime and Shipping (Legal500, 2019)
- *"Klaus Kostka is a widely reputed litigator, recognised for his abilities in negotiating the release of vessels under arrest, as well as contentious insurance matters in the shipping sector. Clients rate him highly and say that he is an "excellent, bright lawyer," who is "fast and good at presenting the facts to the tribunal.""* (Chambers & Partners, 2018)
- Klaus Kostka "always works diligently" (Legal500, 2016)
- Recommended is... Klaus Kostka, who is regarded as "a real good lawyer" among competitors. (Legal500, 2015)
- "Even if my insurance company has a different preference, I always insist on using Klaus Kostka, which is accepted by the insurers because he's well known in the shipping community." (Chambers & Partners, 2016)

- Klaus Kostka acts on shipping disputes involving contracts and insolvency. He receives compliments for his solid grasp of the law and his ability to find practical solutions to problems. (Chambers & Partners, 2017)
- Klaus Kostka is listed amongst "Germany's best lawyers 2017" in the areas of insurance-, maritime, transportation and commercial law. (Handelsblatt 2017, 2015 and 2013)

## **Memberships:**

- German Maritime Arbitration Association (GMAA)
- German Association for International Maritime Law (DVIS)
- German Association of Transportation Law (DGTR)
- International Bar Association (IBA)
- German Association for Maritime and Naval History (DGSM)

## **Education and Employment Record:**

Since 2011: (Founding) Partner of FLEET HAMBURG

1994-2011: Associate and from 1997 Partner in the maritime law department of the international law firm Taylor Wessing

1992-1994: Legal Traineeship in Kiel and Hamburg with stations at Ince & Co. in London as well as Hapag Lloyd in Hamburg

1990-1992: Doctorate thesis about so-called international ship registries

1983-1989: Studying law at Münster University

## **Languages:**

German, English

## **Leisure activities:**

- Klaus Kostka is a passionate collector of old ship photos and possesses a library of several thousand volumes on naval history since 1860.