

## John Leonida

Until his retirement from the law in 2020, John specialised in international marine transactional work and for several years headed Clyde & Co's superyacht group, having joined the firm in 1997 and becoming a partner in 2003. His practice ranged from advising the owners and builders of some of the world's most luxurious superyachts, to being counsel to operators in the oil support industry. In 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Chambers HNW Guide to The World's Leading High Net Worth Advisers ranked John in the top band of global Superyacht lawyers. As one of the top four lawyers in the industry he was described by peers and clients as a "very good negotiator" and "very precise and thorough in his work". One industry insider described him as having an "encyclopaedic knowledge of the sector. I would speak to him regarding anything in the practice area. He knows it all" "An old style gentleman, he is very calm and highly educated". In the 2020 edition John was described "... as extremely savvy, he is highly regarded, highly competent and is very, very smart." Other interviewees say he is "wonderful" and "a very able guy."

He formerly advised on regulatory issues relating to the ownership of ships and has extensive experience in negotiating shipbuilding and ship financing documents. His clients were either shipping entrepreneurs or, in the case of John's superyacht work, high net-worth individuals, superyacht builders, designers and banks. John continues to serve on the HR & Finance Committee of the Royal Society of Literature.

John was a partner of Clyde & Co from May 2003 until early September 2020 when he joined LP Squared to provide board level advice to owners, builders, family offices and indeed any superyacht stakeholders on the more commercial and strategic aspects of the superyacht industry.

John is also a former development economist with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Overseas Development Administration and has an economics degree from the University of Sussex and a masters in political economics from Middlesex University. He also holds a law degree from the University of Westminster. In January 2019 John started his PhD in maritime history. John is a regular contributor to superyacht symposia. He occasionally writes for Boat International and The Superyacht Report. He served for three award cycles as a Judge for the Boat International Design and Innovation Awards. He is a podcaster and a freelance Superyacht journalist.

## EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS

**University of Greenwich** (January 2019 – January 2024 p/t)  
PhD History – Thesis working title "Social and Cultural History of Superyachts 1918-2018"

**University of Westminster** (June 1994)  
Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice

**University of Westminster** (October 1989 – June 1993)  
Law – LLB (Hons)

**University of Middlesex** (October 1987 – June 1989)  
Political Economics – MA

**University of Sussex** (October 1981- May 1984)  
Economics – BA (Hons)