

## STEPHENSON HARWOOD PROFILES

### PAOLO GHIRARDANI PARTNER



#### Contact details

Firm: Stephenson Harwood

Email: [paolo.ghirardani@shlegal.com](mailto:paolo.ghirardani@shlegal.com)

Direct telephone number: +44 (0)20 7809 2612

Mobile: + 44 (0)7831 808027

### Professional experience

Paolo is a senior partner in Stephenson Harwood's shipping and insurance litigation department. He is also very active in the field of fraud and asset tracing. He has a diverse practice and acts for several leading shipowners, charterers, clubs, insurers and traders.

He is renowned for his determined approach on behalf of his clients, and the legal directory, Chambers, has quoted other lawyers who have said of Paolo: "forever on your back but does an unbelievable job for his clients". They have described him as "an influential and resourceful lawyer" who "reaches the parts that other lawyers don't reach".

Paolo tends to handle large and complex litigation. His areas of specialisation include total losses of vessels by fire and/or explosion and all of the claims that arise from these disasters. He also has a very significant "anti-fraud" practice – on behalf of insurers, owners and corporations. Unusually for lawyers, Paolo and his team conduct the fraud investigation and evidence gathering (Chambers praise him for his "investigative skills") personally, often in inhospitable jurisdictions. Once the evidence is gathered and the fraud is established, he is renowned for his innovative approach to tracing, preserving and recovering assets through a series of strategic injunctions and disclosure orders.

Another specialist area is the delivery of cargoes without bills of lading where he has had several successes for owners – either defending claims or by recovering the delivered goods.

Paolo also represents clients with seemingly impossible problems (vexatious litigation and arrested assets and vessels) in problem jurisdictions. He advises on a problem solving strategy which is usually a combination of litigation and political lobbying. Whilst handling such problems Paolo has frequently lobbied politicians and a Head of State overseas and has worked with Civil Servants in the European Commission. He has had several notable successes – such as releasing two separate vessels from two year forced seizures in Nigeria.

In addition to his marine and insurance work, Paolo has a significant practice of general commercial litigation – acting in contractual and banking disputes and civil fraud.