

*The*  
**LEGAL**  
**500**  
**UNITED STATES**

John Pritchard

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## The Legal 500 – The world's largest legal referral guide

I am pleased to send you a copy of *The Legal 500 United States*.

This is the third edition of the Legal 500 series covering the US legal market. Our aim is to provide independent, unbiased commentary on the leading law firms – and lawyers – in the most important legal marketplace in the world. We target our editorial at corporate counsel, and others who use law firms, so they have a genuinely independent guide to the relative strengths (and weaknesses) of the market leaders.

We know from our extensive research elsewhere (we provide commentaries on law firms in over 90 other countries) that US legal practice leads the world. Law firms across the globe look to US firms as role models on how best to provide quality legal services to the commercial sector. So *The Legal 500 United States* is a guide to 'the best of the best' – the pre-eminent firms in the world's strongest and most competitive legal market.

As always, we welcome constructive comment and criticism. Our editors and researchers are committed to providing accurate reporting and analysis, so let us know if you have any comments.

Yours,

*John Pritchard*

PS: you can access the full text of this volume – and all the other international editions of *The Legal 500* – at [www.legal500.com](http://www.legal500.com).

a passenger. Finally, the firm represented the owners of a barge fleet in pursuing sizeable claims against a former owner under a support agreement.

**CLIENTS:** Key clients of Nicoletti Hornig & Sweeney include AIG, C.V.Starr, One Beacon, ArcelorMittal, Fortis Corporate Insurance, Chubb, Travelers Insurance, ACE USA, Morgan Stanley, Phibro, Celanese, RLI Insurance, the IMU Group, Northern Insurance Company of New York, Fireman's Fund Insurance, and Max Speciality, as well as several London syndicates.

**INDIVIDUALS:** The firm boasts several first-class litigators, with ten partners committed to marine insurance work. The extremely well regarded name partner John Nicoletti leads the firm's practice for coverage disputes and defence of assureds in marine casualties. Name partner James Sweeney leads the group for cargo damage subrogation cases, while David Hornig is highly recommended for his P&I work, where he is regularly instructed by P&I underwriters to represent their assureds in personal injury and seamen cases. Partner Michael Carcich is recommended for his expertise in marine and energy insurance, while the hugely experienced of counsel Michael Marks Cohen has an excellent track record in charterparty disputes, international arbitration and mediation.

## NICOLETTI HORNIG & SWEENEY

**PRACTICE:** Nicoletti Hornig & Sweeney has an impressively diverse practice that covers the full gamut of maritime and inland marine insurance, reinsurance, energy and personal injury. While the firm also has expertise in areas such as construction liability and professional liability, the bulk of its 23 New York-based lawyers (including ten partners) are focussed on maritime law, and in particular maritime insurance. The firm is said to have a strong niche advising hull underwriters.

Recent highlights include advising the subrogated cargo underwriters in a large cargo subrogation case, which went to the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals over provision in a bill of lading. The firm is also defending the insured owners of the tug 'Mel Oliver' whose loaded oil barge collided with a ship, causing a massive oil spill that closed the port of New Orleans. The firm also successfully defended the insured owner of a chartered fishing boat against claims for very serious personal injuries incurred by

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