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New Shipping Partner for Thomas Cooper

January 2010

International Law Firm Thomas Cooper is delighted to announce that shipping specialist, Kevin Oram, has joined the firm as a partner from Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

Kevin has extensive experience in the marine, energy and trade sectors. He has acted for London Market clients, leading litigation in relation to several high-value insurance/reinsurance disputes in the above sectors. Kevin has advised many of the International Group Clubs and their members on matters ranging from charterparty/COA disputes and bunker quality issues, speed and performance claims to cargo claims and issues arising out of fires at sea, groundings and collisions. He has assisted clients to negotiate complex shipbuilding and ship breaking contracts, and with disputes arising from shipbuilding and financing arrangements. He has also acted for various interests in a number of salvages under the LOF, including several of very high value and press profile. Kevin also acts for multi-modal service providers, carriers and terminal operators. He recently took an appeal on multi-modal carriers' terms of business and limitation of liability for losses to the House of Lords. Kevin has experience in trade and related disputes, having advised commodity traders, banks, shippers and receivers in relation to various issues arising out of the international sale/purchase of goods. Kevin's experience in the marine, energy and trade sectors will add depth to Thomas Cooper's already strong shipping team and while in Singapore, Kevin will focus on enhancing the services we are able to provide to our clients in the India, China, Japan, Korea and South East Asia region.

Kevin commented: *"I am very excited to be joining Thomas Cooper and to be working as part of this strong and established shipping team. The move will enable me to enhance the service I am able to provide to my clients across the marine, energy and trade sectors. Thomas Cooper is the natural choice for me in that it is energetic, dynamic and progressive and is using its existing profile to continue to make inroads into the above sectors, both in London and abroad."*

The firm **also recently appointed Ann Mazzucco**, a senior assistant from Holman Fenwick Willan where she had worked for 11 years in the shipping department. Ann's practice focuses on contentious and non-contentious dry shipping. She specialises in international arbitration and court litigation relating to matters such as unsafe port claims, shipbuilding/ ship repair/conversion disputes, piracy issues and all aspects of charterparty/ bill of lading/ cargo related disputes. Ann also regularly reviews and drafts provisions for shipbuild/ conversion/ hire contracts. Ann will be working closely with head of shipping Graham Harris.

Thomas Cooper's shipping group provides a full range of international services in maritime, trade and finance law and advises Clubs, Shipowners, Salvors and Insurers. They have been involved in some of the highest profile major maritime casualties and personal injury claims over the years as well as day-to-day commercial disputes arising under shipping contracts.

Kevin's appointment brings the number of partners in its Shipping team to 20.

Thomas Cooper's Head of Shipping, Graham Harris said: *"Kevin's appointment will be an excellent addition to the partnership and the shipping team. His shipping expertise will enhance and build upon our existing offering. He is a highly experienced maritime practitioner and knows the shipping sector very well and has real expertise of complex transactions in the London and international markets."*

Thomas Cooper's Managing Partner, Tim Goode said: *"Kevin's recruitment reflects our commitment to reinforce the quality and range of services we deliver to our shipping clients. He is the latest in a series of quality hires for our business and our growth strategy is set to continue."*

For further information, please contact Yollanda Alie, Business Development & Marketing Manager on 020 7390 2214 or email yollanda.alie@thomascooperlaw.com.



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NOTES TO EDITOR

International Law Firm Thomas Cooper specialises in maritime, trade and finance law. The Firm comprises 30 partners, 20 of which are dedicated to maritime law. The Firm is experienced in advising on the law in key jurisdictions around the world, with offices in **London, Athens, Madrid, Paris, Singapore** and **Vancouver**. Our clients operate globally and range from ship and cargo owners to charterers and traders, from banks and other financial institutions to marine property and liability underwriters and P&I Clubs (including being on the Panel of the largest P&I Club in the world). Our client list also include blue chip companies, small businesses, entrepreneurs and high net worth private individuals.