

NEWSFRONT

GREEK SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

05 February 2016

Vol. 17 / No. 5



LEGAL OPINION

Manager of vessels

A provider of shipping services contracted to render such services with a manager of vessels for the vessels managed. Throughout the contract life, the service provider was issuing invoices to the shipowning companies of the vessels, and was submitting same to the manager. For a balance due, the manager had confirmed the ship owners were aware of the claim and they would pay in due course.

The service provider sued the manager for the claim, alleging among other things, the confirmation by the manager was an acknowledgment by the latter of the outstanding debt.

The Court found the claim was a claim against the shipowners. This suggests it was not lawfully addressed to the manager and accordingly it was rejected.

Supreme Court Judgment no 1988/2014, Presiding: A. Koutromanos, Rapporteur Judge: P. Zontanou, Attorneys at Law: G. Bakamitsos, Th. Monohartzi, Maritime Law Review vol. 42, p. 353.

NOTE: No vessel can be owned by one party and exploited by another or owned and exploited by same party. In both cases, management can be delegated, the manager acting on behalf of the exploiting party (owner or not). When this occurs, the manager does not assume any responsibility, and any claims arising are for exploiters of the vessel, on whose behalf the manager acts.

*The legal column was written by Manolis Eglezos, Attorney at law,
Manolis Eglezos & Associates Law Firm, Attorneys at Law and Consultants*

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132 Syngrou Avenue, 117 45 Athens, Greece

Tel: +30 210 9214.205 • Fax: +30 210 9214.675 • E-mail: amaroid@otenet.gr • Website: www.newsfront.gr

Editor: David Glass, Deputy Editor: Panagiotis Nikolakopoulos, Subscriptions Manager: Sophia Bacoula

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