

gunnercooke | Global Transport Team

Forwarding ❖ Maritime ❖ Rail □ Aviation

Transporting your business to new heights



Authoritative Advice to the Transportation Industry

The gunnercooke Global Transport team has decades of experience in handling transportation matters, and the gunnercooke Global Transport team proudly delivers on a deep understanding of the unique requirements of businesses and individuals in the transportation industry and has the capability to navigate clearly through both planned and unforeseen situations—crucial to serving our clients in this sector.

The gunnercooke Global Transport Team comprises leading lawyers specializing in the transportation industry whose expertise lies in representing clients on a wide range of transportation-related matters, including:

- Commercial, Business, and Private Aviation
- Passenger and Freight Aircraft and Conversions
- Maritime and Shipping
- Heavy and Light Rail
- Forwarding and Logistics
- Fuel Supply
- Aircraft and Engine Lease Portfolio Sales and Acquisitions
- Aircraft and Engine Operating and Finance Leases
- Aircraft and Engine Sale and Leaseback Transactions
- Aircraft and Engine Manufacturer Purchase Agreements
- Aircraft Charter
- Aircraft and Engine Maintenance Agreements
- Aircraft Wet- and Dry-Lease
- Aviation Regulation, Enforcement, and Prosecution
- Ports, Harbors, and Airports
- Highways
- Credit and Financing
- Progress Payment Financing
- Secured and Unsecured Financing of Aircraft, Engines, and Spare Parts
- General Corporate and Mergers and Acquisitions
- Risk Management and Claims Handling
- Product and Premises Liabilities
- Aviation Insurance Disputes
- Aviation Litigation, Arbitration, and Mediation
- Aircraft and Engine Consignment and Part-Out
- Intellectual Property
- Tax



Marine and Shipping

The gunnercooke Global Transport team has extensive experience in the marine and shipping industries, offering a comprehensive range of legal services to a diverse clientele. Our maritime lawyers have a deep understanding of the market and handle a wide range of shipping-related matters.

Finance, Corporate, and Commercial

The gunnercooke Global Transport maritime team has an established reputation providing general corporate advice to key international players on all aspects of the marine and shipping industries, including fleet-management issues, mergers, sales, acquisitions, charters and franchised vessel arrangements, refinancing, and restructuring.

Our maritime team also advises on a wide range of commercial marine contracts, including bareboat, time and voyage charters, port-handling and cargo-disbursement arrangements, supply agreements with third-party providers, and provision-of-service, franchise, and dispute agreements.

Regulation

The gunnercooke Global Transport marine and shipping regulatory team advises on all aspects of marine and shipping regulation. Our lawyers monitor and liaise with marine and shipping registries and other governments, authorities, and local regulatory bodies worldwide, the International Maritime Organization and Seafarers. We advise on the ever-increasing volume of regulation brought into force and likely to affect our marine clients in relation to climate and emission controls, international employment, and rights of way.

Our team represents clients facing enforcement action—potential or actual—by regulatory authorities arising from breaches of regulations and potentially leading to investigations and criminal prosecutions.

Our team also assists gunnercooke's clients where they require upstream lobbying of future proposed regulations and provides advice and material to them.



Dispute Resolution

The gunnercooke Global Transport team represents all types of vessel owners, charterers, managers, operators, crews, pilots, manufacturers, and suppliers, as well as ports, marinas, banks, lessors, finance companies, and all types of marine service companies, in a wide variety of claims, disputes, and other problems requiring resolution worldwide, whether through arbitration, litigation, or mediation, and works with other counsel, experts, and specialists as needed.

Our team provides specialist assistance and advice in relation to ancillary questions arising from disputes, such as charterparty, demurrage, cabotage, employment questions, and company, corporate, and other commercial and regulatory issues.

Transport and Forwarding Law

Globalization and global trade have made transport processes even more complex. More and more service providers of different nationalities from different cultures with different languages are involved in transport chains, and more handling operations are required. The resulting increased risks for goods cannot be ruled out despite technical progress.

Transport law is a complex, constantly changing field. Developments in case law can mean that what was legal yesterday is not necessarily legal today. It can often be difficult for businesses to keep up to speed with the latest changes.

Why Is Transport Law Interdisciplinary?

Digital supply-chain management integrates all material, product, people, and information flows across various logistics channels from raw materials to the end customer using information and communication technologies to improve efficiency in relation to costs, synergies, sustainability, and the effectiveness in meeting customer expectations (e.g., a seamless customer experience) and thus increases sales.

Digital supply-chain management uses logistics 4.0 technologies and enables supply chain visibility, omnichannel management, and fulfillment.



Transport and Forwarding Law

The (international) transportation of goods raises numerous civil and regulatory issues, regardless of whether the transport takes place by road, rail, air, sea, or a combination of these.

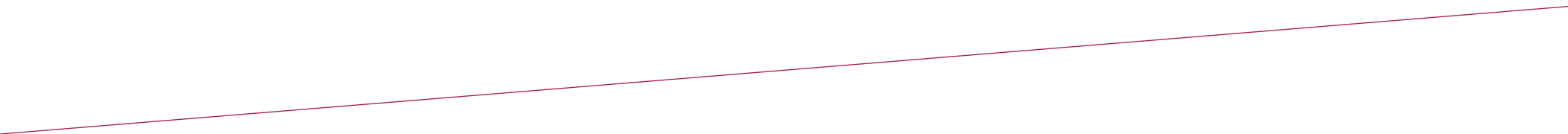
In addition, transport and forwarding law is characterised by a special liability law that differs significantly from general liability law and is influenced by numerous international agreements (e.g. CMR) and industry-specific features (e.g. ADSp).

All-round service

gunnercooke advises on all issues relating to the transportation of goods, whether by road, rail, air, sea, or a combination of these. We support you in the drafting and negotiation of contracts (e.g. freight, forwarding, warehousing and logistics contracts, etc.). gunnercooke represents you both out of court and in court (including arbitration courts), for example when it comes to claims for damages in the event of transport damage or delays.

As we cover all specialist areas such as corporate, IT, real estate, antitrust, employment and tax law, etc., we are also able to answer complex logistical questions from a single source. We work with you to develop pragmatic, economically viable and sustainable solutions, taking into account the legal framework.

In transport and forwarding law, we advise in particular:

- on questions relating to freight law (in accordance with HGB, CMR, CIM, CMNI, MÜ)
 - on questions relating to warehousing and logistics law
 - on the assertion of and defence against freight claims and freight losses
 - on recourse for transport and theft damage
 - on issues relating to the transportation of dangerous goods/transport security
 - for claims arising from liability law
- 



Transport and Forwarding Law

Advantages of Litigation in Germany

Transport- and forwarding-law cases may present some unique considerations when deciding where to file a lawsuit: Here are some specific advantages of choosing Germany for such cases:

- Germany has a strong tradition of expertise in transport and logistics law. It is home to numerous international logistics companies and trade organizations.
- Hamburg and Bremen in particular are cities renowned for their maritime and shipping expertise. They have specialized courts that handle transport- and forwarding-law cases, providing a deep understanding of these industries' nuances.
- The United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea, or the "Hamburg Rules," adopted in Hamburg, Germany, in 1978, may apply to cases involving international sea transport. German courts are well versed in interpreting and applying these rules.
- German courts, especially those specialized in transport law, are known for their efficiency, which is crucial in resolving time-sensitive transport and forwarding disputes.
- Germany has a well-established legal framework for transport and forwarding law, offering clear guidelines and regulations that can help in dispute resolution.
- German courts often appoint neutral expert witnesses with a deep understanding of the industry, ensuring fair and informed decisions.
- Germany is a member of international conventions and agreements relevant to transport and forwarding law, making it easier to enforce judgments internationally.

The choice of jurisdiction depends on the specific circumstances of the client's case, the parties involved, and other factors. Consulting with legal experts who specialize in transport and forwarding law is essential because they can provide tailored advice and guide the client through the intricacies of its particular case. Additionally, factors such as the location of the parties, applicable contracts or agreements, and any existing dispute-resolution mechanisms may influence the decision on choice of jurisdiction.

Germany is a recognized venue for both national and international arbitration proceedings. German arbitration law follows international standards, protects procedural rights, and views state courts and arbitration tribunals as providing equal legal protection.

In addition to internationally recognized institutions like the ICC and the DIS, Germany offers specialized arbitration tribunals for specific sectors, such as the Arbitration Court of the Association of Grain Traders of the Hamburg Stock Exchange, and logistics-related tribunals like the Logistics Arbitration Court at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce. The Asian European Arbitration Centre (ASEAC, formerly the Chinese European Arbitration Centre, CEAC) should also be noted. We are happy to assist you in selecting and representing you before the relevant arbitration tribunals with our expertise.

Aviation

Aircraft and Engine Leasing, Trading, and Finance

The aviation team at gunnercooke boasts expansive international expertise catering to diverse stakeholders involved in aircraft, helicopter, engine, and spare parts financing, leasing, and trading. Our lawyers possess profound insights gained from facilitating and guiding aircraft finance deals across multiple global jurisdictions. With presence in the U.K. and Germany in addition to the U.S., and reinforced by agile assistance from gunnercooke's corporate and bankruptcy practices, our aviation team is primed to address our clients' varied requirements efficiently.

gunnercooke's aviation team offers comprehensive guidance to clients around the globe on matters concerning the sale, purchase, ownership, management, lease, maintenance, modification, and disposal of aircraft, engines, and parts. Our clientele encompasses aircraft, engine, and part owners, lessors, managers and servicers, vendors, and maintenance facilities, as well as domestic and international airlines and other significant entities within the aviation sector.

gunnercooke's aviation team possesses extensive knowledge of the constantly evolving structures and products utilized in the industry. We specialize in delivering pragmatic resolutions to intricate challenges and reconciling conflicting positions for our clients. Our legal professionals take pride in their responsiveness to clients in a dynamic environment where transactions often involve parties located across numerous conflicting time zones.



Aviation Regulation

The gunnercooke aviation regulatory team advises on all aspects of aviation regulation. We monitor and liaise with aviation authorities and other government entities, IATA, ICAO, and local regulatory bodies. We advise on the ever-increasing volume of regulation into force and likely to affect our airline clients. We represent clients facing enforcement action by regulatory authorities arising from breaches of regulations and potentially leading to investigation and criminal prosecutions, and we assist our clients where they require us to lobby upstream of future proposed regulations and provide for them advice and material for presentations in the advance consultation process.

Aviation Dispute Resolution

gunnercooke represents airlines, aircraft operators, pilots, manufacturers and suppliers, airports, banks, lessors, and finance companies on a wide variety of claims, disputes, and problems requiring resolution. This may be through litigation, arbitration, or mediation, in which, as required, our team works with experts and specialists. We provide assistance and advice in relation to ancillary questions arising from disputes, such as employment questions, company, corporate, and commercial matters, and property and planning issues.

Startups, Licensing, and Aviation Authority Issues

gunnercooke has an established reputation in the aviation industry representing commercial aircraft lessors and airlines in all aspects of corporate transactions, including mergers, sales and acquisitions, franchised airline arrangements, codeshares, alliances, and other joint-venture agreements, slot sales, refinancing, and restructuring. We have an in-depth knowledge of advising and assisting startup aviation and aircraft companies and have advised on all aspects of startup operations for international owners and operators with regard to company formation, aircraft registration, licensing, aircraft registration, and trust deeds..

We have had particular experience advising several startup companies in the Middle East, including setting up a new aircraft company in Abu Dhabi, the licensing of a new operator at Dubai World Central Airport, the setting up of a new airline in Ras Al Khaimah, and setting up a new airline and a new operator in Dubai.



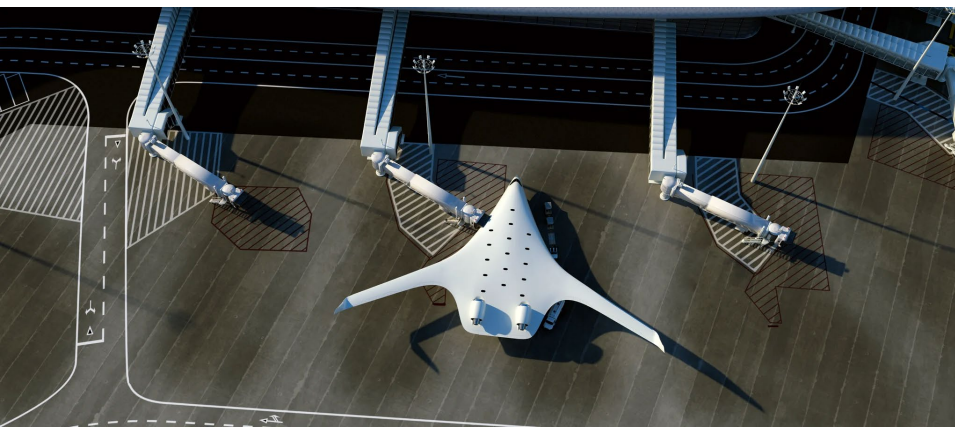
Commercial Aviation

The lawyers of gunnercooke's aviation team collaborate with aircraft and engine owners, lessors, managers and servicers, domestic and international airlines, manufacturers, maintenance providers, and financiers to structure and close acquisitions and sales of commercial aircraft and engines and other aviation-related equipment, including portfolio transactions, and facilitate long-term agreements, including new equipment purchase agreements, operating and finance leases, sale and leasebacks, servicing arrangements, secured and unsecured financing, and portfolio sales and acquisitions, encompassing both domestic and cross-border transactions, as well as technical arrangements such as storage, general maintenance, and passenger-to-freighter conversion agreements. We also advise on other commercial contracts, including fleet-hour agreements, ground-handling arrangements, supply agreements with third-party providers, provision-of-service agreements, franchise agreements, outsourcing mobile and application technology, and sponsorship, marketing, and advertising agreements.

Business, Private, and General Aviation

The gunnercooke aviation team handles claims, disputes, and document preparation involving a variety of general aviation aircraft from executive jets and helicopters to leisure flying in microlight aircraft and gliders and including unstaffed aircraft (drones).

gunnercooke represents pilots under aviation authority investigations and facing criminal prosecution, providing representation in court and at mediations and coroner's inquests. We also assist individuals, companies, and their clubs and associations involved in sporting aviation activities such as air displays, gliding, and air racing.



eVTOL Emerging Technology Electric Flight and Carbon Reduction

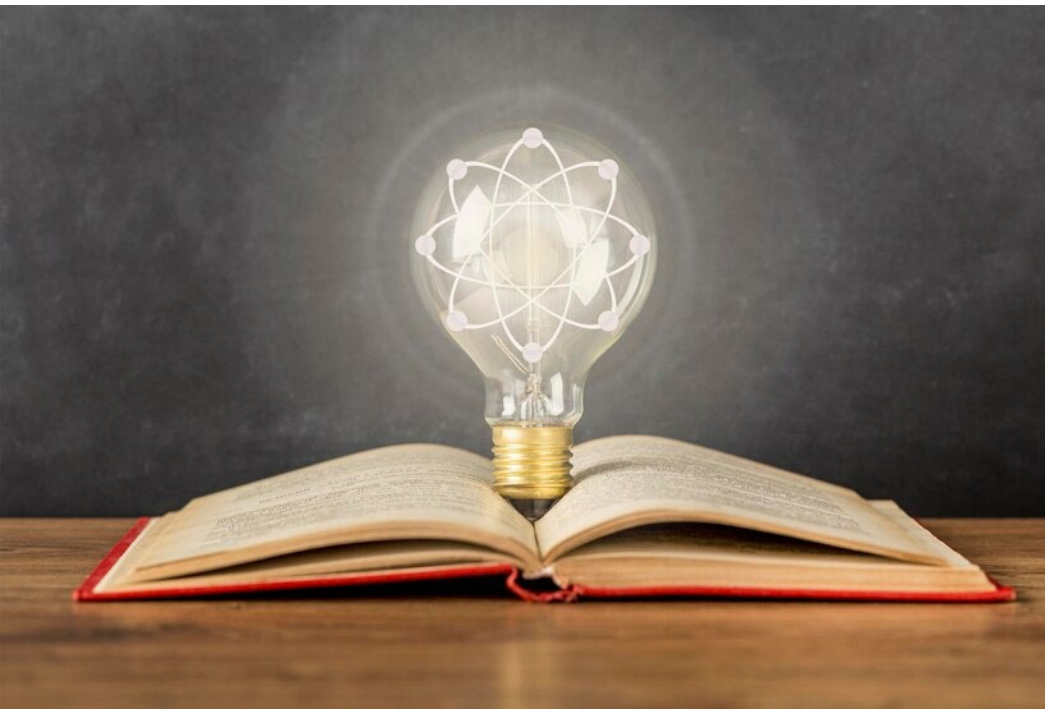
Our team also advises on all aspects of emerging aviation regulation and certification of new electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) technology and acts for a world-leading manufacturer and operator of eVTOL air taxi and air cargo aircraft designed to transform urban passenger and cargo flight and to reduce carbon emissions.

Rail

The gunnercooke Global Transport lawyers, who are experts in our top-tier rail practice, have a wealth of experience in dealing with a broad spectrum of domestic and international rail issues. They are adept at managing significant rail matters globally. Our legal expertise covers all facets of the rail industry, enabling us to offer our clients commercially focused, practical, and creative guidance and assistance.

The gunnercooke rail team has deep experience in both light- and heavy-rail projects, advising, in respect of the planning, design, supply, and installation of first-in-class energy- and fuel-efficiency modifications to traction systems.

Our team also advises on the financing of investments such as overhaul, refurbishment, and modifications to rolling stock on lease and advises on amendments, restructurings, and various other related.



Intellectual Property

The gunnercooke Global Transport team works together with the gunnercooke Intellectual Property team to deal with issues arising from the protection, exportation, and enforcement of intellectual property rights, including patent, copyright, trademark, trade names, trade secrets, confidentiality, and database issues.

About gunnercooke

gunnercooke is a leading global law firm with over 600 advisors in areas including corporate, transport & maritime and employment, as well as specialist and emerging disciplines such as charity, crypto, sport and competition law. The firm is growing rapidly with 16 offices in the US, Germany, Austria, Scotland and England.

Together, gunnercooke's people have strength across just about every corporate discipline and sector. We provide legal, commercial and strategic advice that delivers real value to the clients we work with, which span from multinational enterprises through to not-for-profit organisations.

We aspire to be deeply responsible and so our mission is simple; to deliver a positive impact for our clients, provide a better life for our people and to leave a better world than we found.

gunnercooke has been recognised for over 100 industry awards and our annual NPS score is +91, demonstrating the service delivered to our clients every day.



Award Winning Firm



An International Firm

Dedicated teams qualified in:

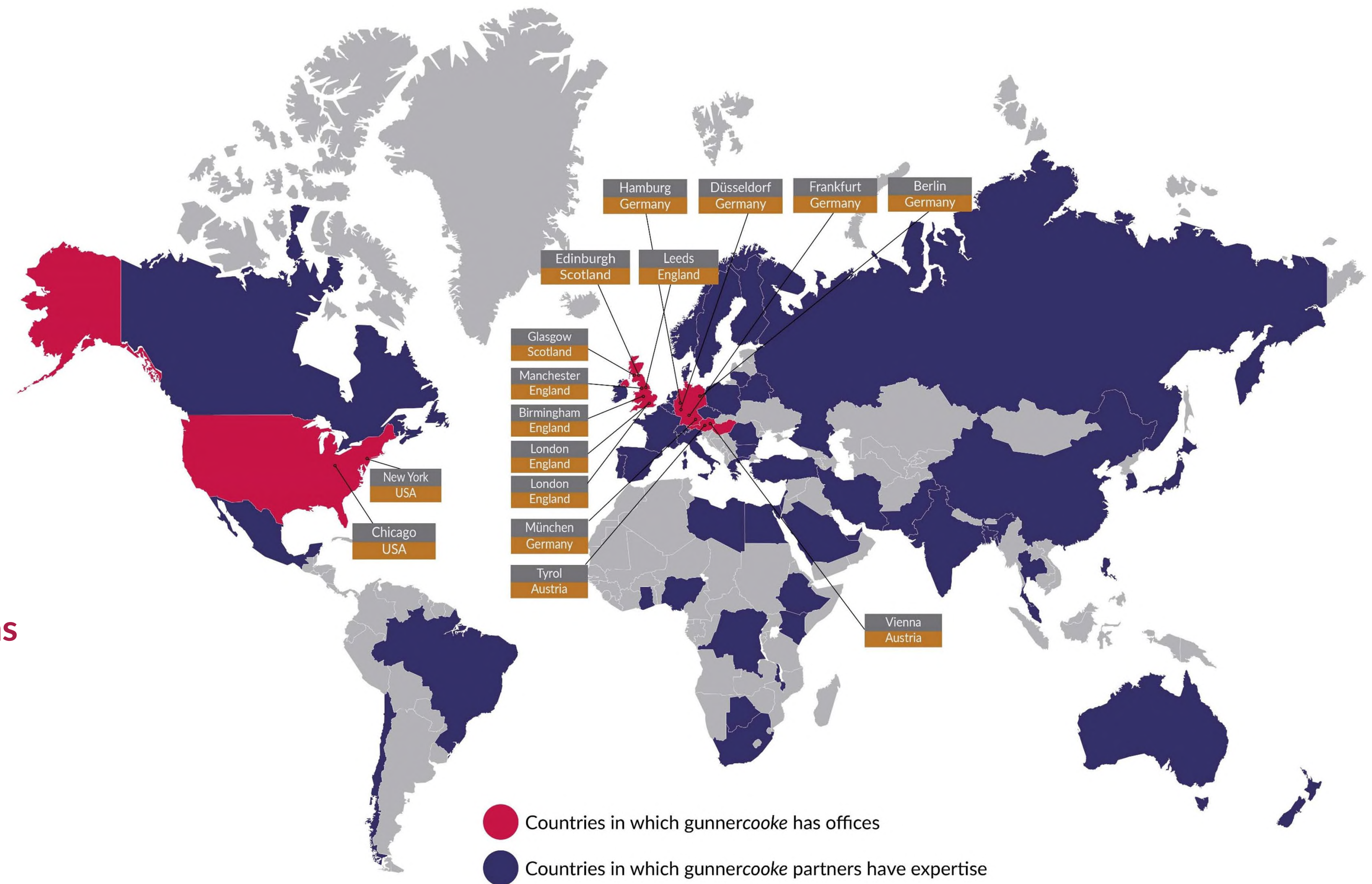
- England & Wales
- Scotland
- Ireland
- US
- Germany
- Austria
- Spain
- France
- Italy
- Portugal
- Switzerland
- Poland
- Brazil
- China
- India
- CEE

16 offices globally

Clients based **126 different jurisdictions**

Speaking **46 languages**

Dual-qualified in **22 jurisdictions**



Trusted by over 48,000 clients...



Meet the gunnercooke Global Transport Team

The gunnercooke Global Transport team consists of industry-leading partners specializing in transportation matters. Collectively, they have in excess of 150 years of experience in delivering commercial, practical, and decisive advice to provide you with peace of mind.

Robert Ashworth, Partner
Real Estate

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Robert specializes in providing clear, practical solutions to clients' real estate issues. He has specialized for over thirty-five years in commercial real estate, including ports and harbors, commercial fuel sales, airport, aviation, and commercial-vehicle supply agreements, and highway agreements and signage. Robert is extremely focused on working with clients to tune the finer details of what makes a project commercially viable. He predominantly advises on the management of property portfolios, their planning and development, funding, and environmental issues.



Elzbieta Burzynski, Partner
Commercial, Transport, Employment
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Elzbieta Burzynski is a lawyer with fifteen years of experience admitted to the bars in both Germany and Poland. She specializes in commercial law, Polish and cross-border law, and transport and forwarding law. Other areas of expertise include dunning procedures, labor, business consulting, and the drafting and review of contracts and general terms and conditions. Elzbieta offers over fifteen years of experience in the field of Polish law and over five years in the field of labor law.



Simon J Murfitt | Partner
Banking, Asset Finance
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Simon is an international asset and project finance lawyer with significant expertise in the aviation, marine, and shipping sectors. He has advised on a wide range of transportation projects for sponsors, financiers, charterers, regulators, and other stakeholders at all stages of the life of the asset or project. Simon is able to advise on the initial procurement process, ongoing facility or project management, operational, compliance, and reporting issues, refinancings and restructurings, default, and enforcement processes.



Matthew Harvey | Partner
Banking, Finance
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Matthew is a very experienced finance lawyer with broad experience as a lending and security specialist providing legal advice and commercial solutions. Matthew is commercially fluent and client focused. His experience in aviation law includes acting for high-net-worth individuals on the acquisition and financing of aircraft and acting for a British bank on \$450 million ECA-supported lease facility for a major helicopter operator.



Nick Hawkins | Partner
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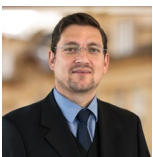
Nick is particularly valued by corporate clients for his enthusiastic "can-do" approach and his knowledge "at the sharp end," having been a CEO himself and sat on or advised many company boards, and for his accessibility and speed of response. Nick has deep experience in rail, air, and other transportation law, and from January 2021 to January 2022, he was seconded to Northern Trains Ltd as their Interim Head of Legal.



Kai-Alexander Bischoff | Partner
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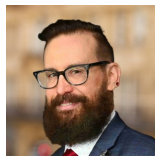
Kai-Alexander Bischoff is an experienced lawyer specialising in commercial and corporate law, M&A and aviation law, and provides international advice primarily in the aviation, rail, automotive and truck sectors.

Driven by his particular passion for aviation, he has built up extensive expertise in the aviation sector over the course of his career and is active in this field in both an advisory and litigation capacity.

**Oliver Huq | Partner**

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Oliver Huq is a lawyer with over fifteen years of professional experience. He advises companies on almost all legal matters that may arise and is characterised by his practice-oriented work and hands-on mentality. His clients include global IT companies as well as tech innovators and disruptors covering a wide range of industries from software development to engineering to mobility, medical and military. Oliver has experience in aviation leasing, logistics and transport, online mail-order business, and logistics-related traffic and regulatory offense law. He has advised and litigated in both the passenger and freight sectors as well as on logistics projects.

**Chris Orozco-Wallraff | Partner**

Aviation
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Chris focuses his practice on aviation transactions. A true specialist in the aviation industry, he has represented aircraft and engine owners, lessors, lessees, and operators in aircraft and engine leasing, trading, finance, maintenance, passenger-to-freighter conversion, and consignment agreements and related matters all over the world. Chris has previous experience in aviation leasing and finance at Rimon, P.C., and Holland & Knight LLP, as well as experience as in-house legal counsel at International Lease Finance Corporation (now AerCap), a major lessor of commercial jet aircraft.

**Clive Smith | Partner**

Rail, Asset Finance
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Clive is a hugely experienced asset finance lawyer who is routinely recognized in the legal directories as one the United Kingdom's leading practitioners in the rail sector. He has over twenty years' experience advising clients in respect of all things rolling stock-related, including its manufacture, purchase, finance, leasing, maintenance, modification, and freight conversion. He has advised on transactions in both the passenger and freight sectors and on both light and heavy rail projects.

**Marc Warren | Partner**

Commercial Property
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Marc studied in England before working in New Zealand at a top-tier law firm where, among other clients, he acted for the national airline and national bank. Marc acts for a variety of clients, including corporate occupiers and landlords, investors, developers, lenders, and borrowers. He has particular experience working with airports and retail parks and has acted for a leisure travel business. Marc has been dealing with Jet2.com's commercial property matters over the last ten years and won the prestigious "2023 Jet2.com Supplier Excellence Award."

**Alexander Werner | Partner**

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Alexander is a renowned specialist lawyer for transportation and forwarding law from Hamburg, who has **17** years of professional experience with more than **500** engagements in this specific legal field. Alexander has received several awards for his knowledge and skills, including an International Advisory Expert Award and a Lawyer Monthly Legal Award in 2021 **as well as Transport Law Firm of the Year - Germany - in 2025.**

**Andre Yeghiazarian | Senior Associate**

Dispute Resolution
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Andre is an experienced litigation and dispute-resolution lawyer who works with both private and commercial clients. He has represented clients in the English High Court and Court of Appeal, as well as in arbitration and mediation. Andre has a broad commercial practice and has experience with superyacht and financial (particularly civil fraud) disputes as well as contentious matters relating to shareholders and company directors, shipping, and negligence. He has conducted global asset tracing and enforced judgments against companies located within the European Union and internationally.

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