



WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

*The International Cross-Sectoral Industry Leadership Alliance
for Ocean Sustainability*

News Release

BLANK ROME JOINS FORCES WITH WORLD OCEAN COUNCIL

Leading maritime law firm supports international ocean sustainability alliance

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Blank Rome LLP, an international maritime law firm, has joined the World Ocean Council, the international, cross-sectoral industry leadership alliance on ocean stewardship.

In becoming a Founding Member of the World Ocean Council (WOC), Blank Rome has made a five-year commitment to assisting with the legal aspects of WOC establishment and development.

Jeanne Grasso (Partner, Blank Rome LLP) said, "Blank Rome is committed to supporting safe and sustainable use of the marine environment and we believe the World Ocean Council's efforts to catalyze industry collaboration across the sectors are fundamental to this. We encourage other leaders in the ocean business community to get involved in the WOC and join Blank Rome and like-minded colleagues in this unprecedented leadership alliance for ocean sustainability."

"We are thrilled and honored that Blank Rome has come on board as a Founding Member and close partner in supporting our organizational development", said Paul Holthus, WOC Executive Director. "With 2 months to go before the Sustainable Ocean Summit in Belfast, and more and more companies getting involved in the WOC, the support of Blank Rome is critical to fully establishing the WOC."

Blank Rome Maritime serves the shipping industry around the world and regularly handles complex, multi-jurisdictional, and international maritime and admiralty matters. Strategic mergers with the maritime practices of Dyer Ellis & Joseph in 2003 and Healy & Baillie in 2006 gave Blank Rome Maritime a solid foundation as the largest maritime and admiralty law practice in the United States. Blank Rome Solicitors & Notaries, in Hong Kong, offers maritime services and is well positioned to assist clients in China and throughout Asia and Oceania.

Blank Rome's maritime practice is consistently ranked at the top by Chambers Global, Chambers Asia, Asia Legal Pacific, and Chambers U.S.A.

The World Ocean Council is the international, cross-sectoral industry alliance for private sector leadership and collaboration in ocean stewardship. Companies and associations worldwide are distinguishing themselves as sustainability leaders by joining the WOC as Founding Members in 2009/2010.

The Sustainable Ocean Summit (Belfast, 15-17 June 2010) will convene ocean industries to consider shared environmental challenges and develop working groups to begin collaboration in addressing them.

For more information and *Sustainable Ocean Summit* registration, visit www.oceancouncil.org
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