



TESTING TIMES: Shipping faces myriad issues in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, with some shippers unable to load cargoes, tender notices of readiness due to quarantine or discharge where ports have been wholly or partially quarantined or closed Photo: Scanpix

ty, whether a trader, transporter, buyer, end user or financier, needs to reassess its own contractual obligations.

“Even if force majeure does not apply, other contractual clauses or doctrines, such as frustration and commercial impracticability, may provide relief.”

But Malhotra believes the legal problems that are emerging are not insurmountable.

“Our industry has weathered far worse storms in recent memory, and I am confident the quiet, calm professionalism that the industry has displayed in the past will carry the day again,” he said.



STARK WARNINGS: Hill Dickinson partner Sumeet Malhotra (left) and Blackstone & Gold managing director Baldev Bhinder

Photos: Hill Dickinson and Blackstone & Gold