

# Documentary Credit

# WORLD

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- *Holland v. Arch Coal, Inc.*
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### ■ BILLS OF LADING IN COMMODITY TRADE

In an illuminating interview with DCW Contributing Editor Vincent O'Brien, Ashish Madan of Adam Smith Associates shares his insights and perspectives regarding the role of bills of lading in commodity trade and the escalating occurrence of usance LCs allowing for presentation of photocopy bills of lading. In his firm yet friendly style of interviewing, O'Brien presses Madan for answers to challenging questions on the bill of lading as a document of title, ownership vs. possession of goods, risk considerations, and implications of trades structured on usance LCs and photocopy BLs. While most transactions are legitimate, both O'Brien and Madan are well aware of abuses. Drawing on his trading experience, Madan offers his thoughts on precautionary measures that trade parties may find useful for mitigating risk.