

## **Bio Note**

### **Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja**

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja read law at the University of Athens, Greece.

In 2005, Ms. Kazara-Belja was employed as a Junior Officer in the Maritime Transport Department of the Albanian Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication. Within a short period of time she was promoted as a Senior Officer in the same department dealing mainly with the drafting of national maritime legislation and the adoption of international maritime conventions.

During that period Ms. Kazara-Belja participated actively in a joint training programme between the Hellenic Coastguard and different governmental departments of Albania. The main focus of the trainings were search and rescue operations, salvage operations, protection of the marine environment etc.

Ms. Kazara-Belja obtained a Master's Degree in International Maritime Law (*with distinction*) at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. During the graduation ceremony Ms. Kazara-Belja was awarded the Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar,

In August 2008 Ms. Kazara-Belja joined the Institute as an Assistant Lecturer in International Maritime Law. In 2010, Ms. Kazara-Belja was promoted as Lecturer in International Maritime Law. In 2019, she was appointed a Senior Lecturer in International Maritime Law.

She lectures, *inter alia*, in Law of the Sea, International Trade Law, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Proprietary Interests in Ships, Law of Salvage, General Average, Law of Maritime Safety, Law of Marine Insurance, Enforcement of Maritime Claims and Maritime Legislation Drafting.

She has been a visiting lecturer at the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and University of Malta and has acted as an examiner for the Faculty of Laws, University of Malta. She has also participated in several international conferences and workshops where she has delivered presentations on issues of law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law, and migration at sea. Ms. Kazara-Belja joined the International Maritime Organization's Roster of Experts in 2012 and the FAO's Roster of Experts in 2018.

Ms. Kazara-Belja is a contributor and co-editor of the Second Volume of The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law. She has published chapter in books and articles in peer reviewed journals.

In addition to her academic position, Ms. Kazara-Belja is also the Head of Administration of the Institute.