



SPANISH MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Ignacio Arroyo visited the Institute on Monday 17 September and Tuesday 18 September 2012 and delivered two lectures on the “Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions”. Through his Socratic method of teaching he conducted dynamic and encouraging discussions with the students of the IMLI Class 2012/2013 on how international conventions are an important instrument for the unification of maritime law, and that maritime law has to be unified to help the development of international trade.

Professor Arroyo explained that, considering that the international instrument has to be, firstly approved by States in an international conference and secondly, to enter into force and to be binding at an international level, to meet thus the requirements stipulated in the same, the adoption of an international instrument is a very complex and long procedure. Further, Professor Arroyo pointed out that one has always to consider that adoption in itself is not a complete method, since the proper implementation of these international instruments depends, among other things, on their incorporation into domestic law and their interpretation by the judiciary, who at the end is national and not supranational.

During his lectures Professor Arroyo offered practical examples by reviewing from a critical point of view the Hague-Visby Rules, the Hamburg Rules, the Rotterdam Rules, and the Arrest of Ships Conventions of 1952 and 1999.



Professor Ignacio Arroyo meeting students of the Class of 2012/2013

Professor Arroyo was impressed by the diversity of the IMLI's student body and recalled that *'after over 35 years of teaching and addressing different audiences and tribunals, I am impressed by such motivated and multinational students coming from over 20 States'*. He continued by saying that *'IMLI is a unique experience and I advise any person engaged in maritime law to enroll in this wonderful programme. The comparative approach of teaching is a big asset of the Institute and has to be taken into consideration because most of the international maritime conventions are an expression of the dialectic relation of the civil law and common law systems.'*

Professor Arroyo received his Bachelor of Laws from the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain) in 1970 and the title of Doctor of Laws from the University of Bologna, Italy in 1972. He was awarded an LL.M. degree from Harvard University in 1975. On 28 June 2011, the University of Bologna conferred upon him the 'Sigillo di Ateneo' in recognition of his academic merits.

He is an Attorney-at-Law, an International Arbitrator and Professor of Commercial and Maritime Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Professor Arroyo has been the President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association since 2005.

Called by the Spanish maritime society as the "Father of Modern Spanish Maritime Law", he is the founder and general editor of the Spanish Yearbook of Maritime Law (*Anuario de Derecho Marítimo*), the first Spanish maritime journal covering all the aspects of public and private maritime law. Professor Arroyo is also the author of numerous publications on maritime law.

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