

IMLIe-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 11, Issue No.39) 8 July 2014

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF PROFESSOR WILLIAM AUBREY TETLEY

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute wishes to express its heartfelt condolences to the family of Professor William Aubrey Tetley for their sad loss.

Professor Bill Tetley, as he was fondly referred to, a lawyer, politician, law professor, author, colossus of the maritime legal profession, collector of Canadian art, beloved father and husband, died in Montreal, Quebec on the 1 July 2014 at the age of 87 years.



Professor William Tetley, C.M., Q.C., LL.L. with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and the IMLI Class of 2003-2004

For IMLI, Professor Tetley was one of its first and closest friends. He was a herald in the spreading of the good news of the establishment of an Institute to be dedicated to serving the rule of international maritime law through the training of lawyers from developing countries around international circles. His faith and enthusiasm for such an institute sparked a keen interest in the Institute by the maritime world.

He continued this support and interest in the Institute by visiting the Institute in the academic year 2003-2004 and by recommending experts in certain fields of maritime law to lecture at the Institute as visiting lectures. One such person has been Professor Marko Pavliha, an expert in the field of Marine Insurance, who marked his 15th year of uninterrupted lecturing visits to the Institute this academic year.

Professor Tetley's book "International Maritime and Admiralty Law" which, until now, has been one of the Institute's prescribed Shipping Law texts for its students was subsidized by him as his contribution to the Institute, to help facilitate in the empowerment of maritime minds.

He was also a contributor to the work "Serving the Rule of International Maritime Law: Essays in Honour of Professor David Joseph Attard", edited by Norman A. Martinez Gutiérrez, which commemorated Professor Attard's 20th year of training students at the Institute. This work represented a close collaboration among practitioners and academics in the field of international maritime law, including the then IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos, Judge Helmut, Professor Francis B. Reynolds, Q.C. and Patrick J.S. Griggs CBE. The late Professor Tetley was himself among this prestigious assemblage and wrote on the topic "A Summary of some general criticism of the UNCITRAL Convention (the Rotterdam Rules)."

Professor Tetley throughout his long career earned many honours. In 1981, he won the "Lilar Prize" of Brussels, awarded every three years by the Comité Maritime International for a leading work on maritime law published in any language in the world. In 1994, he was named Honorary Life Vice-President of the Comité Maritime International. In 1995, he was named a member of the Order of Canada. In 1999, Tulane University named an annual lecture series in his honour, referred to as the annual Tetley Maritime Law Lecture. He received the F.R. Scott Award for Distinguished Service from McGill University's Faculty of Law in 2007 to recognize his significant contribution to law and the life of the Faculty, and his exceptional service and leadership to society.



Professor William Tetley and Mrs. Rosslyn Tetley during their visit to the Institute in 2003-2004

He was that rare example of practitioner and academic during a long career. He was a senior partner in a law firm of Martineau, Walker, Allison, Beaulieu & Tetley (now Fasken Martineau) from 1952 to 1970, where he practiced civil, commercial and maritime law. He was made Q.C. in 1968, and became Counsel to a leading law firm in Montreal. Since 1976 he has been Professor of Law at McGill University and Visiting Professor of Maritime and Commercial Law at Tulane University, New Orleans from 1984 to 1998. He was appointed a visiting Professor at Dalian University in 1996, and lectured at many other Universities around the world.

Professor William Tetley was an award-winning author of books on international maritime law covering areas on Conflicts of Laws, Maritime Liens and Mortgages, and Marine Cargo Claims. His books have been translated into many languages, including Russian, Japanese and Chinese.

He also had a political career as a City Councillor and in the Quebec National Assembly and represented the Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (N.D.G.) in the Quebec National Assembly from 1968 to 1976, serving as a Cabinet Minister under Premier Robert Bourassa.

The legend in maritime law's lasting legacy will undoubtedly be the books he has authored but also his vast knowledge of, expertise and enthusiasm for maritime law, which he shared with all, students, practitioners and the maritime world at large.

He will be sadly missed by all those people, institutions and by maritime lawyers throughout the world, whose lives he touched, including IMLI. We bid him farewell and know that his maritime soul will keep marching on!

** If you do not want to receive IMLI e-News in future, please return this message to the above address with request to DELETE in the subject field.*

*** For further information please contact Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Editor, IMLI e-News) at publications@imli.org*