

SPANISH PROFESSOR OF COMMERCIAL AND MARITIME LAW LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Ignacio Arroyo, Professor of Commercial and Maritime Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, visited the Institute on Tuesday 21 October 2014 and delivered two lectures on the “Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions”. His own unique method of teaching was enlightening and provoked much discussion with the students of the IMLI Class of 2014/2015 on the importance of international conventions as instruments for the unification of maritime law. He reiterated the point that maritime law needs to be unified to aid positive development in international trade.



Professor Ignacio Arroyo meeting students of the Class of 2014/2015

In his lectures, Professor Arroyo explained that international conventions are an important instrument for the unification of maritime law and maritime law has to be unified to help in the

development of international trade. However, the adoption of an international instrument is a very complex and long procedure. The international instrument firstly must be approved by States at an international conference and secondly, to enter into force and to be binding at an international level, it has to meet the requirements stipulated in the said instrument. Further, one has to always consider that this is not an end in itself, since the proper implementation of these international instruments depends, among other things, on their incorporation into domestic law and become binding on the State.

During his lectures, Professor Arroyo also discussed the Hague-Visby Rules, the Hamburg Rules, the Rotterdam Rules, and the Arrest of Ships Conventions 1952 and 1999.

Professor Arroyo received his Bachelor of Laws Degree 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 and an International Arbitrator. Professor Arroyo was also the President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association from 2005 to 2012.

Referred to by the Spanish maritime community 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.

During this year's visit to the Institute, Professor Arroyo was accompanied by Professor Dr. Jose Alejo Rueda Martinez, Professor of Commercial Law, in the Faculty of Law, in the University of Oviedo, in Spain. Professor Rueda has expressed great interest in the work of the Institute and the primary reason for his visit was to learn more about IMLI. He was very pleased with what he witnessed and left very eager, with the aim of facilitating future collaboration between the Institute and his University.

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