

IMLI GRADUATE DELIVERS A PRESENTATION AT THE 2015 CMI ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

Ms. Vannessia K. Stewart (IMLI graduate of the Class of 2013-2014) was invited by the Comité Maritime International (CMI) to attend its 2015 Annual Colloquium and Assembly held in Istanbul, Turkey between the 7 and 9 June. Her invitation formed part of the CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance she was awarded at IMLI during its 2014 Graduation Ceremony.



Professor Francis M. B. Reynolds, Q.C. (Barrister/Professor Emeritus, University of Oxford) presenting the CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance to Ms. Vannessia K. Stewart (Jamaica) during the 2014 Graduation Ceremony

As part of the invitation to the event, Ms. Stewart was asked to deliver a presentation to the group of the Young CMI Members. The presentation delivered was titled “*The Fair Treatment of Seafarers in Cases of Abandonment: A Caribbean Perspective*” and was based on her thesis submitted to the Institute as partial fulfilment for the award of the LL.M. Degree.

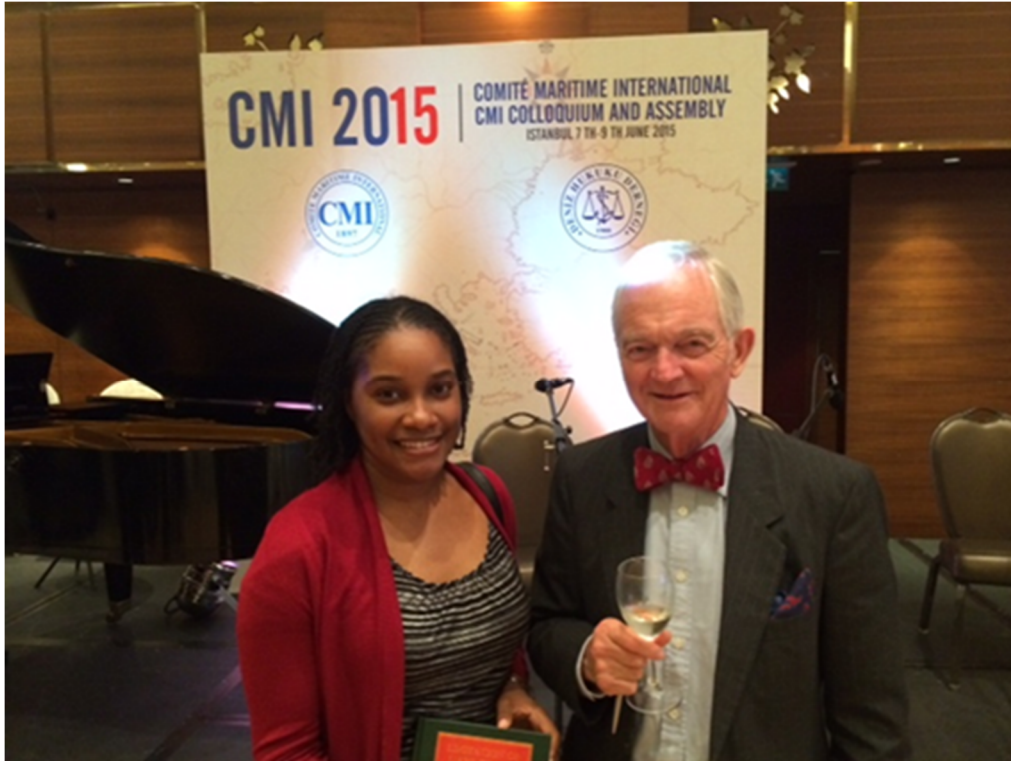
The presentation outlined the need for the Caribbean States to recognize that abandonment of seafarers is a real issue that affects all Caribbean States especially those considered major maritime States and which are directly involved in crew supply. She noted that the States directly affected include Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, which together host the Caribbean Maritime Institute and the University of Trinidad and Tobago, respectively, both Institutions highly instrumental in maritime training and by extension, crew supply.

Further, the presentation also served to highlight the need for Caribbean maritime States to become parties to the relevant international instruments, in particular, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC). While the presentation recognized that several Caribbean States, such as Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have become party to the Convention, only three of these countries have adopted legislation incorporating the Convention. As they are all dualist States, national legislation incorporating the Convention is a prerequisite for the enforcement of the Convention's provisions in these States.

The presentation therefore encouraged all Caribbean States to adopt the relevant national legislation which implements the MLC provisions, including its amendments which require shipowners to have financial security to repatriate seafarers in cases of abandonment.

In a message to the Institute, Ms. Stewart informed the Editor of the IMLI e-News that the presentation was well received. She stated that the Colloquium was a great networking opportunity enabling her to make various connections within the maritime and shipping industry, in addition to the ones she had already made during her study at IMLI. She is confident that these links would undoubtedly prove useful to her future in the maritime industry.

Ms. Stewart had the pleasure of meeting once again with some of the IMLI visiting lecturers who had taught her during her studies at IMLI. She made particular mention in this regard of Dr. Patrick Griggs (Former President, CMI), Dr. Anne Fenech (President, Malta Maritime Law Association and Managing Partner, Fenech and Fenech Advocates in Malta), Dr. Ivan Vella (Advocate and Vice-President, Malta Maritime Law Association) and Dr. Mitja Grbec (President, Slovenian Maritime Law Association and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transportation, University of Ljubljana).



Dr. Patrick Griggs and Ms. Ms. Vannessia Stewart at the CMI annual colloquium and assembly in Istanbul

She further informed the Editor of the IMLI e-News that she was well received by the CMI executive and general members and that she participated in all the Conference sessions and social activities on the sponsorship of the CMI Charitable Trust.

Ms. Stewart concluded by stating that she is very grateful to the Institute through which she was able to gain such a wonderful experience and hopes that the future awardees of the CMI Prize for Best Overall Performance at IMLI will enjoy the same benefits.

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