

IMLLe-News

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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, on Tuesday 20 October 2015 visited the Institute. During his stay, he delivered two lectures on the “Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions”, throughout which there was much discussions on the importance of international conventions as instruments for the unification of maritime law.



Professor Ignacio Arroyo with the students of the Class of 2015-2016

Professor Arroyo, using his own unique method of teaching explained that international conventions are an important instrument for the unification of maritime law. He also discussed the long and complex process by which an international instrument is adopted. At the commencement of this process of adoption, he states that an international instrument must first be approved by States at an international conference. This is followed by the instrument’s entry into force and then becoming binding at an international level. He pointed out that the process does not end at this juncture because unification depends on proper implementation of the convention, which in turn depends on their incorporation into domestic law, making it binding on the State.

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

All throughout his lectures, Professor Arroyo stressed the point that maritime law needs to be unified in order to aid positive development in international trade.

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 Maritimo*), 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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