



The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 14, Issue No. 12) 9 December 2016

IMO COUNCIL AWARDS THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE TO PROFESSOR FRANK LAWRENCE WISWALL JR.

Professor Frank Lawrence Wiswall Jr. (former Chairman of the IMO Legal Committee, and Vice-President (*Honoris Causa*) of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) has received the prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2015, in recognition of his contribution, over many years, to the work of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Award was presented to Professor Wiswall at a ceremony held at the IMO Headquarters on 5 December 2016.



(L-R) Mr. Kitack Lim (IMO Secretary-General), Mrs. Libby Wiswall (wife of Professor Frank Lawrence Wiswall Jr.); Professor Frank Lawrence Wiswall Jr. and Professor David Attard (IMLI Director)

Professor Wiswall was nominated for this most prestigious award by the CMI, an Organization he served as Vice-President for many years, with distinction and impeccable leadership quality. CMI acknowledged that *Professor Wiswall* has contributed greatly to the uniformity of maritime law during his long and distinguished career as a practising maritime lawyer, academic and Vice-President of the CMI. Conferring the Award, the IMO Council noted *Professor Wiswall's* personal contribution to the work of IMO, leading IMO's Legal Committee as it developed a number of key international treaties, and holding important roles at various international IMO legal and diplomatic conferences. In presenting the Prize, the IMO Secretary-General highlighted Prof. Wiswall's dedication and leadership in the field of international maritime law over several years, making an invaluable contribution to the goals and purpose of IMO.

Prof. Wiswall's contribution to the development of international maritime law has been also greatly felt at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI). His engagement with IMLI began when he was asked by the then IMO Secretary-General to review a draft syllabus for the embryonic Institute in Malta. Prof. Wiswall instantly became a strong believer in IMLI's purpose as a capacity-building and training institute and began teaching at IMLI in 1990. As a Visiting Professor, and Member of IMLI's Governing Board and the IMLI Academic Committee for over two decades, Prof. Wiswall made a significant contribution to the training of lawyers from around the world in the drafting of international conventions, the international regulation of maritime law through international conventions, including COLREG and SOLAS, as well as in the incorporation of international conventions into national legislation. He lectured on a variety of topics including maritime legal history, maritime legislation drafting, the law of maritime safety and the law of marine collisions. In recognition of his long service to the harmonization, progressive development and codification of international maritime law, IMLI conferred on *Professor Wiswall* the Degree of Honorary Professor of International Maritime Law in 1999.

Professor David Attard (Director of IMLI) said that IMLI is very pleased that the Secretary-General awarded such a distinguished prize to *Professor Wiswall*. It is a reflection of his outstanding contribution to international law in general and in particular to the generation of IMLI lawyers who have attended his lectures. Professor Attard also congratulated his wife, Mrs. Libby Wiswall, who accompanied him on his annual visit to Malta, and whose kindness won the admiration of staff and students.

Prof. Wiswall obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at Colby College, a Doctor of Law at Cornell University and a Doctor of Philosophy at Clare College, Cambridge University. He was admitted to the Bar in the State of Maine in 1965 and the Supreme Court of the United States in 1968. He was elected Vice-Chairman of the Legal Committee (1974-1979), Chairman of the Legal Committee (1980-1984), and served as acting Chairman for a number of Legal Committee sessions. Prof. Wiswall was also a visiting professor at the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden, from 1986-2003. He is a member of various law associations and societies and has published a number of books, including *the Development of Admiralty Jurisdiction and Practice Since 1800 (1970)*, and numerous papers and articles.

The International Maritime Prize is awarded annually by IMO to the individual or organization judged to have made the most significant contribution to the work and objectives of the

Organization. It consists of a sculpture in the form of a dolphin and includes a financial award, upon submission of an academic paper written on a subject relevant to IMO.

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