



PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF MALTA LECTURES AT IMLI

H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute and delivered a set of lectures on Comparative Law to the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017.



H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta) meeting the IMLI Class of 2016 – 2017

The main aim of Dr. Bonnici's lectures was to introduce the students, who come from different backgrounds and legal cultures, to the major legal systems of the world such as the Civil Law system, Common Law system and Shari'a Law system, and to trace the development of such systems in a comparative manner. His lectures were therefore focused on topics such

as “Introduction to Comparative Law”, “Classifications and Differentiations”, “The Specific Nature of the Anglo-Saxon Common Law Systems”, “Law in Islamic Countries” and “Law and Change: The Drafting of New Laws”, among others.

He engaged the students in discussions on why the law is necessary and invited them to reflected on the law as a human phenomenon. On the relevance of law in society, Dr. Bonnici explained to the students that the best way to avoid conflict is to have pre-established norms which will prevent conflict in all societies, as without such established rules there is bound to be conflict. He further informed the students that civilization and culture owe their existence to the existence of law. His lectures provided the students with a clear understanding of the various legal traditions and helped them appreciate certain legal concepts by tracing their origin to a particular legal culture.

Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici obtained a B.A. degree and an LL.D. from the University of Malta in 1952 and 1955, respectively. He practised law from 1956 to 1987 and in 1987, he was appointed as Minister of Education. He was a Member of Parliament of Malta from 1966 to 1994. During his term in Parliament, he served on many select committees, most notably, the Committee on Constitutional Matters that eventually amended the Constitution paving way for Malta to become a Republic. Dr. Bonnici was elected as President of the Republic of Malta in 1994.

Dr. Bonnici is the author of numerous publications, including “An Introduction to Comparative Law” published in 2004 and “An Introduction to Cultural Heritage Law” published in 2008. His latest book, published in 2014, is “An Introduction to the Law of Education.”

He was awarded a D. Litt (*Honoris causa*) from the University of Malta in 1995 and from the Sorbonne (Paris IV) in 1996.

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