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RENOWNED MARITIME LABOUR LAW EXPERT LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Director of the Centre for Seafarers' Rights at Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey) – a renowned expert in maritime labour law issues – delivered a two-day intensive seminar to the IMLI Class of 2016-2017. During the seminar, Mr. Stevenson engaged the students in discussions on the important topic of seafarers' rights as enshrined in the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.



Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Director of the Centre for Seafarers' Rights at Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey) with the IMLI Class of 2016 - 2017

In discussing the rights of seafarers, Mr. Stevenson made the students appreciate the fact that the very essence of the Maritime Labour Convention was to secure for all seafarers the right to decent employment. Throughout the seminar, students analysed the rights of seafarers to security of employment; the right to food; the right to medical care; the right to a safe and secure workplace; the right to decent working and living conditions; fair terms of employment; and other forms of social protection, including the right to be granted shore leave. Mr. Stevenson described these rights as very fundamental to the life of seafarers at sea and noted that they are prescribed in the Maritime Labour Convention as the minimum standards every seafarer should benefit from.

Mr. Stevenson informed the students that the realisation of these rights will make work at sea very attractive to seafarers, and therefore, States need to incorporate the Convention into their national legislation for purposes of implementation.

The Socratic method of Mr. Stevenson's lectures engaged the students in role plays where real life cases concerning the right of seafarers were discussed. This approach gave the students an opportunity to participate in practical discussions of intricate issues involving seafarers' rights.



Students of the IMLI Class of 2016-2017 working on maritime labour law cases during the seminar

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the University of Miami School of Law. He served in various capacities whilst with the U.S. Coast Guard, including command at sea. He was a political and security advisor at the US Mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Stevenson is the Director of the Centre for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey. He provides legal assistance and advocacy for merchant mariners worldwide. He is President of the Life Saving Benevolent Association of New York.

He is a recipient of the Chamber of Shipping of America's Rear Admiral Halpert C. Shephard award and the Diocese of New York's Servant of Justice award.

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