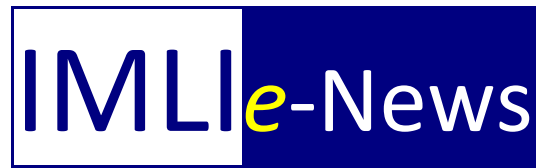


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The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter  
(Vol. 15, Issue No. 9) 22 November 2017

### SPANISH PROFESSOR OF MARITIME LAW LECTURES AT IMLI

Professor Ignacio Arroyo Martínez (Professor of Commercial and Maritime Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 24 October 2017 and delivered a set of lectures on “*The Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions*” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



*Professor Ignacio Arroyo Martínez (Professor of Commercial and Maritime Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona) meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

Professor Arroyo began his lecture with an interesting discussion on how language plays a key role in understanding and subsequently implementing international maritime conventions into domestic law. He used the word “law” as an example and ask the students to give its equivalent in terms of the sound and meaning in their respective languages. The diversities revealed by this exercise made Professor Arroyo ask whether, amidst apparent diversities in our various legal cultures, the uniform application of maritime laws can be achieved.

The students learned that in order to achieve the uniform application of maritime laws, the challenges of diversity must first be overcome. This can be achieved when legal instruments which instil certainty in the law are adopted, and when adjudicatory bodies with powers to enforce the law are established. These, according to Professor Arroyo, are the two key factors relevant to the uniform application of maritime law through international conventions. Consequently, diversity is replaced with uniformity.

Professor Ignacio Arroyo holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Doctor of Laws Degrees from the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain) and the University of Bologna (Italy) respectively. In 1975, he obtained an LL.M. degree from Harvard University. In 2011, the University of Bologna recognised Professor Arroyo’s academic excellence with the conferral of the ‘Sigillo di Ateneo.’ He served as President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association from 2005 – 2012. He is the founder and general editor of the Spanish Yearbook of Maritime Law (*Anuario de derecho Maritimo*). He has published extensively in the area of maritime law. The Spanish maritime community affectionately referred to Professor Arroyo as the ‘Father of Modern Spanish Maritime Law.’

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