



## PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF MALTA LECTURES AT IMLI

H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute in October and November 2017. He delivered a set of lectures on ‘Classifications and Differentiations’; ‘the Mainstream of Law in the West’; ‘The Specific Nature of Anglo-Saxon Common Law Systems’; ‘Law in Islamic Countries’, and ‘Law and Change: The Drafting of New Laws’ to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



*H.E. Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici (President Emeritus of Malta) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

The main aim of Dr. Mifsud Bonnici’s lectures in Comparative Law was to introduce the students, who came from different backgrounds and legal cultures, to the various aspects of law and its development and how various legal cultures, such as that of the Civil Code, Anglo-Saxon Common Law and the Sharia influenced the formation of the national legal institutions of various countries.

In his lectures, he gave the general framework of the various *grand systèmes*. He pointed out the key differences between the three more important systems of law in the Civil, the Common Law and the Sharia – legal systems that the students were originally more familiar with. He also pointed out the influence exercised by the various systems on the laws of countries which originally

possessed a different system. A particularly interesting lecture was that on the conflict of laws in Moslem countries. It was an interesting lecture which the IMLI students undoubtedly appreciated.

H.E. 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. He was elected Member of Parliament in 1966 and served on many select committees, most notably the Committee on Constitutional Matters, which formulated the amendments to the Constitution in 1974 and 1987. H.E. Dr Mifsud Bonnici served as Minister of Education, with a number of other portfolios, between 1987 and 1994. As Minister he was responsible for the new Education Law (1988), the Law for the Protection of the Environment and the Law of Health and Safety at the place of work.

H.E. Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici was elected President of the Republic in 1994 and served for a term of five years, after which he authored numerous publications including: *Biex il-futur jerga' jibda* (1976); *Il-linja t-tajba* (1981); *Biex il-futur reġa' beda* (1992); *Il-Manwal tal-President* (1997); *Kif sirna Repubblika* (1999); An Introduction to Comparative Law (2004); An Introduction to Cultural Heritage Law (2008), An Introduction to the Law of Education (2014) and his autobiography *Konvinzjoni u Esperjenza* (2015). He has edited, together with his brother Chief Justice Emeritus Prof. Giuseppe Mifsud Bonnici, the publication entitled *Il Gross. Il-Kontribut Letterarju* (2012) and *Diritto Civile, Lezioni del Professore Giovanni Caruana (1866-1923) Trascritte da Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici (1897-1949)* and *Leggi di Procedura Civile, Lezioni del Professore Giovanni Caruana (1866-1923) Trascritte da Giovanni Calleja (1893-1958)*, both publications published by the Faculty of Laws as part of the "Historic Maltese Legal Materials Series".

From November 2002 till 2013 he served as member of the Venice Commission for Democracy through Law of the Council of Europe.

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

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