



## **DIRECTOR OF THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE (SCI) CENTER FOR SEAFARERS' RIGHTS LECTURES AT IMLI**

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) of New York and New Jersey, USA) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 25-26 January 2018 and delivered a set of lectures on Seafarers' Rights and the Maritime Labour Convention to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



*Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) of New York and New Jersey, USA) meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

Mr. Stevenson opened the class by emphasizing the importance of studying seafarers' rights. He gave a unique view on the biggest threat to Maritime Security, a focus point to many studies and discussions for many years in maritime international law. He stated that contrary to popular belief, piracy is not the biggest threat to Maritime Security. Maritime Security is primarily concerned in ensuring that the Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs) are open. To effectively accomplish this,

vessels traversing the SLOCs need to be manned by skilled seafarers. However, as of late, there has been an increase in concern over the growing shortage of skilled seafarers. This he believes must be addressed by way of ensuring that seafarers are cared for and attractive packages are given to them make a career at sea more enticing and for more skilled seafarers to enter the workforce.



*Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson delivering his lectures*

Thereafter, he divided the class into seven groups. His method of teaching is more on the interactive approach where students are encouraged to participate in the discussions on the topics in interest for the said session such as: the Rules of International Maritime law in general, its effect to seafarers' rights and the Basic Fundamental Seafarers' Rights.



*Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson distributing reading materials to the groups.*

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson directs the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey, providing legal assistance and advocacy for merchant mariners worldwide. Mr. Stevenson is a maritime lawyer and a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer. Prior to joining the staff of the Seamen's Church Institute, he served in a variety of Coast Guard legal and

operational assignments including command at sea and as political and security advisor at the US Mission to the United Nations. He is the recipient of the Chamber of Shipping of America's Rear Admiral Halpert C. Shepherd award and the Diocese of New York's Servant of Justice award. He serves as President of the Life Saving Benevolent Association of New York and is Past Chairman of the International Christian Maritime Association. He is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the University of Miami Law School.

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