

IMLI *e*-News

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FORMER PRESIDENT OF COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Patrick Griggs (Former President of Comité Maritime International) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) from 9-10 April 2018 and delivered lectures on the “Nairobi Convention on the Removal of Wrecks” and “Making Maritime Law- Do Conventions Work?” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018. He also gave an illustrated talk about the legal aspects of a number of maritime and aviation disasters that occurred in the U.K. in the 1980s.



*Dr. Patrick Griggs (Former President of Comité Maritime International)
meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018*

In his lecture on the Wreck Removal Convention, Dr. Griggs discussed its salient features and warned about the problems that states have encountered when opting to apply the Convention to wrecks located within territorial waters. In his lecture on "Making Maritime Law- Do Conventions Work?", he provided the class with a very stimulating discussion on how international conventions on maritime law are conceived, drafted, adopted, ratified and implemented. He said that the ultimate goal is to achieve uniformity of international maritime law by this process. He discussed why certain conventions had failed to achieve widespread acceptance and explained that the IMO Legal Committee will now only accept into its work programme a topic where a "compelling need" for uniformity has been proved. Dr. Griggs finally cited the challenges encountered in achieving uniformity and explained that there were alternative "soft" law options available when uniformity by way of convention proves to be impossible.

Dr. Patrick Griggs joined the leading London-based Maritime law firm of Ince & Co. in June 1958 and became a Partner in 1966. He was Senior Partner from January 1989 to May 1995 and remains a Consultant with the firm.

He was President of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) from 1997 to 2004 and Secretary/Treasurer of the British Maritime Law Association (BMLA) from 1995 to 2005. He is the CMI observer at meetings of the IMO Legal Committee and in that capacity, has been involved in the drafting of numerous maritime law conventions of recent years, including the HNS Convention 1996/2010, the LLMC Protocol 1996, the Bunkers Convention 2001, the Athens Protocol 2002 and the Wreck Removal Convention 2006. He is Chairman of the CMI International Working Group on Offshore Activities, which is looking at ways in which issues of liability and compensation for oil and gas spills arising from exploration and exploitation of offshore resources might be regulated by international agreement.

Away from the law he was, between 2004 and 2012, Chairman of Opera Rara- which is a company devoted to re-discovering and recording lesser known operas of the 19th Century bel canto repertoire.

In 2005, he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the maritime industry and in 2011, was awarded the Degree of Doctor of International Maritime Law Honoris Causa by the IMO International Maritime Law Institute, Malta.

Dr. Patrick Griggs has, throughout his professional career, specialised in marine and aviation disaster litigation, having been involved in the "Pacific Glory"/"Allegro", the "Christos Bitas", the "Energy Progress" and in the British Airtours - Manchester air crash, the "Herald of Free Enterprise" capsized, the Chinook Helicopter (Sumburgh) crash, the British Midland MI air crash, the "Marchioness"/"Bowbelle" collision, the Piper Alpha rig disaster and the "Braer" stranding.

Dr. Patrick Griggs is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences on various aspects of maritime law and co-author of "Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims" (4th Ed. 2006) and is currently working on the 5th Edition.

He is a member of the Governing Board of IMLI and lectures at IMLI on a regular basis.

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