

IMLI e-News

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IMLI GOVERNOR LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Jim Harrison (Deputy Chairman, IMLI Board of Governors and Chairman, IMLI Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 22 April 2019 and delivered a lecture on “How to Succeed as an In-House Lawyer” to the IMLI Class of 2018-2019.



Mr. Jim Harrison (Deputy Chairman, IMLI Board of Governors and Chairman, IMLI Finance and Personnel Sub-Committee) and Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) with the IMLI Class of 2018-2019

Mr. Jim Harrison’s lecture was more of “a talk to the students” than a normal lecture. It centered chiefly on career development, from choice to management and progression. He advised the students to choose their career path very carefully and seek a type of work and a place of work that is worthwhile, interesting and intellectually stimulating.

On the need to allocate time to think about and plan one's career progression, Mr. Harrison counselled the students to take ownership of their choice of career and that they should not just let it happen to them or leave it entirely to others to decide for them.

At work, Mr. Harrison encouraged the students to get to know their client(s) well and avoid working from an “ivory tower”. “Get into the bloodstream of your organisation”, he reiterated. Other positive work attitude recommended by Mr. Harrison included adaptation to the working environment, get out and about and avoid appearing intellectually arrogant or a “know-all”. On the latter, students were advised to make good use of their newly acquired knowledge from IMLI throughout their legal careers and resist the temptation to show-off.



Mr. Jim Harrison delivering his lecture

He concluded his talk on the following pieces of advice:

‘The first few days, weeks and months of your return are important –you need to ease yourself back into working life and to make a strong favourable impression on your boss and colleagues. Your colleagues have managed without you for nearly a year –so you need to demonstrate to them that you have something extra to offer and that you can make a positive contribution to their working lives.’

Shortly after his lecture, Mr. Jim Harrison spoke about his involvement with the Institute 20 years ago:

I have had an involvement with IMLI for over 20 years, and when I reflect on the advances IMLI has made during these years, I see a remarkable transformation in so many ways, not just the number of students that attend IMLI but also, how IMLI operates. IMLI is now more outward looking than 20 years ago. This is evident by the relationships it has built with the World Maritime University (WMU) and other eminent academic institutions- this is a remarkable achievement.

Meeting the students, I am impressed with how happy and vibrant they seem to be, and they seem to have a genuine thirst for learning. This is a very encouraging indicator for me that IMLI is fulfilling its objective of improving capacity building in so many countries, particularly developing countries.

On the further expansion of IMLI in terms of student numbers, accommodation for the students and hopefully a new state-of-the-earth lecture theatre, as chairman of the Finance Committee, this is particularly an exciting prospect. I have been keen to see the lecturing facilities enhanced and improved for a few years now, and the indicators suggest this will happen in the near future.

Overall, the personal and professional pride and satisfaction I gain from my involvement with IMLI increases. I am very proud to have this connection with IMLI, and I enjoy serving on the Board and Finance Sub-Committee – It is a real pleasure.

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