

MARITIME LABOUR LAW EXPERT LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Past Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute), a renowned expert in the field of maritime labour law and related issues, delivered a set of lectures on Seafarers' Rights and the Maritime Labour Convention to the IMLI Class of 2019-2020.

Mr. Stevenson started his lectures by emphasizing the need of studying seafarers' rights. He explained that, contrary to popular belief, the biggest threat to the safe, secure and efficient shipping is lack of skilled seafarers. He noted that nowadays, the growing shortage of properly qualified seafarers is one of the biggest concerns in the industry and that, in his view, the problem may be solved by ensuring that seafarers are cared for and attractive career packages are available.



Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson (Director (rtd.) of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute) addressing the IMLI Class of 2019-2020

In discussing the rights of seafarers, Mr. Stevenson explained to the students that the very essence of the Maritime Labour Convention, which sets the minimum standards every seafarer should benefit from, was to secure for all seafarers the right to decent employment. Throughout the lectures, students analysed the rights of seafarers to security of employment; the right to food; the right to medical care; the right to a safe and secure workplace; the right to decent working and living conditions; fair terms of employment; and other forms of social protection, including the right to be granted shore leave. Mr. Stevenson described these rights as fundamental to the life of seafarers at sea, taking into consideration the specific nature of the profession.



*Mr. Douglas B. Stevenson with Professor Norman Martinez (Professor, IMLI)
and the IMLI Class of 2019-202*

During his lectures, Mr. Stevenson engaged the students in role plays where real life cases concerning the right of seafarers were discussed. This approach provided the students with a unique opportunity to participate in practical discussions of intricate issues involving seafarers' rights.



Students participating actively during the classes

Mr. Stevenson recently retired as Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey. He is a maritime lawyer and a retired U.S. Coast Guard officer. Prior to joining the staff of the Seamen's Church Institute in 1990, he served in a variety of Coast Guard legal and operational assignments, including command at sea and political and security advisor at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. In addition to numerous U.S. Coast Guard and State Department awards, Mr. Stevenson is a recipient of the Chamber of Shipping of America's Rear Admiral Halpert C. Shephard Award, the Diocese of New York Servant of Justice Award, and the Diocese of New York Bishop's Cross. He served as Chairman of the International Christian Maritime Association. Mr. Stevenson is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and University of Miami School of Law.

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