



FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SPANISH MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION DELIVERS HIS 10TH ANNUAL LECTURE AT IMLI

Professor Ignacio Arroyo Martínez (former President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association) delivered two lectures to the IMLI Class of 2019-2020 during his visit to the Institute on 14 and 15 October 2019. He delivered two lectures on “*The Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions*”. His informal lecture titled “*Talks with Professor Arroyo*” was held as a separate class session. This entailed open discussions on many areas of maritime law with the students.



Professor Ignacio Arroyo Martínez (former President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association) meeting the IMLI Class of 2019-2020

In his lectures he explained that international conventions are an important instrument for the unification of maritime law and maritime law has to be unified to help the development of

international trade. However, he continued, the adoption of an international instrument is a very complex and long procedure. The international instrument has to firstly, be approved by States in an international conference and secondly, to enter into force and to be binding at an international level. Further, one has always to consider that this is not a complete method, since the proper implementation of these international instruments depends, among other things, on their incorporation into domestic law and their interpretation by the judiciary, who at the end is national and not supranational.

Professor Arroyo stressed on the point that in order to achieve uniform application of maritime laws, the challenges of diversity must first be overcome. He also highlighted the importance of certainty in laws and regulations adopted for the purpose of unification. The focus of his lectures was that what is needful in the area of maritime law is that diversity be replaced with uniformity.



Professor Arroyo delivering his 10th annual lecture

Professor Arroyo is an Attorney-at-Law and an International Arbitrator. He was also the President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association from 2005 to 2012. On 28 June 2011, the University of Bologna conferred upon him the ‘Sigillo di Ateneo’ in recognition of his academic merits. Referred to by the Spanish maritime community as the “Father of Modern Spanish Maritime Law”, he is the founder and general editor of the Spanish Yearbook of Maritime Law (*Anuario de Derecho Marítimo*), the first Spanish maritime journal covering all the aspects of public and private maritime law. Professor Arroyo is also the author of numerous publications on maritime law.

Professor Arroyo has been a visiting professor at IMLI since 2008 and this year, he delivered his tenth set of lectures at IMLI. The Institute is very appreciative of his commitment and support all these years.

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