



JUDGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

During the twenty-first meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which took place in New York, the 143 State Parties elected, by a two-third majority, seven members to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

The Tribunal is composed of independent members, elected on a part-time basis from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea. Professor David J. Attard (Director of IMLI) was elected as a member of the Tribunal on 16 June 2011.



Professor David J. Attard

Commenting on Professor Attard's appointment, H.E. Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos (Secretary-General of IMO) noted that:

“Given the depth of your knowledge and long experience in matters related to the Law of the Sea, I have no doubt that yours will prove to be an excellent appointment and one that reflects well not only on IMLI but also on IMO. In your elevation to the bench of the Tribunal, you have also joined an elite coterie of distinguished maritime lawyers, not least of whom is our mutual friend and colleague, Dr. Thomas Mensah”.

The Tribunal is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention. It has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of

the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal.

The Tribunal is open to States Parties to the Convention (i.e. States and international organizations which are parties to the Convention). In accordance with article 20 of its Statute, it is also open to entities other than States Parties, i.e., States or intergovernmental organizations which are not parties to the Convention, and to State enterprises and private entities "in any case expressly provided for in Part XI or in any case submitted pursuant to any other agreement conferring jurisdiction on the Tribunal which is accepted by all the parties to that case.

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