



SPANISH MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT LECTURES AT IMLI

IMLI had the honour to host two lectures by Professor Ignacio Arroyo on Thursday 29 September and Friday 30 September 2011. Professor Arroyo, through his Socratic method of teaching, conducted dynamic and encouraging discussions with the students of IMLI Class 2011/2012 on the “Unification of Maritime Law through International Conventions”.

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 to 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 be, firstly approved by States in an international conference and secondly, to enter into force and to be binding at an international level has to meet the requirements stipulated in the same. 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 to domestic law and their interpretation by the judiciary, who at the end is national and not supranational.

Professor Arroyo also reviewed from a critical point of view the Hague-Visby Rules, the Hamburg Rules, the Rotterdam Rules, and the Arrest of Ships Conventions 1952 and 1999.



Professor Ignacio Arroyo meeting students of the Class 2011/2012

Professor Arroyo received his Bachelor of Laws from the University of Deusto (Bilbao, Spain) in 1970 and the title of Doctor of Laws from the University of Bologna, Italy in 1972. He was awarded an LL.M. degree from Harvard University in 1975. On 28 June 2011, the University of Bologna conferred upon him the ‘Sigillo di Ateneo’ in recognition of his academic merits.

He is an Attorney at law, an International Arbitrator and Professor of Commercial and Maritime Law at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Professor Arroyo has been the President of the Spanish Maritime Law Association since 2005.

Called by the Spanish maritime society 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.

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