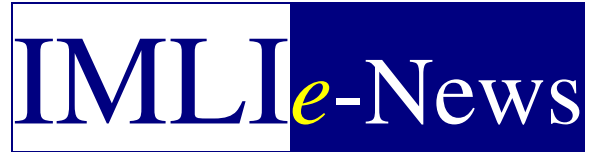


Circulated in more than 100 States to personalities in the legal and maritime professions



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COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL TITULAR MEMBER VISITS IMLI

Professor Frank L. Wiswall, Jr., Vice-President honoris causa of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) and Member of the IMLI Governing Board, is now at IMLI delivering two courses – one on “Maritime Legal History” and the other on “Maritime Legislation Drafting”.



Professor Frank L. Wiswall lecturing on Maritime Legal History to IMLI Class 2006-2007

The course on Maritime Legal History gives the students an understanding of how maritime law has developed and why it has developed in particular ways. At the start of his lectures he stressed that in the case of maritime law, the only surviving historical records available to the researcher are largely Eastern Mediterranean and European in

orientation so that students in class who are from other global regions should not assume that the history of their own country is being overlooked.

In the second week of his visit, Professor Wiswall will be lecturing on Maritime Legislative Drafting. During his lectures he will be emphasizing the process by which international maritime legislation is developed in the IMO.

In an interview conducted, Professor Wiswall expressed his views on the following matters:

Has IMLI fulfilled its role in assisting IMO achieve the unification of maritime law through the process of adopting international conventions into domestic law?

Yes, IMLI has been able to give substantial direct and indirect assistance to the IMO.

Its direct assistance is seen in the fact that delegations of States not only to the Committees of IMO, but also to the Assembly and to Diplomatic Conferences, increasingly contain IMLI graduates.

Its indirect assistance to IMO comes not only in the form of the implementation of international conventions into domestic legislation but the uniform application of such international conventions on the domestic level. IMLI is important not only because it is able to provide education to lawyers in international maritime law; IMLI is important because, through the education it provides, it is able to achieve uniformity in the application of rules of international maritime law.

After the successful offering of the Ph. D. and Advanced Diploma programmes, what other areas can IMLI consider for the expansion of its academic programmes?

One of the crucially important roles that IMLI can carry out is to organize regional conferences on international maritime law, perhaps together with the CMI. These regional conferences would be directed at law teachers, practitioners, researchers, scholars and members of the judiciary who can use the forum not only to learn application of the principles of international maritime law but also to meet each other and exchange information with respect to the treatment of international maritime law on the national level.

If you were to give a word of advice to the IMLI graduate, what would be the single most important lesson that he should bring back to his home country that will help him in his future professional career?

IMLI graduates should bring home a clear conviction that progress in the development of international trade and commerce is based on the reality that a uniform application of international maritime law is more important than politics. We seem to be falling back on cultural differences that restrain and hinder, rather than assist, the development of trade and international understanding. We have to be able to look at what we have in common and work at its continued development rather than to focus on our differences and use them as a reason for hindering our growth.

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