Mr. Andrew Kennedy (Global Head of Dispute Resolution and Compliance at Lloyd’s Register) delivered on 15 February 2021 a lecture entitled “The Legal Position of Marine Classification Societies” to the IMLI Class of 2020-2021.

Mr. Kennedy commenced his lecture by explaining the origin and historic development of Classification Society and informed the students that, currently, there are over 50 classification societies worldwide, most of which are very small. He explained further that the top four leading societies (including LR) class about three quarters of the world’s ocean going fleet and are members of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS). He discussed the relationship between class and statutory certification and with the aid of decided cases, he
proceeded to shed light on the legal position of marine Classification Societies. Mr. Kennedy concluded his lecture by giving the students, through the use of graphs, an in-depth insight on ship safety trend improvement in the last 40 years.

Mr. Kennedy is Global Head of Dispute Resolution and Compliance at Lloyd’s Register, the world’s first classification society. He was called to the bar of England and Wales, initially practising in criminal and general common law, before joining Lloyd Register as an in-house lawyer.

In his time at Lloyd’s Register, he has managed the defence of claims advanced by some of the world’s leading maritime, commercial and criminal lawyers in over 30 jurisdictions. Cases against Lloyds Register have been defended before the Supreme Courts in seven of those jurisdictions. The cases are often very high value and can be high profile.

Mr. Kennedy has served three years as Chair of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) Expert Law Group and is a non-executive Director of the Institute of Maritime Law at the University of Southampton.

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