

IMO LEGAL COMMITTEE ELECTS ITS FIRST FEMALE CHAIR

Ms. Gillian Grant (Canada's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO) has been elected as the first female Chair of the IMO Legal Committee during its 108th Session held between 26 and 30 July 2021. Ms. Grant is also a Visiting Professor at the Institute.



Ms. Gillian Grant (First female Chair of the IMO Legal Committee and Canada's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO) meeting the students of the IMLI Class of 2019-2020

Ms. Grant has a BA (Hons) from Queen's University and an LL.B. and Master of Public Administration from Dalhousie University. She articulated with the central litigation office of the Ontario Government and then clerked for the Honourable Mr. Justice Rothstein at the Federal Court of Appeal.

In 2002, Ms. Grant joined the Canadian Department of Justice. She has worked as counsel to the Correctional Service of Canada and counsel and special advisor to the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Public Law Sector. Ms. Grant worked and later led the maritime law section at Transport Canada Legal Services. Her practice focused on marine environmental law and international maritime law. She was also an active member of the Canadian Maritime Law Association and the Maritime Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association.

In 2017, Ms. Grant moved to London to become Canada's Alternate Permanent Representative to IMO. In this capacity, she advises Canadian delegations to the IMO's committees and sub-committees and to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds and acts as a liaison between these organizations and the Canadian Government. She served as Vice Chair of the Legal Committee and Chair of the Executive Committee of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds.



Ms. Gillian Grant with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) and female students of the IMLI Class of 2019-2020

Ms. Grant is also one of the coordinators of the IMO Gender Equality Network (IMOGENDER), which was established as a forum for IMO Member State delegates to work in a coordinated manner, share information and exchange ideas and best practices aimed at achieving gender equality and promoting the participation of women in the maritime sector. To this end, Ms. Grant is one of the IMLI female student Mentors, committed to assisting them in leadership,

growth, and professional development, within the “IMOGEN Women-on-Board” initiative. Ms. Chioma Rosemary Mgbemena (Nigeria), is the mentee of Ms. Grant and upon her appointment, Ms. Mgbemena commented to the IMLI e-News Editor as follows:

“Her election as Chair of the IMO Legal Committee, is an inspiration to me and all who aspire to reach great heights in the maritime field. As my mentor, I can’t think of anyone better suited to the role, and I wish her a successful tenure.”

In his closing Address of the 108th Legal Committee Session, Mr. Kitack Lim said the following:

“To Ms. Gillian Grant, the incoming Chair, I wish you every success and I have no doubt that you will lead the Committee with your usual diplomatic skill and effectiveness. I should also note that, with your election, 3 of the 5 IMO Committees are now Chaired by women...”

The Director and staff of IMLI wishes her all success in her new role.

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