SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE COMITÉ MARITIME INTERNATIONAL (CMI) LECTURES AT IMLI

On 24 January 2022, the IMLI Class of 2021-2022 had the pleasure of being addressed by Dr. Rosalie Balkin, AO (Secretary-General of the Comité Maritime International (CMI)). Dr. Balkin was warmly welcomed and introduced to the students by Professor Norman Martinez (Professor, IMLI).
Dr. Balkin, AO served as IMO Director of Legal Affairs and External Relations from 1998-2013 and Assistant Secretary-General from 2011-2013. Apart from her role as Legal Advisor to the Organization, she was Secretary to IMO's Legal Committee and Executive Secretary to IMO's governing bodies (Council and Assembly). In the 2018 Australia Day list, Dr. Balkin, AO was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for “distinguished service to maritime law through roles with a range of organisations, to the improvement of global shipping transport safety and standards, and to education as an academic and author”. Dr. Balkin's lecture was entitled "IMO and Global Ocean Governance".

Dr. Omar Grech (Director of the Centre for the Study and Practice and Conflict Resolution and Senior Lecturer within the Department of International Law, Faculty of Laws, University of Malta) delivered a set of lectures to the IMLI Class. His lectures were entitled "Introduction to International Human Rights" and "Human Rights at Sea".
Mr. Archie Bishop (former Legal Adviser to the International Salvage Union) and Mr. Andrew Chamberlain (Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan) delivered a set of lectures on the Law of Salvage to the IMLI Class of 2021-2022.

Mr. Bishop is a longstanding friend of the Institute and has been part of the Institute's Distinguished Visiting Fellows Programme since 1995. On his retirement this year from lecturing at IMLI, the Institute wishes to thank him for his dedication to IMLI's mission for over two decades.
His lectures have always been very well received by the different generations of the Institute's maritime professionals who would consider him one of the most appreciated specialists in this field of maritime law. Mr. Bishop would generally commence his lectures with an analysis of the preamble to the International Salvage Convention, 1989 which introduced three key improvements to salvage operations. He would then analyze the various elements of a salvage contract under the Salvage Convention and also examine the objectives and the administration of the Lloyd’s Open Form (LOF) and its interaction with the Lloyd’s Standard Salvage and Arbitration clauses (LSSA clauses) and the Procedural Rules. He would also explain the salvage award, special compensation and the circumstance under which it is awarded, the ten essential elements of the SCOPIC clause, and environmental salvage.

The Director and staff at IMLI wish Mr. Bishop a relaxing and wonderful retirement and, on behalf of the IMLI students he taught, we thank him for the knowledge he imparted.

Mr. Archie Bishop meeting the IMLI Class of 2015 - 2016

Mr. Andrew Chamberlain (Partner, Holman Fenwick Willan) delivered a set of lecture on Lloyd's Open Form to the IMLI Class of 2021-2022.
Labour at sea is deemed unique owing to its specific features and the environment in which it takes place. Seafarers, by the nature of their employment, are an isolated international occupational group of workers who face prolonged absence from their homes, resulting in important social and legal consequences. Unfortunately, since the development of the maritime industry, seafarers’ fundamental rights have not always been considered a priority, thereby often not respected by shipowners. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to adopt international rules to make special provisions for seafarers' rights protection and to ensure effective implementation of their provisions through the cooperation of the international community. The latest of these efforts is the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC), as amended.
As of December 2020, an estimate of 400,000 seafarers are currently stranded on ships beyond the end of their original contracts and unable to be repatriated, due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. A similar number of seafarers are stuck at home, unable to join ships and provide for their families.

IMLI has been in the vanguard in raising awareness on the importance of maritime labour law standards. Indeed, the IMLI Course on Seafarers’ Rights reiterates the Institute’s commitment to the protection of seafarers in line with the international efforts spearheaded by the IMO and ILO.

The Course will address many aspects of maritime labour law, including the characteristics of international maritime labour law, the functions of ILO, IMO, ITF and other organizations committed to the protection of seafarers' rights, the different international instruments dealing with seafarers, their rights and duties, with particular emphasis on the MLC. The Course will guide participants to the practical application of the MLC, including its amendments, and the efforts being made to limit the effect of the pandemic on seafarers worldwide.

The Course is addressed to persons directly involved with maritime labour law issues. It will be particularly beneficial to policy makers and legal drafters, as well as maritime administrations' and port authorities' officers. The Course will also be of benefit to private practitioners who handle seafarers' rights infringements and any other person who advocates for the upholding of seafarers' rights.

The Course will be delivered online. Candidates who attend at least 80 percent of the lectures will be eligible for a Certificate of Attendance. To apply, please contact ramat.jalloh@imli.org.

The Institute is pleased to announce that the IMLI Course on Seafarers' Rights will be inaugurated by Ms. Beatriz Vacotto (Head of the Maritime Unit, International Labour Standards Department, ILO).