

IMLI ALERT

09-2022/2023

IMLI MOURNS THE PASSING OF PROFESSOR FRANK L. WISWALL, JR.

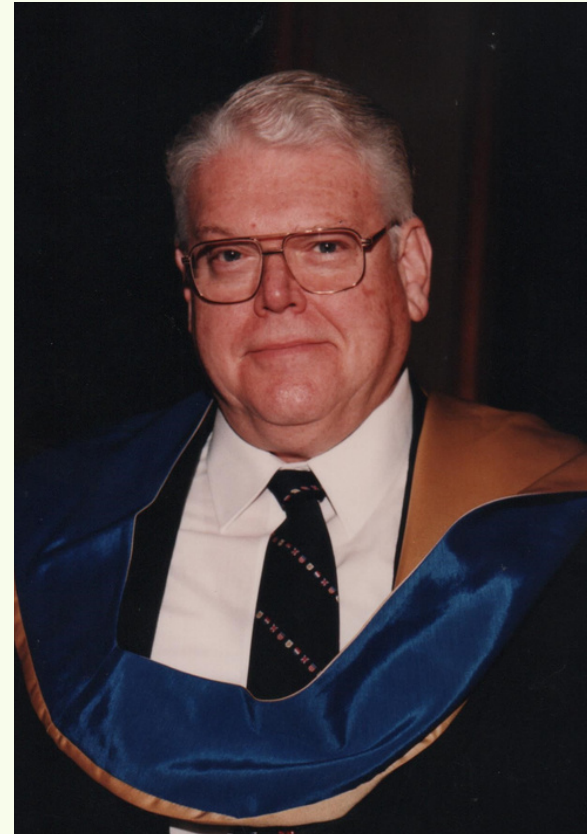
It is with great sadness that the IMLI family mourns the passing of a former Member of its Governing Board, Professor Frank L. Wiswall, Jr. who passed away on 31 May 2023.

Professor Wiswall was a staunch supporter of the Institute since its beginning. He was involved with IMLI even before its establishment when Dr. C. P. Srivastava, then IMO's Secretary-General, asked him to review drafts of a curriculum for the Institute. He started lecturing at IMLI in 1991 and continued to do so for 25 years.

Together with his wife, Mrs. Elisabeth Wiswall, or "Libby" as she is affectionately known by everyone, Professor Wiswall visited IMLI twice every academic year where he delivered various sets of lectures on the subjects of "Maritime Legal History", "Maritime Legislation Drafting" and the "Law of Maritime Collisions".

He served for many years as a Member of the IMLI Governing Board and was a Member of the Academic Committee until his passing. Professor Wiswall always contributed directly and positively towards the well-being of the Institute and more importantly that of its students.

The Institute and its over one thousand graduates are a testament to the commitment and dedication of Professor Wiswall and others who like him and with him believed in IMLI's mission and its unique contribution to the rule of international maritime law.



Honoris Causa Ceremony held on 30 March 1999 in honour of Professor Frank L. Wiswall Jr. and Professor Walter Muller



2015 Governing Board Session held at IMO

Professor Wiswall attended the Albany Academy and graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, in 1962. He went on to study at Cornell Law School, serving as research assistant to Gustavus H. Robinson, a widely recognized authority on maritime law and author of a standard text in the field. Seeing Professor Wiswall's potential, Robinson encouraged him to further postgraduate study, and in 1965 Professor Wiswall moved to the United Kingdom and matriculated at Clare College, Cambridge, where he undertook a Ph.D. studies in the Faculty of Law. He completed his doctoral degree in two years, the rapid pace of which required a dispensation from the University, and his thesis won him the Yorke Prize for 1969. He later published the thesis as a book, *The Development of Admiralty Jurisdiction and Practice since 1800*.

Admitted to the Maine Bar in 1965 and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 1968, he also began regular work with the Legal Committee of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), and by the early 1970s had moved to Liberian Services, Inc., a subsidiary of International Bank, becoming Vice President and General Counsel, and eventually President. During this time, his work with IMO led him to contribute to the formation of the Third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1973-1982), and he served as Vice-Chair, then Chair, of the Legal Committee of IMO. He also taught as visiting professor at the law schools of Cornell, Tulane, and the University of Virginia.

Professor Wiswall was a longtime member of the Maritime Law Association of the United States, and became increasingly involved in the work of the Comité Maritime International (CMI), the world association of maritime lawyers. In 1997, he was elected Lifetime Honorary Vice President of the CMI.

The culmination of his life's work was his selection by the IMO as the recipient of the International Maritime Prize in 2015, recognizing Professor Wiswall for his years of leadership, teaching, and dedication to the practice of admiralty and the preservation of lives at sea.

The Director, Faculty and Staff, as well as the hundreds of maritime professionals he taught over the years at IMLI, take this opportunity to express their condolences to Professor Wiswall's family. He will be dearly missed. In tribute to his passing, the Institute flew the flags half-mast.

