The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) welcomed the 34th generation of students on 10 October 2022. The students of the Academic Year 2022-2023 were welcomed by Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), the IMLI Faculty and Staff. The Inaugural Lecture was delivered by Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division).
When addressing the Class of 2022-2023, Professor Martínez Gutiérrez said that it was an honour and a privilege to welcome such a diverse class full of talented individuals to IMLI’s 34th Academic Year.

The Director told the students that IMLI was set up to train maritime experts, especially from developing countries, on the whole spectrum of international maritime law and on the incorporation and effective implementation of IMO treaties and rules into their domestic legislation.

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez noted that he was confident that the students' efforts and the Institute's commitment to deliver the highest standards of training will make this Academic Year a very successful and rewarding one.

Professor Dr. Martínez Gutiérrez then invited the students to introduce themselves.
Mr. Frederick J. Kenney Jr. (Director, IMO Legal Affairs and External Relations Division) delivered the Institute's Inaugural Lecture for the Academic Year 2022-2023 on 10 October 2022. His lecture was entitled “Maritime Governance at IMO: History, Functions and Structure”. Mr. Kenney was introduced to the Class by Professor Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) who described him as a long-standing friend and supporter of the Institute who is also actively serving in its Academic Committee.

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez informed the students of Mr. Kenney's commitment to come to Malta and deliver a lecture each year at IMLI and added that it was a real honour to have him once again at the Institute to inaugurate the Academic Year 2022-2023.
Mr. Kenney thanked the Director for his warm welcome and expressed his pleasure to be able to deliver IMLI's Inaugural Lecture in person for the first time in three years. He informed the students that being at IMLI to lecture is one of the highlights of his year, especially because, when he looks across the lecture hall, he sees the future of maritime law. In addressing the students, he expressed his hope that he will see the students representing their countries as delegates to IMO or work in the maritime sector of their countries to fully implement the IMO treaty regime.

**CMI VICE-PRESIDENT LECTURES AT IMLI**

IMLI had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Ann Fenech (Vice-President of the Comité Maritime International (CMI)). Dr. Fenech is also the President of the Malta Maritime Law Association and Managing Partner and Head of the Marine Litigation Department of Fenech & Fenech Advocates in Malta. Dr. Fenech has also been nominated to be appointed as President of the CMI during CMI's Antwerp Conference to be held between 18 and 21 October 2022.

Professor Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) introduced Dr. Fenech to the Class, after which she delivered two lectures on Wednesday 12 October entitled "The Role of a Maritime Practitioner in the Shipping Industry".

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*Dr. Ann Fenech (Vice-President of the Comité Maritime International (CMI)) lecturing to the students of the IMLI Class of 2022-2023*