

IMLI ALERT

16/2025-2026

IMLI MOURNS THE PASSING OF MR. BENT NIELSEN

The IMLI family mourns the passing of one of its distinguished visiting fellows, Mr. Bent Nielsen. For nearly two decades, Mr. Nielsen was a great supporter of the Institute and its academic initiatives.

Mr. Nielsen joined the Distinguished Visiting Fellows programme during the academic year 2005-2006 and visited IMLI every year until his retirement from teaching at the Institute in 2023.

As the leading expert in the Law of General Average, Mr. Nielsen taught extensively on the topic, imparting knowledge on the institution of General Average and the latest developments in the field.

His lectures would explain in detail the York-Antwerp Rules, as amended, and would delve into meaningful discussions on the difference between general average and particular average and the relation between the Law of General Average and Law of Salvage.



Mr. Bent Nielsen (Retired Danish Maritime Lawyer, Member Honoris Causa, Comité Maritime International)



Mr. Bent Nielsen lecturing on "General Average" during the Academic Year 2007-2008

In addition, due to his belief in the importance of adequate implementation of international instruments in national legislation – the core mission of IMLI – Mr. Nielsen also lectured on “Implementation of Maritime Law Conventions – A Scandinavian Model”. These lectures enlightened students on how Scandinavian countries promulgate national legislation to give full effect to the provisions of international maritime law instruments.



Mr. Bent Nielsen, Dr. Patrick J.S. Griggs CBE (Former President, Comité Maritime International) and Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI), together with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

As a seasoned author, Mr. Nielsen was very happy to contribute to “*The IMLI Manual on International Maritime Law*”. Volume II of the Manual is dedicated to Shipping Law and he contributed the Chapter on “*The Law of General Average*”. His contribution continues to be reference source for IMLI students, who start their preparations on the topic by reading his Chapter.

In his home country, Denmark, Mr. Nielsen was a renowned maritime lawyer in the law firm Kromann Reumert, where he was a partner since 1975.



Mr. Nielsen signing the IMLI Distinguished Visiting Fellows' Book



Mr. Nielsen meeting the IMLI Class of 2015-2016

During his laudable career, Mr. Nielsen attended the meetings of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) since the 1970s. He was Rapporteur to the International Sub-Committee on the Salvage Convention CMI draft text which was finalised at the 1981 Conference in Montreal. This text formed the basis of the 1989 International Convention on Salvage.

In 2017, the CMI awarded Mr. Nielsen the Comité Maritime International Membership *Honoris Causa* for the rendering of exceptional service to the CMI.



Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez (Director, IMLI) introducing Mr. Bent Nielsen to the IMLI Class of 2022-2023