



COMITE MARITIME INTERNATIONAL

PRESIDENT

13th February 2024

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Dear Colleagues

Re: **Archie Bishop**

It is with great sadness that we have received the news of the passing of Archie Bishop, a great friend of the CMI, a world authority on Salvage and Senior Partner of Holman, Fenwick and Willan from 1988 to 2000.

Archie was a legend in wet maritime circles, an expert in collisions, total loss claims and of course salvage. He was for decades the “go to” person in the city for advice in such matters being heavily involved in dozens of leading cases on the subject and acting for the major players in the maritime industry. He was the legal adviser to the International Salvage Union from 1982 – 2012 and during this period was instrumental in the production of the CMI Salvage Convention of 1989 having represented the ISU at the meetings of the Legal Committee of the IMO, and in the production of LOF90, LOF95 and LOF2000 as well as numerous BIMCO Agreements such as ‘TOWCON’ & ‘TOWHIRE’ and ‘WRECKFIXED’, ‘WRECKSTAGE’ and ‘WRECKHIRE’. Last but not least, he was the principal architect of the Special Compensation P&I Club (SCOPIC) clause and Chairman of the SCOPIC Committee. In 2009 Archie believed that the Salvage Convention was up for review and he focused significantly on the concept of Environmental Salvage – compensating salvors for salvaging the environment. There was an ever increasing awareness of the need to do all that one could do to save the environment even if it may not be possible to save any other tangible property. He approached the CMI with this idea and the CMI set up an International Working Group of which he was a member and several papers and workshops and seminars were held to discuss this idea with Archie Bishop being very much in the centre of it all. Archie was very passionate about the law of salvage and a firm advocate for the cause of reform and spoke about this extensively at the CMI Colloquium in Buenos Aires. However the idea did not receive universal acceptance.

Archie’s naval background made him quite unique when he joined Holman’s in 1960 after having completed his education aboard HMS Worcester and served 7 years as a deck officer with the P&O Line. He was probably the first mariner to be employed by a City Shipping Law firm specifically for their practice. Having established himself, the firm invited him to take Articles and

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on qualification, immediately took him into the Partnership of which he became Senior Partner in 1988. His nautical experience was vital and played an important role in the administration and development of the firm, particularly the opening of its offices in Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai and Greece. He was an Examiner in Admiralty and Chairman of the London Shipping Law Centre. In 2000 when he retired as Senior Partner, he was one of twelve UK lawyers listed in Chambers ' Global 100 '.

Archie was above all a peoples' person. He was able to connect with a cross section of society, giving each time and making them feel at ease. His genuinely caring personality was responsible for the professional growth of dozens of junior solicitors who became partners and leaders in their fields. His genteel, persuasive and engaging personality made him a natural communicator and he lectured with authority and great ease making the most complex subjects come across as so simple and logical. He had a soft spot for the International Maritime Law Institute in Malta where he lectured on Salvage every year and as a result of this there are literally hundreds of maritime practitioners from the four corners of the world who have been introduced to the fascinating subject of Salvage by none other than this maestro. His connection with IMLI brought him here every year and he was frequently accompanied by his beloved wife Annie.

My own personal experience of Archie epitomises what Archie as a true friend and mentor was all about. In 1986, at the age of 24, freshly qualified from Malta, I arrived at Holman, Fenwick and Willan in London and Archie immediately made time for this new foreign female graduate. I was absolutely fascinated by the subject and being allowed to assist in these headline grabbing cases. He was always ready to answer questions, make time and explain what for him must have been very mundane. He was an important part of my professional growth always there with words of encouragement and solid advice. I know that there were dozens of others who like me benefitted from his savoir faire, his knowledge and his experiences which he shared with his unique down to earth manner and always with a twinkle in his eye.

Archie Bishop was, is and will remain a legend in the industry. A person with tremendous gravitas and very special to many people.

He leaves behind him a loving wife and children and many friends and colleagues from all over the world and we will all miss him greatly. Sincere condolences have been sent to Archie's wife Annie and to his children Mark, Paula and stepdaughter Louisa and I would like to express the most sincere condolences to all his former partners and colleagues for this great loss.

The CMI will be remembering Archie Bishop by dedicating the Panel on Salvage at the Gothenburg Conference on the 24th May in his honour.

May he rest in peace.

Yours sincerely



Ann Fenech