

MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report – 15 June 2026

Authored by: Anisa Govender, Vice-President

IBA Maritime and Transport Law Conference : 3-5 March 2026.

The theme of the conference was The Cape of Storms: A comparative navigation of current hot topics in maritime & transportation law. The conference topics included future developments in international maritime law.

- Hot topics in maritime law
- Insuring the transportation industries
- UNCITRAL instrument on negotiable cargo documents
- Enforcement of maritime claims
- Hot topics in transport law

Patrick Holloway served as host and co – chair of the transport committee.

A conference presented by the IBA Maritime and Transport Law Committee, supported by the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIYA)

The Cape of Storms: A comparative navigation of current hot topics in maritime & transportation law

3-5 March 2026, Bay Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

Thursday 5 March (0930 – 1100) Enforcement of maritime claims

Panel

 Corina Song <i>Allen & Gledhill</i>	 Tunji Adeyemi <i>Banwo & Ighodalo</i>	 Lisa Mills <i>Advocate of the KwaZulu-Natal Bar</i>
 Godofredo Vianna <i>Kincaid Mendes Vianna Advogados</i>	 Adam Gray <i>Al Tamimi & Company</i>	 Marcel Verhagen <i>DOCK Legal Experts</i>

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Here pictured are the president of the Comité Maritime International (CMI) [Ann Fenech](#) (in red) with 4 MLASA presidents, past and present, (from left to right) [Gavin Fitzmaurice](#), [Lisa Mills](#), [Patrick Holloway](#), [Andre October](#), and [Katlego Bulala](#) and [Sheena Dias \(née Makan\)](#).

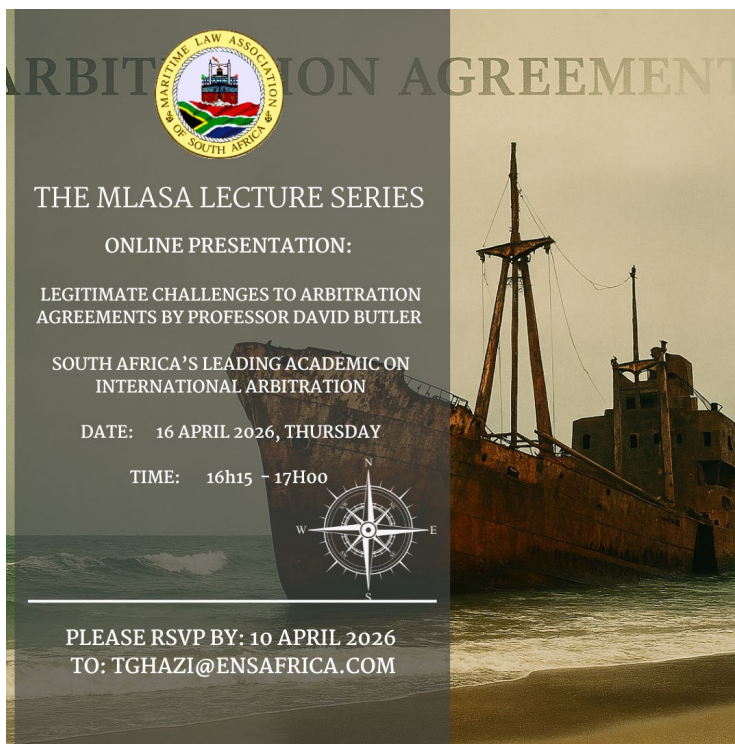


MLASA Online Lecture Series

The arbitration subcommittee of the MLASA commenced its online lecture series with an inaugural presentation by Professor David Butler on the subject of legitimate challenges to Arbitration Agreements on 16 April 2026.

Professor David Butler is Emeritus Professor of law at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and was the main advisor to the South African Government on the International Arbitration Act as part the South African Law Reform Commission's work reforming South Africa's arbitration legislation.

Professor Butler is a life fellow of the Association of Arbitrators of Southern Africa and has authored authoritative texts on the subject of arbitration, including his textbook *Arbitration in South Africa Law and Practice*. He has also previously been chairperson of the Department of Mercantile Law at Stellenbosch.

The poster features a background image of a large, rusted shipwreck on a beach. Overlaid on the left side is a dark grey semi-transparent box containing text and logos. At the top left of this box is the MLASA logo, which is a circular emblem with a ship and the text 'MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'. The title 'ARBITRATION AGREEMENT' is written in large, light grey letters across the top of the box. Below this, the text 'THE MLASA LECTURE SERIES' is centered. This is followed by 'ONLINE PRESENTATION:' and 'LEGITIMATE CHALLENGES TO ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS BY PROFESSOR DAVID BUTLER'. Below that is 'SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING ACADEMIC ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION'. The date 'DATE: 16 APRIL 2026, THURSDAY' and time 'TIME: 16h15 - 17H00' are listed. A compass rose is positioned below the time. At the bottom, it says 'PLEASE RSVP BY: 10 APRIL 2026' and 'TO: TGHAAZI@ENSAFRICA.COM'.

ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

THE MLASA LECTURE SERIES

ONLINE PRESENTATION:

LEGITIMATE CHALLENGES TO ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS BY PROFESSOR DAVID BUTLER

SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADING ACADEMIC ON INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

DATE: 16 APRIL 2026, THURSDAY

TIME: 16h15 - 17H00

PLEASE RSVP BY: 10 APRIL 2026
TO: TGHAAZI@ENSAFRICA.COM

CMI Conference



Gavin Fitzmaurice proudly flying the flag with Patrick Holloway for the Maritime Law Association of South Africa at the CMI General Assembly on 15 May 2026 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



Gavin Fitzmaurice pictured with Ann Fenech

Joint Meeting of Industry Organisations

The Maritime Law Association of South Africa will be participating in the inaugural Joint Meeting of Industry Organisations, themed “Building a Sustainable Future for Industrialisation in South Africa” on 23 July 2026. This joint initiative brings together key industry bodies to share insights, foster collaboration, and strengthen connections in support of sustainable industrial growth. The programme will include a short information-sharing session by the participating institutions followed by networking and socialising.

FIRST-TIME EVER
JOINT MEETING
OF INDUSTRY ORGANISATIONS

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE
FOR INDUSTRIALISATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Bringing together key industry bodies to share knowledge, build connections and drive our industry forward.

SUSTAINABILITY GROWTH COLLABORATION INDUSTRIALISATION

Participating Organizations:
CORROSION INSTITUTE SOUTH AFRICA
SASSDA (celebrating 60 years of sustainability)
WISTA INTERNATIONAL
SAIW (The South African Institution of Marine Engineers & Naval Architects)

THURSDAY 23 JULY 2026
5:30 PM FOR 6:00 PM

VENUE: One Eighty Materials Engineering Solutions (Pty) Ltd, Building 13, Wycroft Road, Mowbray

one eighty Networks Engineering Solutions

6:00 – 7:00 PM: Sharing information about the various institutions
FROM 7:00 PM: Networking and socialising

RSVP: Jean Maloy | frontdesk@one-eighty-degrees.com

STRONGER TOGETHER. SUSTAINABLE FOREVER.
ENGAGE. CONNECT. GROW.

52nd MLASA Conference: 4 – 6 September 2026

The Cape Chapter has arranged the 52nd National Conference of the Maritime Law Association of South Africa (MLASA) which will be held at The President Hotel, Cape Town, from 4 – 6 September 2026.

The theme of the conference is “What’s Really at Stake? Risk, Responsibility and Exposure in today’s Modern Shipping Environment.”

The full program for the conference will be shared in due course but we are delighted to advise that Anton Musgrave, leading futurist, strategist and senior partner at FutureWorld International will deliver a keynote addressing change and disruption in an increasingly uncertain world.

