

Paul Gill

In Memoriam

CMI General Assembly,

Rio de Janeiro, 15th May, 2026

It is an honour to stand here and speak of our departed colleague and friend, who was so much a part of many CMI events, from colloquia through to conferences, and played such an important role in the work of the Irish Maritime Law Association, of which he was member, treasurer, vice president and president.

Paul was a founding partner of Dillon Eustace, one of the law firms based in Dublin specialising in maritime law. As stated, he was also a former president of the Irish Maritime Law Association. For many years, Paul was one of the foremost maritime law practitioners in Ireland, a very active member of the IMLA Committee, a pivotal organiser of many IMLA events and, travelled to many CMI Conferences on behalf of the Irish Maritime Law Association.

Paul was an internationally respected shipping and defamation lawyer. He was instructed in nearly every major Irish admiralty case during his career, 33 years of which was as partner of Dillon Eustace. Whatever about the effect of being a maritime lawyer specialising in “wet claims” had on his sense of humour, this was only heightened by his practice as a defamation lawyer, making any engagement with Paul highly likely to include droll observations, and often hilarious anecdotes. Paul combined this sense of

humour with dignity and restraint, as well as professional generosity, patience and pervasive calmness. Such was his generosity and friendliness, one might overlook, to one's peril, the acute intelligence and learning which he held and applied to maritime law matters.

From a personal perspective, Paul took me under his wing at my first CMI event, in Athens in 2008, which provided excitement at all levels from the academic to political, and where Paul providing unerring guidance and insight.

As regards his work heading up the International Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers, in particular, the situation of seafarers in a pandemic, he showed remarkable foresight of storms on the horizon in the fascinating paper delivered to the CMI in New York. Whatever about the very particular relevance of his work to the situation of seafarers during the COVID epidemic, it is clear that his paper and work continues to be of great importance, looking at the unfortunate situation of seafarers in the Gulf of Hormuz, and the recent incident involving the explorer vessel Hondius. Through his work with this IWG, Paul was able to bring his essential humanity and his love and concern for his fellow human beings, to bear on the situation of those who are often the most vulnerable in the shipping world, the seafarers. This was just a continuation of the work done as an Irish practitioner, both in acting for unpaid crew members, or representing shipowners, and in dealing with the human consequences of collision claims.

I had the pleasure of working under Paul's presidency of the Irish Maritime Law Association as Honorary Secretary during which time I had plenty of

opportunity to admire Paul's diplomatic and human skills as a leader by consensus.

I would ask you to join with the Irish Maritime Law Association in extending our condolences to Paul's wife Jackie, and his daughter Elizabeth.