



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



IMLAM 2020 Results – for IMLAM Colleagues

Well, the 21st International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot (IMLAM) competition took place in a year we will never forget! A total of 21 teams decided to press on to the memo stage, showing great fortitude and resilience in so doing.

The IMLAM competition was judged “on the papers” this year, but nonetheless it was a hard-fought affair. A single point separated three of the merit award winners.

I released the results via a YouTube [video](#) late on a recent Friday.

The winners of the memo prizes for 2020 were:

1. University of Sydney – winner, overall best memoranda
2. Singapore Management University – runner up, best memoranda
3. University of Hamburg – merit prize
4. Erasmus University – merit prize
5. Murdoch University – merit prize
6. University of Hong Kong – merit prize

My sincerest thanks to Ashwin Nair of Cocks Macnish, who stepped in to draft the moot scenario at short notice.

I also thank the memo judges – all very senior maritime professionals and academics from all around the world. Given the memos were the only measurable outcome of the moot this year, it was very important to have senior and international judges, and they certainly all played their part in that.

Thanks to all of you who had volunteered to come to Singapore and hear moots this year, and I additionally acknowledge, in particular, our very impressive and learned grand final panel – Justice Belinda Ang, Sir Bernard Eder and Bruce Harris. It would have been a remarkable final I am sure.

Of course there were limited prizes able to be awarded this year. I would like to further thank the sponsors of the memo prizes:

- London Maritime Arbitrators Association – overall best memoranda prize
- Young’s List – runner up best memoranda prize
- Singapore Chambers of Maritime Arbitration – merit prizes (two)
- Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand – merit prizes (two)

In addition, our thanks to Informa, our knowledge sponsor, for arranging i-law access for the teams. This is such an important contribution as it means teams have equal access to that important resource.

My thanks to Chen Siyuan and his colleagues at the Singapore Management University for agreeing to host us in Singapore and putting in much preparatory work until COVID-19 intervened. Also, my final

thanks as always must go to my irreplaceable and unflappable sidekick, Michelle Barron, for all she does to support me, the students and the competition as a whole.

Now that the 2020 competition is finalised, we have to turn our minds to the future of IMLAM. The School of Law at Murdoch University has supported the competition, financially and in kind, for some 16 years – a significant financial undertaking. Like all universities (and businesses), Murdoch University has been affected by the COVID-19 crisis and is reconsidering all expenditure. Consequently, IMLAM is unlikely to receive financial support in the future. Obviously we would like the moot to survive and prosper. The options available range from securing enhanced sponsorship to fully cover expenses, through to passing on the baton to another university or organisation. Please get in touch if you have any ideas.

In any event, COVID-19 restrictions mean we cannot expect to be travelling to any venue in 2021. One possibility is to pause the competition for 2021 and aim to return in 2022. We could use the time productively to formalise sponsorship arrangements and organise a structured volunteer set up for tasks such as drafting the problem scenario and judging of memos.

Securing the future of the competition involves persuading people who are unfamiliar with IMLAM (and non lawyers to boot) of its value. It would be exceedingly helpful to demonstrate the level of engagement and impact of the competition to students, maritime arbitrators and the legal profession. If you have participated in the competition in the past it would be really helpful for us if you could send us your views on the benefits it provides, your experiences being involved and your support for its continuation. Feel free to E-mail or drop us a letter.

We will bundle those inputs up into a portfolio and it will be used to support a case for IMLAM's continued operation. I will keep you posted of developments.

With kind regards and thanks, as ever, for all your support over many years.

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