



SEMAPHORE

Newsletter of the Maritime Law

Association of Australia and New Zealand



Speech in Honour of Tony Tesoriero –

MLAANZ NSW Branch Dinner 24 August 2023

I am utterly thrilled to be able to address you all this evening on behalf of the MLAANZ to say a few words about our guest of honour, Tony Tesoriero.

Tony was the Federal Court of Australia admiralty registrar for 30 years from 1990 to 2020. He also held the office of admiralty marshal for a lengthy period. Tony, together with registrar and admiralty marshal Lance Grant (who retired in 2008), created the Marshal's Manual – a widely-acclaimed resource for anyone seeking to understand and anticipate how the marshal is likely to approach a particular admiralty problem. Bringing to bear the fruits of Tony's close professional involvement and practical experience in the admiralty jurisdiction, the manual covers a wide conspectus of topics including the appointment, duties and functions of the marshal, the arrest of ships, custody of ships



Peter Craney (MLAANZ NSW Branch chair), guest of honour and Charlie Street

under arrest, release from arrest, valuation and sale of ships under arrest, applications to determine priorities as well as accounting and related matters.

My reason for identifying the various fields covered in the manual that touch upon the powers, obligations and duties of the admiralty marshal is to emphasise the significance and importance of this independent office in the in rem process. The office of the admiralty marshal is essential for the functioning of the in rem process.

I, along with many people in this room, have had the great privilege of observing the highly-competent and skilful discharge of those duties by our guest of honour. For a number of us here, Tony has been the first point of contact for arrest work for the majority of our careers in the law. The enthusiasm and service provided to the Federal Court itself as well as the practitioners and litigants before the Court, by Tony, was nothing short of exemplary in demands well beyond ordinary expectations. The unusual hours and complex issues which Tony was required to address, often in circumstances of great urgency, could not have been better served than by Tony, all in the exercise of the admiralty jurisdiction and all requiring the attendance, input, expertise and good office of the admiralty marshal. This important independent office has remained in the best of hands since Tony's departure and he can take justifiable pride in that legacy.

Something that I wish to single out about Tony is what I would describe as his human touch. Not only did he take *custody* of ships, he took real *care*. He took real care of all persons involved in the process including the master and crew, the litigants and practitioners on all sides of the case (and the Judges it has been said). That signature care and compassion have also enhanced his skill and ability as a mediator, a role he has performed on thousands of occasions as a registrar and now in private practice.

He brought this human touch to the MLAANZ New South Wales Branch Committee where he served for the better part of two decades. MLAANZ has benefited greatly from Tony's outstanding dedication and service on that committee. It is fitting therefore that we take this occasion to honour Tony and thank him for his tireless work with MLAANZ and the profession more broadly.

It is a great privilege on behalf of MLAANZ and on my own behalf to express our thanks to you, Tony. I hope that you will accept this plaque as a memento of the occasion and expression of our gratitude, respect and esteem.

Charles Street
Barrister

September 2023

