

ANNOUNCEMENTS TO STEVEDORES, MARINE TERMINALS, AND VESSEL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Our Committee is planning to meet in Scottsdale on the afternoon of Thursday, October 31, 2019 under the leadership of Vice Chair Deborah Waters (as I am chairing the Scottsdale Resort Meeting and may be busy, though I am hopeful of being able to sit in on at least some of our Committee meeting). We will be meeting jointly with the Regulation of Vessel Operations, Safety, Security, and Navigation Committee (basically the Committees with the two longest names decided to pair up this time around), and Deb has an excellent program planned for all of us. A proposed Agenda will be forthcoming very soon.

IN THE MEANTIME, though, there are a couple announcements that I would like to relay to our Committee members pertaining to events or deadlines that occur PRIOR to the MLA Resort Meeting in Scottsdale at the end of October.

1. FMC Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention under the Shipping Act

On Friday, September 13, 2019, the FMC issued an Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention under the Shipping Act. I will separately post the Interpretive Rule in memorandum format on our Committee page for everyone's review and consideration.

Our Committee has reported on the FMC's Demurrage and Detention investigation several times, and, therefore, I presume that most of you are fully aware of its existence and general purpose. Regardless, the FMC is seeking public comment on its Interpretive Rule and those comments need to be submitted on or before **Thursday, October 17, 2019**. I would recommend that each of you review, in particular, pages 4-15 of the FMC Memorandum, which provides the primary substance and proposed guidance from the FMC regarding this Interpretive Rule on Demurrage and Detention. You or your clients may be interested in preparing and submitting public comments as to the Interpretive Rule.

2. U.S. Department of State Advisory Committee on Private International Law (ACPIL) Public Meeting (Teleconference) on Certain Maritime Issues

ACPIL gave notice this morning by Federal Register (I will separately post the relevant Federal Register Notice on our Committee page as well) that it will be conducting a teleconference on **Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT** to discuss certain maritime issues. One of the issues will be "whether or not ratification of the UN Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea (the "Rotterdam Rules") would benefit the United States...[and] serve U.S. interests."

I would strongly recommend that those of you who represent stevedores and terminal operators that you may want to contact your clients to seek their thoughts on whether the Rotterdam Rules would be beneficial to them or not, and then consider participating in the teleconference. Instructions regarding participation in the teleconference or otherwise providing separate written comments are stated in today's Federal Register Notice.