

To the Members of The Maritime Law Association of the United States

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September 14, 2001

Dear Members:

I am sure that, like me, all that you have been thinking about over the last few days has been the terrible tragedy that happened on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. I think it is all the more chilling in view of the fact that so many of our colleagues have offices or live in the southern tip of Manhattan, in or near the World Trade Center. Over the last few days I have been trying to determine how our friends who had offices or lived in or close to the World Trade Center have fared. Communication into the New York area is still extremely difficult, and it is impossible for me to be absolutely certain about everyone. However, I thought it would be appropriate for me to share with the entire membership the information that I have been able to obtain to date.

Miraculously, all of the personnel, lawyers and staff in both Thacher, Proffitt and Hill, Betts, which had offices in the WTC, have been safely accounted for. Indeed, John Woods and Joe Grasso of Thacher, Proffitt both tell me that their firm will probably be up and running in new space as early as this week.

I am also happy to report that Richard Zimmerman, who had an office in the World Trade Center, is alive and well. So is Alan Van Praag who was in the plaza of the World Financial Center when the first plane struck. Additionally, Fireman's Fund has announced that all of its marine people were safely evacuated from the WTC, which should mean that members Jose Guerrero, Felix Salgado and Dennis Marvin are safe. ABS has reported that all its people were evacuated safely so I assume that Martha Adams is safe. In addition, I have heard that Gerald Ginter of MarshMac, who is listed as having an office in the World Trade Center, is fine. I have also been advised that MarshMac moved its marine personnel uptown several weeks before last Tuesday. I am still trying to determine if some of our other members who had offices in the WTC area made it out safely.

With respect to those firms that were not located in the World Trade Center, I have received information that all of the lawyers and staff of the following firms have come through safely: Burlingham; Bigham Englar; Cichanowicz Callan; Cozen and O'Connor; Carter Ledyard; DeOrchis Walker; Kennedy Lillis; Kirlin Campbell; Nourse & Bowles; Poles Tublin; Hill Rivkins; Healy & Baillie; and Freehill Hogan.

Sadly not all the news is good. We initially believed that all the lawyers and staff of Haight Gardner were safe. However, Chet Hooper has just advised that one of Haight's litigation partners, Glenn Winuk, who volunteered to help with the rescue operation at the WTC, is

missing. Glenn is a volunteer fireman, trained and experienced in rescue operations, and participated with rescue efforts after the 1993 bombing of the WTC.

I am also sorry to report that John Olson's wife, Rene, is missing and is believed to have been working in the WTC (MarshMac) at the time of the incidents. Please keep Glenn and Rene, and their families, in your prayers.

In addition, of course, there is the appalling destruction of the offices themselves. As noted above, both the offices of Thacher Proffitt, and Hill Betts have been completely destroyed. The building which houses Hill Rivkins has had some fire damage, although reports to date are that there is no structural damage. None of the firms in lower Manhattan have been allowed access to the offices since Tuesday's tragedy. In light of this, I am sure that those who have cases with these New York firms will do their best to assist them in restoring their files, finding office space, extending courtesies and the like. One of the problems facing firms is the fact that many cargo and other cases may be up against limitation and other deadlines that they will not be able to meet. I would ask all members concerned to extend any such deadlines for whatever time is necessary until our New York colleagues are fully back in operation.

I would like to pass on to you an item that appeared in our daily legal newspaper here in Baltimore that gives you some feel for the scope of the damage and destruction in New York. This article reports that the loss of 12 million square feet of office space in the collapsed WTC is equivalent to the destruction of almost every office building in Baltimore where there are 109 office buildings. That puts in perspective for us non-New Yorkers just what type of devastation our colleagues in New York are facing, in addition to the unimaginable extent of death and injury.

With respect to our meeting planned for Coronado during the week of October 15th, we have advised all registrants that, at this time, we intend to go forward with the meeting. While we are all shaken by this tragedy our best response to terrorists is not to be cowed by their actions. Hopefully travel will be fully restored by then, and most registrants will want to come together and continue with the meeting. We plan to have a non-denominational service of recognition and commemoration during our meeting in Coronado, probably the first thing on Wednesday morning before our committee meetings start.

You should know that I am receiving many messages of concern, sympathy and condolence from abroad. Patrick Griggs, President of the CMI, called first thing Wednesday morning. I have gotten letters, or emails, from Francesco Berlingieri (President, Italian MLA), Dermot McNulty (President, Irish MLA), Jose Alcantara (President, Spanish MLA), Peter Naschitz (President, Israeli MLA), David Robles (Panama), Dr. Gunter Kohler and Dr. Thomas Brinkmann (Bremen), Graham Charnock (South Africa), and Eugenio Cornejo (President,

MLA

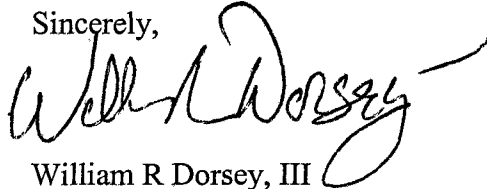
September 14, 2001

Page 3

Chilean MLA). It is both heartening and gratifying to hear from our friends abroad.

While all the information is not yet in, we are grateful for those that have been spared. However, it is certain that our MLA family will not escape without some sad loss, be it a member, or a member's family, loved one or friend. What we who survive can do is to keep the memory of all the victims, in New York, Washington and elsewhere, in our hearts and prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William R Dorsey, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William R Dorsey, III
President

dlh

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