



President's Newsletter

September 2015 | Doc. No. 818

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope that you enjoyed the summer and had some time to relax with family and friends. It's hard to believe how quickly time goes by and that I am now well into my second year as MLA President. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your President and would like to take this brief opportunity to highlight some recent MLA activities and to bring to your attention just a few upcoming events:

1. MLA Website:

As you know our new website was launched in late March of this year. It obviously took some considerable volunteer time and effort to get the website launched and some adjustments have been required. The new look, the considerable upgrades, the facilitation of communication and the access to information through features such as forums, full-site searching capabilities, a dynamic calendar with exportable events and the ability for every member to customize his or her profile and dashboard should prove to be useful tools to the Membership. We are still in the process of refining several of the functions, including the document library, which will be uploaded in the near future. Our goal is to make the website the hub for access to important legal and practical developments in the maritime industry and to encourage involvement and participation by existing members while, at the same time, increasing interest in new membership.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we move forward with this most important tool for you.

2. Special Committee on Marine Cybersecurity:

Following a suggestion made at our Annual General Meeting in May and given the industry attention to the issue, the decision was made to create a Special Committee on Marine Cyber-Security. Membership on the Committee is by Presidential appointment and Joe Walsh of Newport Beach has been appointed as Chairman. If you are interested in joining the Committee and will be in a position to substantially participate as well as physically attend the meetings, please get in contact with Joe Walsh or me.

3. LinkedIn:

The Board of Directors has made the decision to set up a LinkedIn account that will be open to Members only. We are presently exploring ground rules that will allow our members to connect with other members in a meaningful way without inundating each other. We will update you further when we are ready to launch a LinkedIn page.

4. **MLA Resort Meeting in Bermuda (Oct. 20-24, 2015):**

As you have probably seen from the several e-mail blasts, our resort meeting is just around the corner. The Fall MLA meeting will be held in Bermuda at the Fairmont Southampton (formerly the Southampton Princess). This is a beautiful venue and we have planned a number of social activities including a beach party on the hotel premises that will complement our Committee meetings, a robust CLE program and our sporting events. The room block is going quickly, so please don't wait to book your room with the hotel and register with the MLA. There are only a few days left to take advantage of the early bird MLA registration fee.

All of the details for the Bermuda Meeting can be found on the website at www.mlaus.org.

5. **CMI 2016:**

Our Membership will have a unique opportunity this coming May to network with lawyers from across the world. In connection with our annual Spring Meeting in New York, we will be hosting the Comité Maritime International (CMI) for a full conference. The CMI is comprised of maritime law associations from fifty-six nations worldwide. Aside from the noble purpose of promoting uniformity in maritime law, one of the primary reasons for establishing the MLA back in 1899 was to be a constituent member of the CMI. The last time that the CMI held a full conference in the U.S./New York was in 1965.

Opening ceremonies are planned for Tuesday evening, May 3rd, 2016 at the New York Hilton, the site for all of the conference activities. We are currently planning several joint MLA/CMI meetings on Wednesday and Thursday (May 4th and 5th). A cocktail party will be held on Wednesday evening at Rockefeller Center and a special Healy Lecture is planned for Thursday evening. Our annual meeting will once again be held in the Great Hall of Association of the Bar of the City of New York on Friday morning (May 6th) and our annual dinner on Friday evening will be a joint dinner with the CMI. A special website dedicated to CMI 2016 with all of the details pertaining to the conference is presently being developed and will be accessible in the late fall of this year. I hope that you will make a special effort to participate in this unique event in New York during the first week in May 2016.

In closing, I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President and to assure you that your views are important to the MLA Officers and the Board. If there are any issues regarding the MLA or your membership that I or the other officers can assist with, please don't hesitate to contact me at rclyne@eagle.org or any other officer. Each of the officers contact information can easily be found in the front of the MLA Directory and on the website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Clyne" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert G. Clyne
President