



## **BENTHAM HOUSE CONFERENCE 2014**

### **EU Commercial Maritime Law**

6 - 7 June 2014

UCL Faculty of Laws

“EU Commercial Maritime Law” is a misnomer. There is a patchwork of different commercial maritime laws not just in the EU but around the world. However, this title is a true reflection of what many European scholars and practitioners in the field have long desired: a common framework of commercial maritime law within the EU.

This two-day colloquium unravels the complexities of bridging the gap between common law and civil law in commercial maritime law, and will discuss whether “EU Commercial Maritime Law” will remain a misnomer despite the countless attempts at harmonisation.

The colloquium will bring together internationally renowned scholars to discuss the areas in which the common law and civil law are divided; the impact of these differences on the drafting and ratification of international conventions; the search for a common framework; and the procedural aspects of the common law and civil law divide in commercial maritime law.

## PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2014

08:45 Registration

09:15 Welcome and introduction

09:30 **Keynote Address:** The Honorable Mr. Justice Eder, High Court of England and Wales

### **Theme 1: Divisions between the common law and civil law**

10:00 Actual carriers at common law

Emeritus Professor Francis Reynolds, Oxford University

10:40 Actual carriers under civil law

Dr Nicholas Margetson, Erasmus University, Rotterdam Institute for Shipping and Transport Law, the Netherlands, Margetson Van'T Zelfde & Co, Maritime and Commercial Lawyers

Mr Nigel Margetson, Margetson Van'T Zelfde & Co, Maritime and Commercial Lawyers

11:20 Coffee break

11:30 Piracy at common law

Mr Peter MacDonald Eggers QC, 7 King's Bench Walk, Visiting Professor, UCL

12:10 Plenary discussion

12:30 Lunch

### **Theme 2: International conventions and harmonisation**

13:30 Conflict or tension between the Brussels I Regulation and the maritime and transport law conventions?

Professor Frank Smeele, Erasmus University, Rotterdam Institute for Shipping and Transport Law, The Netherlands

14:10 EU Regulation on the rights of passengers travelling by sea

Professor Johan Schelin, Stockholm University, Axel Ax:son Johnson Institute of Maritime and Transport Law, Sweden

14:50 Coffee break

15:00 Plenary discussion

SATURDAY 7 JUNE 2014

### **Theme 2: Continued**

09:00 One century harmonizing maritime carriage of goods (1924, 1978, 2008): Civil law and common law in the Conventions

Professor Rafael Illescas Ortiz, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

09:40 Effects of the common law and civil law divide on the drafting of the Arrest Convention and the Rotterdam Rules

Dr Patrick Griggs CBE, President Honoris Causa of Comité Maritime International

10:20 Coffee break

10:30 Plenary discussion

### **Theme 3: The quest for a common framework**

*10:50* Towards a convergence of the principles of European, maritime and common contract law

Professor Erik Røsæg, University of Oslo, Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Norway

*11:30* Towards an EU common framework for multimodal carriage

Dr Ellen Eftestøl-Wilhelmsson, University of Helsinki, Finland, University of Oslo, Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law, Norway

*12:10* Plenary discussion

*12:30* Lunch

### **Theme 4: Procedural aspects of the common law and civil law divide**

*13:30* The common law “action in rem” and the suit against the master “qualitate qua” in continental law: Are these two ways of proceedings really “twin brothers”

Emeritus Professor Marc Huybrechts, University of Antwerp, Belgium

*14:10* Parallel proceedings for limitation of liability and insolvency: Issues and a few possible solutions

Professor Martin Davies, Tulane University, Tulane Maritime Law Centre, United States

*14:50* Coffee break

*15:00* Legislative Techniques in International Trade – Madness or Method?

Mr Charles Debattista, Stone Chambers

*15:40* Bridging the gap between the common law and civil law in maritime arbitration

Dr Melis Özdel, UCL

*16:20* Plenary discussion

*16:40* Closing remarks

**Find out more and register at [eu-maritime-law.eventbrite.com](http://eu-maritime-law.eventbrite.com)**

If you have any questions about the Bentham House Conference 2014, please contact us at [laws-events@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:laws-events@ucl.ac.uk)

### **UCL Laws**

For almost 200 years, UCL Laws has been one of the leading centres of legal education in the world, and remains committed to rigorous, multi-disciplinary and innovative study of the law in all its dimensions. Our established reputation for cutting-edge legal research places us at the heart of policy, practice and impact.

Explore our research online, visit [www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/experts](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/experts)