



Madrid, February 1, 2022

Christopher O. Davis
President
Comité Maritime International

RODOLFO A. GONZÁLEZ-LEBRERO

Dear President,

With deep sorrow, I write to inform you that our former President and Honorary Member of the Spanish MLA, Titulary Member of the CMI, lawyer and professor of maritime and air law in several institutions, Rodolfo A. González-Lebrero, passed away last Saturday, January 29, in Madrid.

Rodolfo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on October 18, 1924, within an emigrant family from Asturias, Spain. Life took Rodolfo to many other places in the world, including Antwerp, Santander, Biarritz or Madrid, the city where he spent most of his adult life.

Rodolfo graduated and finalized his Phd in Legal and Social Sciences in the Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires, where he also taught Maritime Navigation Law, Corporate Law and Air Law as an associate professor. Before starting his work as an independent practicing lawyer, he had a brilliant career as the general delegate in Europe of Lineas Marítimas Argentinas, in The Hague, chief officer of Orionbel N.V., general manager of Romeu & Cía., director in Astilleros del Atlántico, and managing director in Euroflot (among other positions).

In 1986 he became a partner in Abogados Marítimos y Asociados, joining our former president José María Alcántara and other Spanish colleagues, such as Luis de San Simón and Gonzalo Rezola. By the end of the 1990s, Rodolfo also partnered with José Luis Goñi, former president of the Spanish MLA during the 1980s.

In January 2010 Rodolfo founded Lebrero & Co. Abogados (currently Lebrero Abogados), the firm he directed with an amazing energy and an enviable vitality until his decease. During this stage he had the occasion to work with Ángel Galván, president of the Spanish Average Adjusters Association, as well as with Prof. Carlos Llorente.

As a lawyer, he worked in such relevant cases as the Prestige or the Aegean Sea spills. As a writer and scholar, and besides a partly autobiographical novel (*Escuchando a Marcelo*, 2010), his legacy includes his Course on Maritime Law (*Curso de Derecho de la Navegación*, 2nd Ed., 2018), his Course on Air Law (*Curso de Derecho Aeronáutico*, 2021), other monographic works (such as *Procedimientos Marítimos*, 1996, *Seguros*



Aeronáuticos, 2009, or *El consignatario de buques*, 1989), as well as a multitude of articles in periodical journals and reviews. In 2020 he was distinguished as an academic member of the Real Academy of the Sea.

In 2012, a candidacy led by Rodolfo A. González-Lebrero was chosen by unanimity for the executive council of the Spanish MLA. This election proved to be the beginning of a new and very fruitful phase in the life of our Association, rather characterized by the complete reorganization that Rodolfo himself promoted soon after his election as president. Under his mandate, the SMLA started organizing again (and after several years or partial inactivity) the yearly National Congress, and resumed an active participation in the CMI life. In 2016 he left the presidency, but continued contributing to the SMLA's progress as a member of the Executive Council. The SMLA's website contains a number of all his interventions in several events, which provide a fair testimony of his esteem for the Association.

By the end of 2021 Rodolfo had, not only the clarity of thought, but also de courage to write his close friends to discretely say goodbye. All of us would have wanted that Rodolfo was wrong in this occasion, but time, yet again, proved him right. This is how we have to bid farewell to a person who was, besides our president, and excellent human being and a gentleman in the widest possible meaning of this expression. A man whose life was as long as intense, and whose legacy we will treasure with the care it deserves.

The Spanish MLA has conveyed our condolences to his wife, María, the rest of his family and his friends.

Rest in peace.

Eduardo Albors
President