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Dear all,

I would like to start my report by thanking Dabelstein and Passehl for having given me the opportunity to join the Scholarship program. I am very grateful for having taken part in this excellent program and to have shared two unforgettable weeks with the Da-Pa family in Hamburg.

First of all, let me repeat what all other scholars have repeated to exhaustion: The set-up of the Scholarship is just perfect. I really admire the way Da-Pa has managed to set up such a fantastic and generous program to the benefit of young professionals in the maritime field and managed to combine both high quality academic sessions, interesting field trips and very entertaining social meetings.

Academically speaking, I believe the Program was very interesting and comprehensive. All lectures were well structured and gave us a clear and practical overview of German maritime and marine insurance law. The presentations of Dr. Dreyer on shipbuilding contracts and Dr. Bruggemann on arrests and preventive measures were the ones I most clearly remember since it is mostly in these two fields that I am usually working. Nevertheless, the rest of the presentations were also extremely useful and I have indeed discovered that some other fields that I had never considered of special interest should not be forgotten, this was the case with Inland Transportation and Forwarding law, where brilliant overviews were given by Dr. Esther Mallach. Remarkable was also the presentation of Dr. Dieter Schwampe in the field of Marine Insurance. He provided us with a clear and precise summary of the field and his presentation of the subject was simply excellent. Furthermore, I believe that all Scholars really enjoyed the session of Dr. Nicoletta Kröger and Dr. Olaf Hartenstein, where practical cases gave way to interesting and fruitful discussions.

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Even if I have mentioned only a few, I would like to emphasize that all the speakers were extremely good and provided us with interesting expositions of their main fields of action. I believe that it is very impressive that practicing lawyers find time to keep their "academic side" awake and perform at such a high level.

Another important part of the Scholarship program was the field trips. All of them were extremely well organized and their combination with lectures was simply greatly balanced. I have to admit that my two favourite trips were the visit to the port and the visit to the Kingston. It was impressive to be guided through the container streets of the port and be able to experience the rush of the container terminal. On top of that, our guide for the occasion, Capt. Hanspetter Ahrens made the whole visit even more fascinating. The ride back from the port deserves also to be mentioned: we were driven through the Elbs old tunnel in quiet a big van, and therefore, our skilled driver had no other chance but to start driving on the sidewalk, something that slightly annoyed the local police. The visit to the Kingston was also amazing: to come on board, walk through its engine and climb up to the bridge was something pretty impressive.

In addition to that, the trips to Bremen and Munich were very a pleasant opportunity to get to see a bit of these two cities and get to meet other professionals outside Hamburg, which certainly gives you a broader perspective of the maritime domain in Germany.

Last but not least, the visit to all of the companies was a remarkable business experience. In all of the companies we attended everyone showed a great interest in our background and our business profile. The visit to Zeller associates was the one I remember the most for a great presentation by Chris Gray and an entertaining maritime quiz with poor results.

Finally, the social events we attended were a lot of fun. The vernissage was a great chance to mingle also with artists and other members of the maritime community and to have more direct and informal contact with some of the companies we were invited to.

And what to say about Hamburg? For anyone staying for the first time in Hamburg, the city is just an incredible discovery. Hamburg has a lot to offer, beautiful scenery, nice people, good food, and great night life. I am looking forward to coming back one day.

And finally, the Scholar group came out to be an outstanding and funny mix of different mentalities and personalities. Christine had a lot of patience with the Southern European gang and she was extremely good "host" both in Munich but also in Hamburg as well as the only German national of the group. Johan, as the only guy onboard, showed a lot of patience with us, putting up with girl talk -but also being protected by us girls from the offensives of the ladies in Reeperbahn. And finally, my two beautiful neighbours in Lange Reihe: Anastasia and Carolina. It was just fantastic to share the nights out, the daily early-morning sleepy trip to the Backerei and all the laughter. I hope to see all the Scholars pretty soon and hopefully we will soon start planning a reunion in the Greek Islands some time during summer.

I take this opportunity to thank again all of you in Dabelstein and Passehl for these two amazing weeks, from Marco being in charge of every detail of the program, to all the team of lawyers that devoted time to us, and also to the administration of Da-Pa- I cannot remember one day in which we were not spoiled with fresh coffee and delicious biscuits! ☺

I must end this report by thanking you again for giving this great opportunity to young lawyers worldwide, for your hospitality and for your dedication. All of this makes you in Dabelstein unique.

Very truly yours,



Mila Varela Chouciño