

Dabelstein & Passehl Hamburg
Grosse Elbstrasse 86
22767 Hamburg, Germany

Attn: Dr. Marco G. Remiorz

Re: Shipping & Marine Insurance Scholarship 2009- Progress Report

Dear Marco,

I would like to begin by thanking you and all the Da-Pa team for your hospitality and kindness throughout my two week stay in Hamburg. Two weeks can seem like a long time but thanks to the efforts of all involved it was a great experience, not only professionally but also personally. Having never visited Germany before, this scholarship was the perfect introduction!

Academically speaking, the program was well thought out and planned; the subjects covered were all interesting and each of the lectures provided a comprehensive examination of the topics covered. The various speakers were all clearly experts in their fields and helpful in explaining where something was not too clear. This is true of both the Da-Pa speakers and the outside lecturers – the variety of people (both lawyers and otherwise) we met helped keep the program interesting and gave us all a broad perspective of the maritime industry.

What is so great about this scholarship is that it offers the perfect opportunity for lawyers from (sometimes very) different jurisdictions to discuss and compare notes on the similarities and differences in their jurisdictions. In this respect the scholarship is priceless.

In discussing the scholarship one cannot help mentioning the varied field trips organised for our benefit. All were well organised and helped out round the academic side of the program. It is impossible for me to pick one favourite field trip however I feel I must mention our visit to the Burchardkai Container Terminal and to Blohm & Voss Shipyard where we had the privilege of seeing the super yacht “Eclipse” – a truly unforgettable experience!

Advocates:

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ADVOCATES

A special mention must also be made of our trips to Munich and Bremen. Our hosts in both these cities went out of their way to make us welcome – we all came away feeling privileged to have visited Swiss Re offices and to have experienced such a unique environment. My fellow scholar Sebastian also deserves a special mention for being our guide in Bremen and introducing us all to this charming city.

Last but by no means least, the nightlife! Once again, I would like to thank all the Da-Pa people who took time out of their busy schedules to meet us for dinner every evening and to take us to somewhere different every evening – no mean feat over two weeks! It was also great to have the opportunity to get to know the Da-Pa team and the other scholars in a more informal setting.

A particular highlight for me was the “20 up bar” at the Empire Riverside Hotel - with its fantastic views of the harbour it made for a memorable evening. Another highlight of a different kind was a small bar we discovered just off the Hans Alber Platz – one night found us there listening to the locals singing old Hans Alber songs and encouraging us to join in! Hamburg offers a truly varied nightlife and I must say that we were all eager to experience as much of it as possible!

A final word on the other scholars – it was great to share this fantastic experience with such a great group of people and I am sure that the friendships we formed here will last for the rest of our careers. We shared many laughs together - without them this experience would not have been the same.

Kindest regards to you and all at Da-Pa.

Caroline Bencini

