

Scholarship 2004
Ms. Siiri Duddington
Deneys Reitz Attorneys
sld@deneysreitz.co.za

Dear Dr Schwampe

I would like to extend my gratitude and thanks to you and your colleagues for inviting me to attend the 2004 Shipping and Marine Insurance Scholarship hosted by your office. At the time that I was invited to attend the course, I could not have anticipated what a wonderful opportunity and experience this would be for me.

Since returning to South Africa, I have had nothing but praise for your law firm in organising such an excellent course. I found the course to be stimulating both on a theoretical and practical level and my knowledge of shipping law has vastly improved.

I enjoyed the programme and the manner in which it was structured because it not only provided me with an opportunity of learning about shipping law in general (as well as the shipping law of the jurisdictions of the attending scholars), but it also afforded me the opportunity of meeting with various members of the shipping community who I would not ordinarily have the opportunity to meet.

At Deneys Reitz, I am for the most part involved in marine insurance work, cargo recovery claims and casualties and for this reason, my dealings with people are limited to lawyers, brokers and underwriters. For this reason, I enjoyed the trip to Blohm & Voss as well as the Hamburg Ship Model Basin. The tour into the port and the trip to the Central Pilot Station was an eye-opener because the Port of Hamburg is very different to that of Durban (and much bigger!).

In addition, I enjoyed travelling to Munich on Friday to meet with the representatives of Munich Re as well as our trip to Bremen on the following Tuesday. It was a pleasure to meet with the representatives of the various companies, and at the same time, to see different parts of Germany.

As well as the lectures and tours which were arranged by your offices, the scholarship course was a wonderful opportunity to meet colleagues from around the world. As a group, I believe that me, Sebastian, Niels, May and Peter got on well as a group and because we are different mix of legal practitioners, we engaged in healthy debate during the two weeks that we were together. As each of us arrived in Hamburg from different backgrounds, training and perspectives, I enjoyed talking to each of the scholars and I learnt a lot about their line of work. I feel that I have established important contacts not only with your firm but also with the other scholars.

I had a wonderful time exploring Hamburg during the evenings and on the weekends. I think that Hamburg is one of the nicest cities I have ever visited. I especially liked the ports, the Alster and the Art galleries. Olaf Hartenstein made a special effort to socialise with the scholars and to arrange for us to see a bit of the nightlife as well as the various tourist attractions. I do not think I slept the entire time I was in Hamburg because I was having such a good time! In effect, all of your colleagues made me feel warmly received and made a special effort to be part of the programme.

My firm, and particularly the shipping department in Durban, is proud that I was chosen for this course and we all believe that the trip was a wonderfully enriching experience for me. The course has definitely broadened my horizons and assisted in my career development. I think that the course has strengthened the relationship between our respective firms.

I will definitely return to Hamburg for a holiday some time in the future and I believe that I have made some good friends not only in Hamburg, but also with the other scholars. I look forward to your 75th anniversary in 2005.

I enclose* copies of photographs of the scholars, you and your colleagues which were taken on the last day of the course. Should you require any additional photographs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Once again thank you to you and your colleagues for your hospitality and generosity and I hope that if any of you should come to South Africa for business or holiday, you will contact us. It would be a pleasure to meet with you again.

Kind regards

SIIRI DUDDINGTON
DENEYS REITZ