

Tribute to The Lord Mustill of Pateley Bridge by Dr Aleka Sheppard

We have a very special guest: one of the pillars of the English judiciary, Lord Mustill. We pay tribute to him for his immense contribution to the development of English law.

You have written 616 judgments, covering all areas of English law; they are included in a booklet, which will be presented to you shortly. They show that you travelled abroad extensively, sitting at the Privy Council, in all parts of the Commonwealth, making the law.

For those of us who practise maritime and arbitration law, your decisions form the building blocks of the principles we follow. You have devoted your professional life to the law with passion.

Primarily, we thank you for the support you gave to the LSLC at the initial stages and thereafter. When I invited you to be President, you saw immediately the vision I had about the Centre. Your faith in its future gave me the encouragement to persevere in its development. Your words at the inauguration, held at the House of Lords in 1997, encapsulate the essence of the LSLC:

"There can surely be no other branch of commerce where the practical people know, and need to know, so much of the law; and where professionals know, and need to know, so much of the practice. The skills and qualifications of those who occupy the broad spectrum between the judge and the master mariner merge almost imperceptibly."

Cross-learning is the backbone of a successful industry. It is also the raison d'être of our mission. I know Lord Mustill is pleased to see that the Centre has grown to meet the needs of the maritime industry.

On behalf of all our members and supporters, I would like to express our gratitude to Lord Mustill for his immense contribution to the law generally, to arbitration and to LSLC.