

FLAGSHIP

**NEWS FROM
THE WORLD'S
LEADING SHIP
REGISTRY**

Historic victory for Liberian maritime programme



Hara Gisholt

The Liberian Registry, in co-operation with the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), has succeeded in helping the holder of a Liberian mortgage to overturn a decision of the Brazilian courts which, if left uncontested, could have had serious adverse legal and economic consequences for the international shipping industry.

Pursuant to the acquisition of the FPSO (Floating, Production, Storage, and Offloading vessel) OSX-3 in March 2012 by a Dutch company and following re-registration under the Liberian flag, the vessel was mortgaged in favour of Nordic Trustee ASA, a Norwegian entity acting as the security trustee and mortgagee of the vessel.

In an action before the lower court in Brazil, an unsecured third-party creditor, Banco BTG Pactual S/A Cayman Branch, successfully challenged the status of the Liberian mortgage in Brazil on the grounds that the mortgage was not registered with the Admiralty

Court of Brazil and that it was only filed with Liberia.

On 16 November, 2017, the Superior Court of Justice in Brazil unanimously granted Nordic Trustee's special appeal and the amicus ('friend of the court') motion filed jointly by the Liberian Registry and the ICS, of which the Liberian Shipowners' Council is a member, against this decision. The motion sought to clarify and rescind the lower court ruling, on the ground that it created uncertainty around the enforceability of mortgages for the majority of the world fleet – including those registers in major flag states such as the US, the Marshall Islands, China and Germany – when such vessels were trading in Brazil.

Liberia took swift and decisive action following the decision of the lower court, successfully arguing that its decision would have an adverse legal and economic impact on the shipping industry, that it overlooked international conventions, and that it ignored international custom. Other ship registries, meanwhile, decided not to join the motion, despite having major interests in Brazil.

Liberian Registry CEO Scott Bergeron says, "This is an historic victory for ship financing, international commerce and the Liberian maritime programme."



Scott Bergeron, CEO, Liberian Registry, accepting Lloyd's List Intelligence Innovation Award

Liberia's e-ORB scoops up four prestigious innovation awards in 2017

The innovative electronic oil record book (e-ORB) produced by the Liberian Registry, in co-operation with Cyprus-based maritime technology company, Prevention at Sea, won four prestigious awards for innovation in 2017: the Lloyd's List Intelligence Innovation Award, which seeks to set a benchmark for excellence while rewarding boundary-challenging innovative ideas and concepts; the Innovation Marine Environment Protection Award from the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA); the Tanker Shipping & Trade 2017 Technical Innovation Award; and the 2017 Lloyd's List North America Maritime Services Award.

The e-ORB is a Lloyd's Register-certified maritime software application designed to replace the traditional paper oil record book and to establish software transparency, credibility and traceability. Following highly productive and encouraging meetings with leading international shipping organisations, including the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee, US Coast Guard, AMSA, Paris MoU, EMSA, Intertanko, Intercargo, OCIMF and numerous port and flag states, the Liberian Registry has pushed ahead with moves to expedite the smooth introduction of e-ORB throughout the fleet registered under its flag.

Liberia Proudly Welcomes New Additions to Fleet



Pictured is the 85,000 dwt Liberian-flag bulk carrier "En May", which was delivered to the Foremost Group by Oshima Shipbuilding Co Ltd in Japan in September, 2017. Ms. Angela Chao, Deputy Chairman of Foremost Group, Ms. Kana Shiomitsu, Operations Manager of the Liberian Registry's Tokyo office, and Oshima Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. officials, as well as the Master of the En May and Foremost business partners attended the delivery ceremony.



K Line has recently taken delivery of the 173,400 m³ LNG carrier "Patris" from South Korea's Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME) through a joint venture with Chandris. The vessel will operate under the Liberian flag and, together with its newbuilding sistership "Kinisis", will be chartered by BP to carry gas from Freeport in the US.



The Liberian Registry is pleased to welcome aboard Kuang Ming Shipping Corporation's newest delivery, the 63,000 dwt bulk carrier "KM London." The vessel, which joins sisterships "KM Vancouver" and "KM Weipa" under the Liberian flag, was delivered in November 2017 by the Iwagi Zosen Co Ltd shipyard in Japan.



Liberia re-elected to IMO Council

LIBERIA has been re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a position it has held continuously since 2012.

Commissioner of the Liberia Maritime Authority, Dr James Kollie, says, "It is very gratifying to see Liberia reconfirmed in its position as a leading maritime nation and decision-maker at the IMO. Liberia is among the most proactive and responsible maritime nations in the world, in accordance with its position as the leading quality open registry serving the global shipping industry and ensuring seafarers' welfare.

"Liberia has always been a committed member of IMO, since its formation, as the sole international competent authority ensuring maritime safety, security, environmental protection and clean seas. As such, it is pleased to re-confirm its place on the IMO Council. Moreover, increased political stability and economic growth and prosperity have made Liberia an

attractive country for foreign investment."

The Liberian-flag fleet currently comprises over 4,200 ships aggregating more than 150 million gross tons, making it the second-largest ship registry in the world. It continues to grow at an unprecedented rate as part of a policy of planned, controlled expansion involving quality shipowners and quality ships. Liberia features on the White List of all Port State Control Memorandums of Understanding, worldwide.

The IMO Council, which is elected by the IMO Assembly for two-year terms, is the executive organ of the IMO, composed of 40 of the 172 IMO member states. It is responsible for supervising the work of the IMO, including co-ordination of the activities of its committees and sub-committees, consideration of the draft IMO work programme and budget, appointment of the Secretary-General, and entering into agreements concerning the relationship of the IMO with other organizations.

Liberian-flag bulker wins IBJ award

The Liberian-flagged bulk carrier "Venture Joy" has won the International Bulk Journal (IBJ) award for Bulk Ship of the Year and Most Efficient Vessel. The IBJ award was presented to Ian Thompson, Managing Director of TMS Ship Management, Hamburg, by Mitsuhiro Kidogawa, Regional Manager of Europe and Africa, ClassNK.



Josiah Toepfer aids hurricane relief

Josiah Toepfer, the Liberian Registry's Manager of Vessel and Company Compliance, was activated to duty for the USCG reserve last year as an emergency response specialist. He was deployed to Houston, Miami, and San Juan in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. During all three events, he was responsible for leading a team of 14 people in managing resources deployed to the various affected areas, including 81 vessels, 104 aircraft, and 20 specialized deployable units comprising over 2,500 people. Working around the clock, Josiah and his team were able to evacuate thousands of people and move over 2.6 million pounds of gear and supplies into affected areas. Josiah says, "Many of those I was working with were affected by the storm, and some lost everything, including their homes. The whole experience was very humbling and rewarding."

The Liberian Registry is proud to employ former and current members of the military, and it commends Josiah and the Reserves for their brave and honourable service.



Liberia Honors the Life of Dino Georgiopoulos

The Liberian Registry is saddened by the passing of renowned New York maritime lawyer Constantine (Dino) P Georgiopoulos on October 29th, 2017, following his long fight with illness. Dino worked with Liberia for many, many years and gained a special place in the affections of many at the Liberian Registry, for whom he was not only a legal counsel representing Genmar, Genco and Gener8, but also a mentor and friend. He was a fountain of captivating anecdotes which made evening closings on the 17th floor at 99 Park Avenue not so bad after all.

Dino was truly a great shipping man, and it is particularly appropriate that vessels named after both he and his wife Harriet have been registered under the Liberian flag. He was a loving husband and father to Peter, Kara, John, Toni and Mary Pile, and a beloved grandfather. Dino will certainly be missed but he will continue to be a part of our memories and our future. Wishing his soul fair winds and following seas.



LISCR meets the SCI Mountain Challenge

The Liberian Registry was a proud sponsor and participant at the 2017 Seamen's Church Institute's (SCI) Mountain Challenge. Now in its third season, the Mountain Challenge provides competitors with the opportunity to push their physical limits in support of mariners who face extreme conditions every day. Competitors tackle a course that includes both hiking and paddling through the beautiful Sunday River area of Western Maine. Doug Stevenson, Director of the Center for Seafarers' Rights at SCI, and Liberian Registry Vice President Christian Mollitor were on the Liberian Registry's 'Flag Avengers' team. Course times, plus philanthropic dollars raised, contribute to a team's overall ranking and awards. The event raised over \$500,000 to support seafarer welfare initiatives through the Seamen's Church Institute.

WayPoint takes client interface standards to new levels

Liberia has further strengthened its reputation as the world's most technologically advanced and sophisticated ship register with a major upgrade of WayPoint, its state-of-the-art web-based client interface system.

When WayPoint was launched in late-2016, it provided the owners and operators of Liberian-flag ships with secure, real-time, user-friendly access to their fleet details and allowed them to apply for International Convention certification such as Civil Liability, Bunker Civil Liability, Wreck Convention and Ballast Water Management Convention certificates. Now, the effectiveness of WayPoint has been significantly expanded by the addition of a number of enhanced features.

WayPoint is on a different level to any other client interface system currently available to the users of ship registry services. Owners and operators are now better able to manage their fleet-wide regulatory compliance. WayPoint provides easy and intuitive access to information about vessels' last Annual Safety Inspection data, when inspections are due for renewal, and indication of scheduled inspections. The range of certificates which can be viewed and obtained has been expanded to include those relating to the Maritime Labour Convention, including DMLC Parts 1 and 11, SMC, and ISSC, and documents of compliance (DOC). The facility also exists to transmit certificates and related information directly from the registry.

Liberian Registry CEO Scott Bergeron says, "Liberia is way ahead of any other ship registry in the world in terms of its technological proficiency and efficiency. Now, it is further ahead still, with the launch of its upgraded WayPoint system.



"In today's hi-tech world, ship owners and operators need instant access to a vast range of information, including their fleet details, their certificates, and their inspection schedules. WayPoint not only provides this access, but it is reinventing the way that shipowners will interact with their flag state and offering efficiencies that will facilitate regulatory compliance in meaningful ways. The end result is less focus on bureaucracy and tedious co-ordination, and greater emphasis on meeting regulatory objectives.

"Shipping is a round-the-clock business. It never sleeps, and neither should ship registers, which must be able to provide information whenever it is needed, wherever it is needed, at any time of the day or night. Liberia is ahead of the game in this respect, and the owners and operators of Liberian-flag ships are the beneficiaries, with guaranteed access to the information they need to keep their fleets moving safely and efficiently."

The Liberian Registry is already working on a complete suite of further upgrades that will expand the portfolio of online services which Liberia is able to offer.

<https://waypoint.lisr.com>.



ON THE REGISTER

NAGA VALLABHANENI

Maintenance Lead and Senior Software Developer

The Liberian Registry is widely acknowledged as the most technologically advanced maritime administration in the world. It employs a team of suitably experienced specialist personnel to help it develop and implement the cutting-edge technology which its clients need and demand in today's highly competitive shipping industry.

Naga Vallabhaneni is part of that team, and has been for almost eight years. She joined the Registry after achieving a Bachelor of Engineering and Technology degree in Computer Science, and today is a Maintenance Lead and Senior Software Developer for the Registry. Her job involves working actively on the development of software applications and providing ongoing support to clients in order to ensure business continuity.

Naga has worked on a number of innovative software programmes for the Registry which are already in successful operation, including WayPoint, LIS, SeaSafe and eMaritime. She is now engaged in the further expansion of WayPoint and the ongoing development of programmes such as LIS.

Naga enjoys her role at the Liberian Registry. She says, "It is a good place to work. It feels like a family." Naga's other family, meanwhile, includes a daughter and a son, aged 10 and 4 respectively, and a husband who, like herself, works in software. In her free time, Naga enjoys playing volleyball, dancing and shopping.



LET LIBERIA INTERVENE

In November 2017, a Liberian-registered container vessel was the subject of a maritime investigation by the China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) because of suspected non-compliance with local navigation requirements when sailing in Chinese waters. After receiving the owner's report, the Liberian Registry's Shanghai office immediately contacted all relevant parties and established that the MSA investigation had been prompted by the vessel's unapproved port turnaround due to poor communication between related parties. During the investigation, the Liberian Registry maintained active communication with the MSA and other parties, in order to avoid delay to the ship's sailing schedule. After reviewing the VDR record and other related documents, the MSA confirmed that the vessel bore no major responsibility for the incident and should be allowed to sail without detention.



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THE LIBERIAN REGISTRY WORLD-WIDE OFFICES

HEADQUARTERS: VIRGINIA, USA

Adam Cohen
LISCR Co-Chairman
Tel: + 1 703 251 2408

Elan Cohen
LISCR Co-Chairman
Tel: + 1 703 251 2408

Scott Bergeron
Chief Executive Officer
Tel: +1 703 790 3434

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New York, USA

Tel: +1 212 697 3434
Greg Maj, General Manager
registration@liscr.com

Monrovia, Liberia

Tel: +231 77 000 400
Joseph Keller, Executive Vice President
info@liscr.com

Singapore

Tel: +65 6323 1048
Benson Peretti, General Manager
info@liscr.sg

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Tel: +9714 3452541
Sunil Jaitly, Regional Director
infoDubai@liscr.com

Panama City, Panama

Tel: +507 263 2199
Rafael Cigarruista, Regional Manager
infoPanama@liscr.com

Tokyo, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5419 7001
Eiji Okazaki, President
info@liscr-japan.com

Hamburg, Germany

Tel: +49 40 35 00 4660
Carsten Gierga, Managing Director
info@liscr.de

Piraeus, Greece

Tel: +30 210 452 9670
Michalis Pantazopoulos, Senior Vice President
info@liscr.gr

Zurich, Switzerland

Tel: +41 44 250 8650
Felizia Lieber, Corporate Manager
info@liscr.ch

Hong Kong

Tel: +852 2810 1068
Gerry Buchanan, Managing Director
liscrfe@liscr.com.hk

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tel: +55 21 9978 72736
John Goes, Regional Representative
infoBrazil@liscr.com

Istanbul, Turkey

Tel: +90 216 688 37 56
Erhan Esinduy,
Regional Representative
infoTurkey@liscr.com

Seoul, South Korea

Tel: +82 70 7518 9139
Chelios (Chi-Hun) Lee, General Manager
info@liscr.kr

After Hours

Emergency Contact
Tel: +1 703 963 6216
DutyOfficer@liscr.com

London, UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7702 4752
Kostas Ladas, General Manager
info@liscr.co.uk

Shanghai, China

Tel: +86 21 5258 8082
Alex Ye, General Manager
infoShanghai@liscr.com

Editorial consultants

Merlin Corporate
Communication

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LIBERIAN REGISTRY

8619 Westwood Center Drive, Suite 300, Vienna, Virginia 22182 USA

www.liscr.com

