Law of the Sea, From Grotius to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Liber Amicorum Judge Hugo Caminos

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Preface

This Liber Amicorum has been prepared to honor a distinguished scholar with an accomplished career path. In fact, this is the acknowledgement of disciples, colleagues and friends all over the world to the multifaceted and prolific life of Hugo Caminos, a professional who has excelled as a professor, diplomat, publicist, international official, academic and judge and continues to contribute his wisdom as an untiring author, and an active member of the Institut de Droit International and of the National Academy of Law in Argentina. However, regardless of his professional achievements, it would not be a faithful portrayal of his personality if it were not accompanied by the unfaltering moral and intellectual integrity that makes up his human essence.

A publication to celebrate such multiple achievements could have addressed many subjects but the choice has been to focus on a field of vast knowledge by the honoree, the Law of the Sea, as global a subject as global is the sea. In fact, the uniqueness of the sea called for a single legal framework which after a decade-long negotiations was achieved at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea when on April 30, 1982, it adopted the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The great endeavour of drafting a comprehensive instrument to deal with areas and activities taking place at sea, a compendium of rules to be applied by every State to the world oceans without the preparatory work of the International Law Commission, as was the case for the First United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, was commissioned to a great extent to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Hugo Caminos was appointed Deputy Director of that Office and all along the process carried out the relevant task of decanting texts and institutions from myriads of proposals, fostering negotiations among representatives. In his role, he was not an observer but a major participant in the drafting of the new law of the sea and his commitment marked a turning point in his professional life.

Later, when UNCLOS came into force on 16 November 1994 and the newly established International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea became a reality in 1996, Hugo Caminos was elected Judge and performed in that capacity, following his reelection, until 2011. Such an insightful approach to the drafting and implementation of the modern law of the sea has made him one of the leading specialists in the field of this branch of international law.

Consistent with the honoree's background, the accomplished contributors to this book address relevant issues of the law of the sea, dealt with in eleven

Judge Hugo Caminos was not only defined by his professional accomplishments, including his appointment as Deputy Director of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, and his work as a Judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. He is also remembered, with gratitude and admiration, as a person of unfaltering moral character and intellectual integrity. The essays collected in this volume are dedicated to his multifacetic life.

Consistent with the honoree's background, the accomplished contributors to this book address relevant issues of the law of the sea, dealt with in twelve parts, covering from historical perspectives to the UNCLOS, the law of the sea in polar regions, the Area, the particular issues of islands and archipelagic States, the freedom of navigation and its attached responsibilities, piracy and the latest awards on maritime delimitation, recent practice of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), dispute settlement procedures and some unsettled maritime disputes as well as the issue of submarine cables, from the respective author's point of view.

All those interested in the Law of the Sea will find a seminal new work in Law of the Sea, From Grotius to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea: Liber Amicorum Judge Hugo Caminos.

Lilian del Castillo, Dr., University of Buenos Aires, is a Professor of International Law at the University of Buenos Aires School of Law. She is a former Director of the Plata Basin Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina, as well as a Chair of the Committee on Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, Argentine Council for Foreign Relations (CARI).