THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Member of the Comité Maritime International

27 October 2026

Dear Members

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN ROY MARTIN

It is with profound sadness and the deepest respect that the Maritime Law Association of South Africa (MLASA) marks the passing of Captain Roy Martin.

Captain Martin was an extraordinary pillar of the South African maritime landscape.

A master mariner who spent 14 distinguished years at sea with Safmarine, he commanded vessels with the precision, courage, and integrity that would define his entire professional life.

Upon transitioning ashore, he brought that wealth of practical seafaring experience into commercial and legal spheres, serving as the Managing Director of Admiralty Shipbrokers and Consultants.

For decades, Captain Martin was deeply woven into the fabric of the MLASA. He served with distinction as executive member and eventually President of the Association, brought his expertise to the Arbitration Committee, and served as the long-time Chairman of the MLASA Durban Chapter.

Captain Martin held a unique and historic distinction within our organisation. He was the first non-legal professional to be officially honoured by the MLASA at our annual conference - a distinction traditionally reserved for judges, advocates, and senior attorneys.

This tribute recognised his dedicated, enthusiastic, and incomparable service to the South African maritime legal fraternity. His ability to translate complex nautical realities into legal clarity made him an invaluable asset to maritime litigators, courts, and arbitrators alike.

Through Admiralty Shipbrokers, Roy's unparalleled commercial acumen shone. He became the High Court's trusted hand for high-profile judicial ship auctions.

Notably, during the global shipping boom of 2008, he successfully orchestrated the record-breaking judicial auction of the bulk carrier Lady East in Richards Bay for $6.575 million -defying expectations by securing a trading future for a vessel many believed was destined only for the scrap yards.

His precise economic calculations and technical affidavits regarding towage overheads, scrap valuations, and vessel integrity frequently guided the maritime courts. He achieved the distinction of presiding over the judicial auctions of over 30 vessels.

Beyond his advisory work, Captain Martin was a passionate educator. Generations of young lawyers, advocates, students, and industry professionals sat through his popular lectures. He gave his time generously, eager to instil a deep love and respect for the sea and its laws in the next generation.

Roy accomplished everything he did with unyielding enthusiasm, professionalism, and warmth.

We extend our deepest, most heartfelt condolences to Captain Martin's family, his wife Gwen and friends, colleagues, and the global maritime community he served so dutifully.
Fair winds and following seas, Captain.

Your watch is over, but your legacy remains permanently anchored in South African maritime history.

Yours sincerely

Executive Committee

The Maritime Law Association of South Africa

E: aross@coxyeats.co.za

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