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LEGAL OPINION

Ranking of maritime liens

A Panamanian flagged vessel was sold at auction in Greece. Issue arose as to announced claims privileged with maritime lien and the ranking of them. Whether a claim is vested with maritime lien, will be judged by the law of the country of the vessel's flag. The ranking of the claims announced would be defined by Greek law. Ranking of claims / liens under vessel's flag law is irrelevant.

Seafarers' wages concerning the last voyage, are vested with lien under Panamanian law. Last voyage is not confined to the route between the two last ports, but also includes the time the vessel stays in the port of call.

Piraeus One-membered Court of Appeal Judgement no 233/2016, Judge: El. Vamvaka, Attorneys at law: M. Leividiotou-Saxoni, I. Timagenis, Maritime Law Review vol. 44, p. 93.

NOTE: There is a dual application of provisions where a foreign vessel is auctioned in Greece. Liens are those acknowledged as such by the flag of the vessel; however, their ranking is an issue of procedural law and will be defined by the law of the state where the auction procedure takes place.

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