

NEWSFRONT

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LEGAL OPINION

Port dues as maritime lien

A vessel was auctioned and the port authority requested port dues accrued under previous ownership invoking maritime lien. However, such a maritime lien is rendered invalid in case the ownership is transferred in auction.

In any case, the privileged nature of the claim vested with maritime lien provides enough comfort in the sense it is satisfied in priority from the auction proceeds.

In view of above, the claim against the auction bidder was rejected.

Piraeus One Member Court of Appeal Judgement no 292/2018, Judge: Ch. Saramanti, Attorneys at law: Chr. Kyziri, M. Papageorgiou-Lambou, Maritime Law Review vol. 46, p. 211.

NOTE: When ownership is transferred, maritime liens can be enforced against the buyer for three months thereafter, and then they are abolished. In the case of an auction, they are abolished on transfer to the successful bidder.

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