

THE CENTENARY OF THE TITANIC AND THE INTERNATIONAL AND US LAWS GIVING LEGAL PROTECTION

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15 April 2012 will mark the 100th anniversary of the sinking of RMS *Titanic*. This presentation will discuss some of the legal implications of this anniversary as *Titanic* will then become subject to the provisions of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage which provides blanket coverage to all shipwrecks that have been underwater for at least 100 years. What may this mean for Parties to the UNESCO Convention? What does it mean for non-parties, particularly those that negotiated the International Agreement on *Titanic*, including the United Kingdom, France, Canada and the United States? Does the 15 August 2011 Court Order that prevents the sale of the *Titanic* Collection and requires compliance with historic preservation standards including keeping the collection together for the public benefit mean that the salvage is not “commercial exploitation” under the 2001 UNESCO Convention?