



Secure digital environment using blockchain technology in container shipping

Tulane law student Allison Skopec is the winner of this year's American Bar Associations Maritime Law writing competition, co-sponsored by Gard, with an essay on blockchain technology in the container shipping industry.

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She chose a timely topic for her article; *Learning to love blockchain sooner rather than later: streamlining the container shipping industry in the wake of the Glencore heist*. In her article, Allison Skopec discusses recent problems encountered with the use of an electronic data release system for containers in the Port of Antwerp. The digital system was supposed to secure the movement of cargo but ended up allowing the release of containers to cyber criminals. The incident exposed the shortcomings of current digital technology controlling freight movements. Her article highlights the legal issues posed by these vulnerabilities and discusses how the emerging blockchain technology could be used to provide a secure digital environment while maintaining an efficient control of freight movements within a terminal and throughout the maritime supply chain.

The article is a recommended addition to the reading list of anyone interested in this potential direction of the future of marine cargo routing and documentation. We thank Allison Skopec for her participation in the writing competition and congratulate her on her article. The article can be found here:

https://www.liskow.com/portalresource/ABA_Tips_Committee_Newsletter