



VOJVODINA BAR ASSOCIATION  
Zmaj Jovina 20/I, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

## VOJVODINA BAR ASSOCIATION

### Report for the year 2015

Novi Sad, Serbia  
January 2016

Vojvodina Bar Association, established in 1875, is an independent and self-regulated legal entity within the Serbian Bar Association with its own governing bodies and finances.

Gathering and coordinating 1,800 attorneys and nearly 500 apprentices, the Vojvodina Bar Association is an independent member of the Union Internationale des Avocats (Paris, France), European Presidents' Conference (Vienna, Austria) and European Law Institute (Vienna, Austria).

The last calendar year commenced with the existing protest of Serbian attorneys, started on September 17th, 2014, due to introduction and application of the Law on Notaries and several other laws which has strongly disturbed and undermined basic human rights of citizens and professional duties and status of the legal profession. The protest has ended in January 2015 due to changes of the Law on Notaries, proposed by the legal profession and adopted by the national Assembly.

The role of the Vojvodina Bar Association in the protest has been crucial. Basically, the Vojvodina Bar Association has been the *spiritus movens* of national protest, creating with its own professional resources all fundamental and strategic steps and proposing such activities to the Serbian Bar Association Management Board, the official leader of the protest.

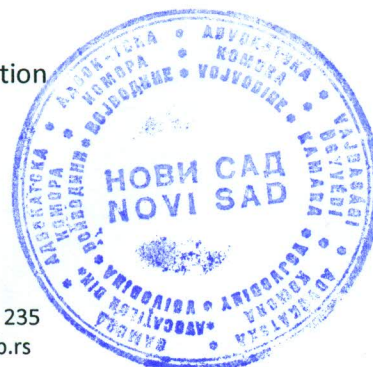
Its strong and constant role is analysis of draft laws and laws being already in the legislation procedure, through recommendations and amendments submitted directly to the Ministry of Justice or other relevant governmental bodies. The cooperation with the Ministry of Justice is considerably enhanced lately through adoption of the Vojvodina Bar Association's proposals for certain legislation changes and improvements, and several still pending (Law on Services, Family Law, Law on Inheritance etc). This cooperation is now well established and, hopefully, lasting.

Since Serbia is already into European Union accession procedure, the Vojvodina Bar Association is constantly analysing the Action Plan for chapter 23 of the accession procedure. With regard to this aspect, the Vojvodina Bar Association has good contacts and started direct cooperation with the Council for Implementation of the Action Plan for Chapter 23 of the Government of the Republic of Serbia which should evolve in 2016.

In 2015 the Vojvodina Bar Association became a member of the European Law Institute (ELI – Vienna, Austria; [www.europeanlawinstitute.eu](http://www.europeanlawinstitute.eu)) as institutional observer.

President of the Vojvodina Bar Association

  
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