



2018 REPORT BY THE CROATIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The year 2018 was an election year for the Croatian legal profession. Namely, at the annual meeting held in July 2018, the new leadership of the Croatian Bar Association was elected as well as the members of other bodies of the Croatian Bar. Josip Šurjak, a lawyer in Zagreb, was elected president of the Croatian Bar Association, and Marin Mrklič, a lawyer in Split, Mladen Klasić, a lawyer in Križevci, Nada Badurina, a lawyer in Rijeka, and Maroje Matana, a lawyer in Zagreb were elected Vice-Presidents of the CBA. Davor Drugović, a lawyer in Zagreb, was elected Secretary General of the Croatian Bar, Mario Janković was elected treasurer, and Maša Gluhinić member of the Executive Board. New members of the Management Board of the Croatian Bar Association were also elected.

At the present moment there are 4,760 lawyers registered with the Croatian Bar Association, and 1,527 trainee lawyers listed in the Register of Trainee Lawyers of the Croatian Bar Association.

In the Register of Foreign Lawyers of the Croatian Bar Association there are 12 lawyers registered from Slovenia, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Austria and Spain.

During the year 2018, the activities of the Croatian Bar Association were numerous, but we can especially emphasize the intensive work on digitization of the Croatian Bar Association and the facilitation of digital access to courts and various registers. Namely, in the Republic of Croatia an intensive digitalisation of the judicial and administrative system is under way, so it was necessary to enable lawyers to have an as efficient access to new technologies as possible. The Croatian Bar Association enabled all lawyers to issue an eID card with which they can access all possible public registers, digitally communicate with the courts and gain insight into the court files represented by their parties.

A further adjustment of the legal profession to new challenges and demands took place permitting legal advertising and for this purpose the Ordinance on Legal Advertising and the Lawyers' Websites was adopted.

Legal advertising in the media is permitted on condition that the information provided is true, objective and not misleading, that it is in accordance with the Byelaws and the Code of Conduct of the Croatian Bar Association.

Through its representatives the Croatian Bar Association actively participates also in the adoption of numerous laws, primarily in the adoption of the new Civil Procedure Act and the new Enforcement Bill. Under the new Civil Procedure Bill many amendments are suggested to accelerate litigation, but, unfortunately, such Bill foresees almost the elimination of the possibility of filing judicial reviews against court decisions.

If you wish to seek judicial review in respect of a court decision, under the new Civil Procedure Bill, you should first file an application seeking admission for judicial review to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia, stating why judicial review should be admitted and only once the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia has admitted your application, you may draft and submit the judicial review to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia. Such a proposal would considerably slow down the process of judicial review and at the same time increase the cost of the service provided to the client.

With regard to the Enforcement Act, it should be noted that almost 300,000 citizens of the Republic of Croatia are blocked by means of enforcement proceedings which are being conducted against them. The existing Enforcement Act is procedurally rather complicated, which sometimes leads to unnecessary lengthy proceedings, and the proposed Enforcement Bill should simplify and shorten proceedings both to the benefit of the creditor and of the debtor.

The Croatian Bar Association covered in its activities the General Data Protection Act because it was necessary to enable lawyers to comply with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation as soon and as efficiently as possible since every single lawyer processes a large number of clients' data protected under the General Data Protection Act.

In March 2018, the 36th Croatian Lawyers' Day was held, and the topic discussed at the roundtable was "The Code of Conduct and the Challenges of Today".

The Code of Conduct in the performance of the legal profession is a feature of the legal profession and one of the basic corner stones for the practice of law. In today's world burdened with virtual digital communications, it is increasingly difficult to meet the demands of professional conduct.

This topic was presented by the speakers: Mladen Klasić, Vice-President of the Croatian Bar Association, Roman Završek, President of the Slovenian Bar Association, Tomaž Borec, President of the Slovak Bar Association, and Françoise Hecquet from the Paris Bar Association and Rachel Saad, a member of the French Chamber of Advocates.

The Croatian Lawyers' Day was attended by numerous foreign and domestic guests and lawyers.

Hereby we would like to announce that this year, the Croatian Lawyers' Day will be held on 14 and 15 March on the topic: "Lawyers and Technology".

Croatian lawyers marked the European Lawyers' Day and held many other professional lectures and panels at the premises of the CBA.

The representatives of the Croatian Bar attended congresses organized by UIA and IBA and are active within the CCBE.

Considering the global economic and social developments in the year 2019 lawyers will expectedly be faced with numerous new challenges, but we are convinced that the legal profession will as always know how to meet such new challenges in a life-wise and professionally acceptable way.

Zagreb, 31/1/2019

Croatian Bar Association