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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO IN 2023

The Bar Association of Montenegro has a total of 1012 members as of the date of the report, of which the largest number of lawyers is in Podgorica, 615. In addition to lawyers, there are 350 trainee lawyers who are registered in the directory of the Bar Association. There is a noticeable trend in the enrollment of young lawyers, and as far as the gender structure is concerned, there is also a noticeable increase in female lawyers.

From June 2023, the Bar Association of Montenegro has elected new bodies, and new leadership including the President and the Managing Board. The new management continued with the activities from the previous period, and also formed new working groups and bodies, with the aim of involving as many lawyers as possible in the process of improving the work of the Bar Association. President and the Managing Board are revising and deciding on current issues, in order to meet the individual requirements of lawyers, related to the problems they encounter in their everyday work and also setting the focus and targets on improving position of lawyers in legal environment.

During the reporting year, the Bar Association of Montenegro has been involved in the work of working groups formed by the Ministry of Justice Montenegro, which work on amendments and additions to existing laws, as we have our representatives within those groups, when it comes to: Drafting the programs of alternative dispute resolution, the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code, the Proposal of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Arbitration, as well as the Proposal of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Confiscation of Property Benefits obtained from Criminal Activity. Also, Bar Association has representatives in Ministry of Justice Montenegro working groups for Drafting legal regulations and Judicial strategy reform for 2024-2027.

When it comes to the training of lawyers In 2023, the Bar Association had cooperation with the Center of Education in the Judiciary and the State Prosecution Service, so our lawyers had the opportunities to participate in training together with judges and prosecutors on important topics, such as Plea agreement, Financial investigation and its duration, Detention with an emphasis on the extension of detention on the basis of repetition of the offense and a whole series of other topics in the field of Criminal and Civil Law.

The Bar Association has its representatives in the Managing Board of the Center for Education in the Judiciary and the State Prosecution Service, who take care that lawyers are equally represented in the trainings, and to ensure that topics of trainings are in accordance with the needs of legal profession.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the UNHCR Office in Montenegro and the Bar Association, two workshops were organized on topic of asylum and statelessness. Bar Association emphasises the topics regarding children and minors, as we have continuous trainings for lawyers in dealing with minors in criminal proceedings, so we can have as many as possible qualified lawyers to deal with these categories. In this sense, our lawyers were also involved in training on the topic of Dealing with children who are victims and witnesses of violence, in accordance with child-friendly justice, organized by the UNICEF office in Podgorica.

The trainee lawyers, who are registered in the directory of our Bar, were not left out of the training, so the training was also organized for them, with the aim, of raising the level of knowledge on the protection of human rights and emphasising the protection on right to a trial within a reasonable time.

In the course of 2023, there were 50 disciplinary charges filed against lawyers, and the disciplinary prosecutor and the Bar's Disciplinary court are responsible for resolving them.

Since the lawyer's profession is a profession that involves verbal and physical attacks that lawyers encounter, the Bar Association of Montenegro considers that, it is unacceptable that the lawyers are exposed to institutional and individual attacks or attacks by the groups, which is why we undertake all the necessary actions as soon we discover and prosecute the perpetrators of possible principals of threats directed to lawyers and their family members.

Bar Association strongly condemned to those attacks and at the same time we express the concern that we have to react and stand up for the protection of the legal

profession as an independent and autonomous profession, as well as its members, due to the fact that the legal profession is one of the three pillars of the judiciary and one of the key elements for the protection of the rule of law and legal security, it is the duty of the state authorities to ensure the unhindered performance of the legal profession without pressure and fear both for their own lives and for the lives of their family members.



BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO
PRESIDENT

Danilo Mićović, attorney-at-law

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