



In 2024, the National Bar Council of Attorneys-at-Law continued its efforts to develop the profession and maintain the high professional standing of attorneys-at-law.

One of the key areas of activity was legislative work, in which the Research, Study, and Legislation Center of the National Bar Council analyzed several hundred draft legal acts, preparing over 220 opinions, expert analyses, and official statements. Representatives of the National Bar Council actively participated in parliamentary committee meetings in both the Sejm and the Senate, ensuring the quality of newly enacted laws and regulations that enable attorneys-at-law to maintain high professional standards. As a result, the legal profession had a real impact on shaping legal regulations and ensuring their compliance with the principles of a democratic state governed by the rule of law.

In the field of modern professional self-governance, the National Bar Council focused on implementing procedures to assess the needs of its members. Efforts to advance digitalization and modern technology integration were intensified, including the use of e-learning platforms and remote communication tools. To enhance the quality of attorney traineeship programs, new teaching methods were introduced, emphasizing practical aspects of the legal profession. The range of specialized courses was expanded to address current market demands for legal services in Poland. The organization of the mock bar examination also continued, providing trainees with conditions as close as possible to those of the actual professional exam.

Promoting the profession of attorneys-at-law was another significant focus of the National Bar Council's activities in 2024. Media information campaigns were conducted, educational and pro bono events were organized, and active participation was maintained in international legal conferences and meetings. These initiatives aimed to increase the visibility of the profession and emphasize its role within the justice system. Particular emphasis was placed on public legal education, promoting legal knowledge, and cooperating with social and academic organizations to improve access to professional legal assistance.

In 2024, the National Bar Council continued its efforts to protect the professional secrecy of attorneys-at-law. Cooperation with national and international legal organizations was actively pursued, and legislative processes were closely monitored, with key legal proposals being thoroughly reviewed and commented on. All these efforts aimed to solidify the standing of attorneys-at-law within the legal system and ensure the highest standards of professional practice. A crucial element of this strategy was also supporting initiatives related to professional ethics and strengthening deontological standards among members of the profession.

Continuing professional development is an integral part of legal practice, in accordance with the Regulations on the Continuing Professional Development of Attorneys-at-Law. These efforts take place both in Poland and abroad, enabling attorneys-at-law to refine their skills across various legal fields and contexts. Training programs covered both domestic and international legal topics, preparing attorneys-at-law to provide services in an evolving economic and social landscape. The National Bar Council of Attorneys-at-Law is a partner in several international projects aimed at



international exchange of lawyers led by the ELF. This provided following opportunities for Polish attorneys at law – short term exchanges, participation in international workshops.

The continuing education cycle for attorneys-at-law spans three years. During each cycle, every attorney-at-law, as well as foreign lawyers practicing as attorneys-at-law in Poland, is required to earn a minimum number of training credits (or a proportional number, depending on their period of practice within the cycle). Notably, the continuing education process is monitored, with compliance documented through the submission of relevant certificates and declarations to regional bar associations.

The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law not only promotes compliance with continuing education regulations but also supports the professional and educational development of attorneys-at-law by organizing numerous courses, seminars, and conferences. Such initiatives are essential for maintaining high standards of professionalism and ethics in the legal profession. Training sessions have also included topics on new technologies, media law, and alternative dispute resolution methods, significantly enhancing the competencies of attorneys-at-law in these rapidly developing areas. The National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law partnered in several international EU-funded projects led by the ELF aimed at the international exchange of lawyers. It provided the following opportunities for Polish attorneys-at-law: short-term exchanges, study visits and participation in international workshops.

Failure to document completion of the required continuing education during a given cycle results in disciplinary consequences, including referral of the case to the Disciplinary Prosecutor. Therefore, full and timely fulfilment of professional development obligations is not merely a formal requirement but a key element in maintaining the high quality of legal services provided by attorneys-at-law in Poland. This is essential for preserving public trust and the prestige of the profession. By supporting the professional growth of attorneys-at-law, the National Bar plays an invaluable role in shaping Poland's legal system, ensuring that its members are well-prepared to meet the growing demands of the legal market and uphold the rule of law.

The National Bar Council of Attorneys-at-Law has long been an active participant in the international legal community, undertaking initiatives to strengthen the position of Polish attorneys-at-law at the European level and providing legal assistance in crisis situations. One of the key initiatives in the past year was preparing to establish a National Bar Council representation in Brussels. This project aims to strengthen the standing of Polish attorneys-at-law in the European Union legislative processes and enhance cooperation with international legal organizations. This initiative is significant in light of Poland's upcoming presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2025 and challenges to the legal system given the geopolitical situation as well as technological development. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the National Bar of Attorneys-at-Law has been continuously engaged in providing legal support to Ukrainian citizens who have sought refuge in Poland. A key initiative in this regard is the Legal Aid Coordination Center (CKPP), which has been coordinating legal assistance for refugees in cooperation with 19 regional bar associations since March 2022. CKPP provides legal support in matters such as residency and employment legalization, determining the legal status of Ukrainian citizens, guardianship for unaccompanied minors, as well as labour law and rental issues.



The National Bar Council also engages in international initiatives related to documenting violations of international law. One example is its support for the Sunflowers Foundation, which collects evidence of war crimes committed in Ukraine and collaborates with international justice institutions to hold perpetrators accountable.