



Czech Bar Association

**Country Report
Czech Republic**

54th European Presidents' Conference 2026

STATISTICS

Statistics on lawyers and trainee lawyers as of 1 December 2025

Number of lawyers: 13 350

Number of trainee lawyers: 2595

CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION AND PROFESSIONAL RULES ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Amendment to the Act on the Legal Profession

On 20 March 2025, an amendment to the Act on the Legal Profession was published in the Collection of Laws. This is an extensive amendment affecting a wide range of legal institutes related to the practice of the legal profession, including the rights and obligations of lawyers and trainee lawyers, legal professional privilege, the powers (as well as duties) of the Czech Bar Association, administrative sanctions for the unauthorized provision of legal services (in Czech known as *vinklaření*), and a number of other matters. The amendment also introduces a new comprehensive regulation of the escrow of funds, aimed at minimizing potential damage that may exceptionally occur in practice in connection with the provision of escrow services.

The Act entered into force on 1 April 2025, with the exception of provisions concerning a lawyer's declaration on the authenticity of an electronic signature, which entered into force on 1 July 2025, and provisions concerning the Bar Examination Rules and the establishment of a Guarantee Fund, which entered into force on 1 January 2026.

A. Confidentiality of Information between a Lawyer and a Client (Lawyer–Client Privilege)

The new legal regulation introduces the protection of confidentiality of information between a lawyer and a client (lawyer-client privilege) as a broader instrument for the protection of the client in the provision of legal services. This concept is broader than the duty of confidentiality, as the duty of confidentiality constitutes only one of the manifestations (or consequences) of the confidentiality of information (lawyer-client privilege). Such confidentiality is protected by the lawyer in that, unless released from the duty of confidentiality, the lawyer is obliged to preserve the confidential nature of information obtained in connection with the provision of legal services. The regulation of confidentiality of information rests on three pillars: information forming the content of a lawyer's communication in the provision of legal services is confidential; the right to dispose of confidential information belongs exclusively to the client; and any person who obtains such information must not misuse it or disclose it to another person without a statutory reason or without the consent of the person to whom the legal services were provided. A condition for the protection of the information is that it is expressly designated as confidential.

B. Regulation of Statutory Definitions of the Administrative Offence of the Unauthorized Provision of Legal Services by Non-Lawyers

This constitutes a systemic change enabling stricter sanctions against the unauthorized practice of law (known as *vinklaření*). Under the new regulation, an administrative offence is committed not only by the actual provision of legal services, but also by offering such services, irrespective of the form (including, for example, via websites), as well as by arranging, intermediating, or offering to arrange or intermediate the provision of legal services by persons who are not lawyers.

C. Lawyer's Declaration on the Authenticity of an Electronic Signature

The new legal regulation allows lawyers to perform so-called e-legalization, i.e. to verify an electronic signature.

D. Part-Time Practice for Trainee Lawyers

The amendment allows trainee lawyers, in cases deserving special consideration, to complete their legal traineeship while working fewer hours than the prescribed weekly working time. This exception will primarily apply to pregnant employees, persons caring for minor children, and persons who themselves care for a dependent person. In such cases, the duration of the legal practice will be extended proportionally to reflect the extent of the working time.

E. Escrow of Funds

The amendment to the Act on the Legal Profession has fundamentally transformed the legal regulation of lawyer's escrow of funds, incorporating a number of rules previously set out in professional regulations and establishing new obligations for lawyers, as well as for financial institutions in which such funds are held. At the same time, the supervisory powers of the Czech Bar Association have been strengthened, as the competent supervisory body has acquired the authority to obtain information regarding escrow accounts from all financial institutions, enabling more effective oversight.

The changes also include the establishment of the Czech Bar Association's Guarantee Fund, from which clients harmed by criminal conduct of lawyers in connection with the escrow of funds will be fully or partially compensated.

Amendment to the Lawyers' Tariff

On 1 January 2025, an amendment to the Lawyers' Tariff entered into force, resulting in an increase in the fees and remuneration of lawyers for the provision of legal services. This increase primarily reflects the rate of inflation and the rise in costs since the last increase in 2006.

In addition, a change in the method of determining non-contractual fees in certain specific cases where the fees had previously been unreasonably low was also successfully introduced. This concerns in particular cases involving claims for monetary compensation for non-property damage, representation in administrative offence proceedings, and representation in tax matters.

Repealed Part of the Lawyers' Tariff

However, on 17 December 2025, the Constitutional Court repealed part of the Lawyers' Tariff due to unequal fees for lawyers and lawyers acting as court-appointed guardians (Judgment of

the Constitutional Court, file no. Pl. ÚS 32/25). The repealed provision set lower fees for lawyers acting as court-appointed guardians when performing identical work, which the Court considered unjustified and unconstitutional.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH BAR ASSOCIATION

9th Assembly of the Czech Bar Association and subsequent Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Czech Bar Association

The 9th Assembly of the Czech Bar Association was held on 3 October 2025 in Prague and, for the first time in its history, took place in a hybrid format combining in-person and remote participation. Elections to all governing bodies of the Czech Bar Association were conducted electronically via the Bar's online portal, with voting on resolutions available both on site and remotely through a dedicated mobile application. The Assembly was successfully concluded with the election of new governing bodies, and a record number of 4,885 lawyers participated in the elections. Notably, Monika Novotná was elected as the first female President of the Czech Bar Association. The newly elected vice-presidents for the next term are: Michala Plachká, Lukáš Trojan and Ondřej Trubač.

Lawyer of the Year 2024

The 19th Lawyer of the Year, a competition encompassing the entire legal profession organised by the Czech Bar Association together with the EPRAVO.CZ publishing company, took place in May 2025 in Brno, the Czech city of justice. The competition honours distinguished legal professionals in various categories (e.g. civil law, criminal law, financial law, intellectual property law, but also Talent of the Year, Pro Bono, and other categories). Candidates are nominated by the professional community and selected by an expert jury representing all legal professions. The awards are presented at a high-profile gala evening attended by over 1,000 guests from across the Czech justice system, held alternately in Prague and Brno. The highlight of the evening is the induction of a new member into the prestigious Legal Hall of Fame. For 2024, this honour was awarded to prof. Petr Hajn, a respected university professor and lawyer. Prof. Hajn was recognized for his lifelong academic contribution as a professor at Masaryk University in Brno and for the authorship of significant scholarly monographs.

Commemoration of 17 November 1989

On 17 November 2025, the Czech Bar Association commemorated the 36th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution by organizing a full-day chill-out lounge in the courtyard of its historic headquarters, Kaňka Palace in Prague, a site closely linked to the events of 1989. The event welcomed public officials, members of the legal profession, media representatives and the general public, offering access to the 17 November Gallery, and informal opportunities for reflection and networking. Visited by many people, the initiative highlighted the Czech Bar Association's long-standing commitment to preserving the legacy of the Velvet Revolution and the values of democracy and the rule of law.