

JUDGES UNDER STRESS – CONFERENCE AGENDA

Vilnius, Lithuania, April 18-19, 2024

Conference venue: Hilton Garden Inn Hotel (44 Gediminas Ave, Vilnius)

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Arrival of participants

18:00-21:00

Welcome Cocktail Hosted by the Norwegian Embassy in Vilnius.

Ambassador Ole Terje Horpestad, Royal Norwegian Embassy

Welcome by Organizers.

19:00

Screening of the film Judges Under Pressure (2021, 87 min),

<http://www.lollipopfilms.pl/en/judges-under-pressure>

Introduction by Dr. Lukasz Bojarski

Thursday, April 18, 2024

8:30-9:00

Registration.

09:00

Opening Remarks by Organizers:

Director Natalija Kaminskienė, Lithuanian Courts Administration

President of the Board, Cecilie Østensen Berglund, Norwegian Court Administration

Dr. Lukasz Bojarski – Conference Objectives

09:15-10:45

Session I. Between Judicial Independence and Accountability – current issues and challenges facing the Judiciaries

1. General Framework and Introduction: Prof. Hans Petter Graver, University of Oslo

2. Country Presentations:

Bulgaria – Judge Atanas St. Atanasov, Sofia City Court, Criminal department

Croatia – Judge Andrija Krivak, Municipal Civil Court of Zagreb

Lithuania – Judge Nerijus Meilutis, Chairman of the Court of Appeal of Lithuania

Romania – Judge Dr. Dragos Calin, Bucharest Court of Appeal

3. Discussion

10:45-11:15

Break

11:15-12:45

Session II. Recent Developments in European Courts' Jurisprudence Regarding Judicial Independence

1. Jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union: Prof. Marek Safjan, former Polish Judge of the CJEU (2009-2024)
2. Jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights: Prof. Egidijus Kūris, former Lithuanian Judge of the ECHR (2013-2024)
3. Successes, Failures, Challenges of the European Jurisprudence – an Academic's Perspective: Prof. Maciej Taborowski, The Institute of Law Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences
4. Discussion.

12:45-13:45 Lunch Break

13:45-15:15

Session III.

A. Judicial Resistance against Authoritarian Measures Aiming to Limit Judicial Independence

1. Is There a Right/Duty to Resist? Defining Judicial Resistance: Dr. Łukasz Bojarski
2. Judges' comments: Judge Dr. Maciej Ferek, Regional Court in Krakow, Poland, Judge Dr. Dragos Calin, Bucharest Court of Appeal, Romania
3. Discussion

B. Media Pressures and Attacks on Individual Judges – panel

Panelists: Prof. Ragna Aarli, University of Bergen, Norway; Dainius Radzevičius, Chairman of Lithuanian Journalists Union; Judge Vladislava Tsarigradski, Bulgaria, Judge Dorota Zabłudowska, District Court Gdańsk-Południe in Gdańsk, Poland; Lilit Daneghian-Bossler, Council of Europe Expert on CCJE opinions. Moderator: Iwar Arnstad, Head of International Secretariat of the Norwegian Court Administration

15:15-15:45 Break

15:45-17:15

Session IV. Workshops and Discussion

Group one: A. Judicial Resistance – Conditions and Limits.

Group two: B. Media Pressures on Individual Judges – Possible Reactions/Defenses.

Group three: A. or B

Facilitators: Iwar Arnstad, Łukasz Bojarski, Cristi Danilet, Maciej Ferek, Dainius Radzevičius, Dorota Zabłudowska

17:15-19:00

Networking

1. Buffet dinner.
2. Book Launch: *Valiant Judges, Iniquitous Law: Thirteen Stories of Heroes of the Law* by Prof. H.P.Graver, Routledge '2024; short introduction by Author followed by comments from Readers.

Friday, April 19, 2024

08:30-09:45

Session V. Corruption as a threat to Judicial Independence – current challenges and solutions

1. Prof. Ján Mazúr, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
2. Dr. Cristi Danilet, Former Judge (until 2024), Romania
3. Dr. Justinas Bagdžius, Integrity Officer of the Judiciary, Lithuanian Courts Administration
4. Discussion

09:45-10:00 Break

10:00-11:30

Session VI. The Role of the Legal Complex and Civil Society in Judicial Independence

1. The Potential of Legal Complex – Prof. H.P. Graver, Dr. L. Bojarski
2. Panel Discussion: Insights and Conclusions from Plenary Sessions and Workshops – the panel will feature a selection of speakers and participants, focusing on key takeaways from the event. Special emphasis will be placed on the theme of rebuilding the Rule of Law, with notable insights from Zuzanna Rudzińska-Bluszcz, The Deputy Minister of Justice, Poland
3. Outcomes of the conference

11:30-12:00 Lunch Break

12:00-14:00

Session VII. Results and outcomes of the project “Increasing the Quality, Services and Infrastructure in Lithuanian Courts” by Lithuanian Courts Administration

1. Presentation (TBC)

Iwar Arnstad, Head of the International Secretariat of the Norwegian Court Administration

2. Presentation of project results

Petras Sakalauskas, project manager, Lithuanian Courts Administration

3. “Judicial Leadership: Catalyst for Streamlining Court Proceedings and Fostering Collaboration”

Prof. Salvija Mulevičienė, Mykolas Romeris University, Head of the Justice Laboratory

4. “Electronic communication and administration of judges career information in TERIS”

Vaida Petravičienė, Director of the Legal and Administration Department, Lithuanian Courts Administration

Closing and farewell

Director Natalija Kaminskienė, Lithuanian Courts Administration