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PROTECTION AND GUARANTEE OF RIGHTS AND LEGITIMATE INTERESTS IN THE HISTORY OF LAW; MILESTONES OF LAW IN CENTRAL EUROPE (ČASTÁ, 22 – 23 MARCH 2024) / Frederika Vešelényiová

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This year, the Faculty of Law at Comenius University Bratislava proudly organised the 18th International Scholarly Conference for PhD. students and young researchers, entitled "The Milestones of Law in Central Europe 2024." Under the auspices of the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Eduard Burda, PhD., the conference took place on March 22-23, 2024, at the picturesque, purpose-built facility of the National Council of the Slovak Republic in Častá - Papiernička.

The conference program featured over one hundred studies presented by both national and international speakers from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland. Participants were divided into eleven thematic sections, each focusing on a specific area of law. One notable session centred on Legal History, Comparative Law, Roman Law, Ecclesiastical Law, and Canon Law, with the main theme: "Protection and Guarantee of Rights and Legitimate Interests in the History of Law." This session included five speakers who presented their research on challenging topics, both in person and online. The session was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Mgr. et Mgr. Ondrej Podolec, PhD., from the Department of Legal History and Legal Comparative Studies, and Prof. JUDr. Matúš Nemeč, PhD., Head of the Department of Roman Law and Ecclesiastical Law, both from the Faculty of Law at Comenius University Bratislava.

The main theme of the section revolved around the protection and guarantee of human rights in the history of law, offering participants a broad and insightful exploration of this critical topic. The diverse presentations included discussions on Roman law, the

establishment of rights in the 20th century, and current findings in the protection of victim rights.

Mgr. Valéria Terézia Dančiaková PhD., was the first speaker of the section. In her study on Roman law and its context in relation to the Acts 16:16 - 40 - episode in Philippi, she demonstrated how human rights were anchored in Roman law. Notably, JUDr. Veronika Pétiová, PhD., presented on the consequences of sexual abuse on victims, highlighting the lasting neurological impacts and integrating legal perspectives with neuroscience. This interdisciplinary approach sparked constructive discussions during and after the session, emphasising the need for a multifaceted understanding of legal issues. Mgr. Jakub Jankovič analysed the legal tools used in the interwar Czechoslovak Republic to combat Hungarian anti-Trianon tendencies, focusing on the extensive interpretation of irredentism and measures like censorship, bans on Hungarian national colours, and interference with the right to assemble. His presentation, supported by extensive archival material, was a highlight and provided deep insights into the historical context and its legal implications. Human rights and their guarantee in the 20th century were also the theme of another presentation held by Mgr. Frederika Vešelényiová, which discussed the evolution of legislation concerning institutional care for minors in Slovakia. The section was concluded with a presentation by ICDr. Peter Sýkora PhD. with his presentation on the principle of participation and co-responsibility in governance in the Church and in civil society.

The day's program also included a presentation for all conference participants by Prof. JUDr. Juraj Vačok, PhD., President of the Senate of the Supreme Administrative Court of the Slovak Republic since 2022. Prof. Vačok discussed the history and establishment of the conference, shared his concerns about the current state of legal education, and emphasised the positive opportunities for students to study abroad and undertake internships. His address highlighted the importance of continued support and development for young legal scholars.

In summary, the conference section centred around the protection and guarantee of rights and legitimate interests in the history of law. The diverse presentations provided unique insights through historical analysis, comparative studies, and theoretical exploration, enriching the overall discourse on legal protections and guarantees. The discussions inspired and motivated participants for future research, emphasizing the importance of understanding historical contexts to inform contemporary legal practices.

The significance of this event extends beyond the immediate academic presentations. It serves as a crucial forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, fostering collaboration across national and disciplinary boundaries. By bringing together scholars from various fields and regions, the conference highlights the collective effort to advance legal scholarship and address contemporary challenges in law. Moreover, it provides an exceptional opportunity for networking, allowing participants to build professional relationships that can support their academic and career development. The interactions during the conference sessions, informal discussions, and networking events create a dynamic environment for learning and growth, reinforcing the importance of community in academic pursuits.

In conclusion, the protection and guarantee of rights remains a crucial topic, relevant not only historically but also in contemporary legal contexts, providing important insights for future developments in these legal spheres. The 18th International Scholarly Conference for PhD. students and young researchers showcased a remarkable array of academic contributions, demonstrating the vibrant scholarly community's dedication to advancing legal knowledge. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue, explored new

research methodologies, and fostered collaborative relationships that will undoubtedly benefit their future careers. The conference reaffirmed the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in legal studies, highlighting how integrating various fields can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of complex legal issues. As we look forward to the next instalment of this prestigious conference, it is evident that the exchange of ideas and the commitment to academic excellence will continue to drive progress in the study and practice of law.

The importance of this event cannot be overstated. It not only highlights the critical themes of legal history and contemporary issues but also creates a platform for young scholars to present their work, receive feedback, and engage with peers and experts. The diversity of topics and interdisciplinary approaches enriches the academic community, fostering a culture of rigorous scholarship and innovation. This conference serves as a beacon for emerging legal minds, encouraging them to delve deeper into their research, challenge existing paradigms, and contribute to the evolving landscape of law. The robust participation from various countries underscores the global relevance of the themes discussed and the universal quest for justice and legal integrity.

Furthermore, the networking opportunities provided by this conference are invaluable. Young researchers have the chance to connect with seasoned academics, potential mentors, and future collaborators. These interactions can lead to joint research projects, publications, and career advancements. The conference also highlights the importance of international cooperation in addressing legal challenges, encouraging participants to think beyond their national contexts and consider global perspectives.

As the legal profession continues to evolve, events like "The Milestones of Law in Central Europe" play a pivotal role in shaping the future of legal education and practice. They provide a space for critical reflection, knowledge exchange, and professional growth. The conference's success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the organizers, speakers, and participants, all of whom contribute to the ongoing dialogue and development of law. Looking ahead, it is clear that such gatherings will remain essential in fostering a vibrant, informed, and collaborative legal community committed to the pursuit of justice and the protection of rights.

