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## *Chronicle of Scholarly Events in Legal History and Roman Law Held in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in 2019*

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**Słowa kluczowe:** historia prawa, Republika Słowacka, Republika Czeska, stan badań, nauczanie, rozwój kadry, projekty, konferencje

There were several interesting and inspiring events in legal history and Roman law held in the Slovak and the Czech Republics in 2019. On the following pages, we will provide a partial brief overview with regard to their institutions in chronological order.

The Department of Legal History and Comparative Law at the Law Faculty of **Comenius University in Bratislava** organised the following conferences in Bratislava.

The international academic conference *Bratislava Legal Forum* was held on 14 and 15 February 2019 under the auspices of the President of the Supreme Court of the Slovak Republic and the President of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic. Within the legal-historical section, a discussion was held about the revolutionary year 1989 as a milestone in the development of state and law.

*Milestones of Law in Central Europe*, an academic conference for Ph.D. students and young researchers held on 11–13 April 2019, had a legal-historical section named the *Leges singulares*.

The conference *New Challenges to Rights in Rem*, as part of the grant project of the same name, was held from 29 November till 1 December 2019. The conference participants debated the historical background of effective property law and related theoretical and philosophical questions. They addressed some burning current issues such as unsettled land claims and matrimonial property regime.

Two successful *habilitations* took place at the Bratislava Department of Legal History and Comparative Law in 2019. The degree “docent” was conferred on Matej Mlkvý for his habilitation thesis “Doctrinal Development Concerning the Right to Property and Possession in the Re-adopted Roman Law, English Law, and Hungarian Law” and on Ondrej Podolec for his habilitation thesis “Between Continuity and Discontinuity: The Political System in the Slovak Republic Between 1939–1945”.

In the winter term of the academic year 2019/2020, the Department introduced a new regular legal-historical event for experts called *Lectures on Legal History*. The first lecture was held by Doc. Miroslav Lysý on the topic “The Oldest Assemblies in the Slovak Territory”. The second lecture was held by Docs. Miriam Laclavíková and Adriana Švecová from the Trnava Law Faculty on the topic “Legal Education and the Old Trnava Law Faculty”.

The Department of Legal History at the Law Faculty of **Trnava University in Trnava** organised an international online scientific conference *Iuventutis Institutio Renovatio Mundi Est* on 10 April 2019. It was held to celebrate the 70th birthday of Professor Peter Mosný, the former Head of the Department. Twenty papers presented by the eighteen domestic and three foreign participants were published in the conference proceedings of the same name.

The Department members produced some interesting books:

The monograph co-authored by Docs. Laclavíková and Švecová entitled *Children in Interwar Slovakia (Public Social Care for Children and Youth with Respect to Institutional Bases)* analyses the social and legal status of children in the difficult inter-war period.

The monograph *Slovakia in Czechoslovakia (1918–1938): Sources of Private Law and Judicial Practice*, written by Doc. Laclavíková and co-financed from Trnava University grant no. 21/TU/2018, also focused on Czechoslovakia.

In what has already become an annual custom, the Department issued the conference proceedings *Legal-Historical Trends and Perspectives*, currently its fourth volume, which encompasses twenty-two articles on different topics, sixteen from Slovakian experts and the rest from foreign experts. The conference proceedings *Europe v. the World: Contacts, Confrontations and Conflicts* was compiled in memory of Doc. Gertruda Železková, and comprised of twenty articles.

The Department organised two of the series of events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution, held at the Faculty of Law. These included a discussion with the student leader of the Revolution, Anton Popovič, who spoke on the topic “What Did November 1989 Bring Us?”, and the lecture of Dr. Sivoš “The Way Towards November 1989 According to the Archival Sources of the Secret Police”.

The Department of History of State and Law at the Law Faculty of **Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica** organised following conferences in Banská Bystrica.

On 28-29 March 2019, already the fifth year of the international scientific conference named The Banská Bystrica School of Legal History was organised. The main conference organiser thereby commemorated the 70th anniversary of the adoption of Act no. 265 of 1949 Coll. on Family Law. The co-organiser of this conference was the Siena Law Faculty (Università degli Studi di Siena) and the Olsztyn Faculty of Law and Administration (Uniwersytet Warmińsko-Mazurski). The conference, hence, provided experts from Slovakia, Czechia, Poland, Italy, and Russia the opportunity to discuss mutual interests. They presented twenty-five contributions which were published in the online conference proceedings.

The Banská Bystrica Department was the main organiser of the regular conference *The Czechoslovak Meeting of Doctoral Students and Post-Doctoral Scholars in Legal History and Roman Law* on 18 September 2019. It was the seventh holding of the conference which annually provides – especially for young researchers – the opportunity to share their knowledge and academic experiences, to present their partial findings on dissertation topics, and to publish them in the online conference proceedings.

On 14–15 November 2019 the Department organised the fifth holding of the international scientific conference *The Castle Days of Law in Banská Bystrica*, took place at the Víglaš Castle. The participants held debates in four sections, including the section of legal history and theory of law. The general topic of the section was “The Theory and History of the Current Law Institutes”. The papers are to be published in the online conference proceedings in mid-2020.

The most important Czech legal history departments had following legal-historical events.

The Department of Legal History and Roman Law at the Law Faculty of **Masaryk University in Brno** organised the traditional *Summer School of Legal History and Roman Law* between 24 and 26 September 2019. Discussions were held on the topic “War and Peace in History”.

On 23–25 May 2019, the traditional meeting of Czech and Slovak Romanists took place. They discussed about “Ius Honorarium – the Roman Magistrates and Their Practice”.

On 21–22 November 2019, the multidisciplinary conference *Days of Law* was organised. The participants presented their research on the topic “Boundaries – Cooperation, Disputes, Overlaps”.

Professor Vojáček, Docs. Schelle and Tauchen published an eminent two-volume publication on the history of the Law Faculty in Brno, *The History of the Law Faculty of Masaryk University Between 1919–2019. Part I. (1919–1989). Part II. (1989–2019)*. The publication was written to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Law Faculty and to describe its activities mainly during the socialist era and the democratic era after 1989.

The Law Faculty of **Charles University in Prague** underwent a change in 2019 when the Department of Legal History and the Institute for Czech Legal History were merged into the Department of Legal History with Professor J. Kuklík appointed as the Head of the Department. Students are now also able to pursue a newly accredited

5-year Master's Program, and to attend new legal-historical courses such as "Historical Background of the Czech Law" or "Development of Major Legal Systems", which are focused on recent legal history.

Some personnel changes occurred in 2019 as well. These affected especially the heads of departments and senior teachers. In most of the cases, it was an expected generational change. At the Trnava Department, Professor Tomáš Gábriš became the new Head of the Department replacing Professor Peter Mosný on 1 September 2019. A similar change occurred also in Brno, where Doc. Jaromír Tauchen became the new Head of the Department replacing Professor Ladislav Vojáček on 1 October 2019. Doc. Ivana Šošková became the new Head of the Department at the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica, where she replaced Doc. Róbert Jáger in November 2019.

For more than 10 years the European Society for the History of Law in Brno has been the Czech Republic's most important organisation of Central European legal historians. On 20 November 2019 the Society rewarded Professor Jozef Beňa, the Slovak legal historian from the Bratislava Law Faculty, for lifetime contributions in legal history. Afterwards, Professor Beňa presented a lecture on issues related to Slovak autonomy within the First Czechoslovak Republic (1918–1938). Similarly, the Society awarded Professor Ladislav Vojáček in February 2019. The award for the best legal historical book of 2018 was given to him for his monograph "The First Czechoslovak Law. Belated Attempt to Comment."