




ADRIANA ŠVECOVÁ

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8502-1139>

Trnava University in Trnava

INGRID LANCOVÁ

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2767-3558>

Trnava University in Trnava

## *Chronicle of Scholarly Events in Legal History Held in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in 2022*

**Keywords:** scholarly events, Slovakia, Czechia, legal history, conferences, academic degrees, monographs

**Słowa kluczowe:** wydarzenia naukowe, Słowacja, Czechy, historia prawa, konferencje naukowe, stopnie naukowe, monografie

Fortunately, in 2022, the anti-pandemic restrictions no longer influenced the scientific, educational, and popularizing activities of legal-historical workplaces and departments in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. Therefore, their scientific activities and face-to-face and hybrid events were truly diverse.

In 2022, members of the Department of Legal History and Comparative Law (Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava) completed two substantial projects. The first was the publication of a collective monograph of the three-volume history of Faculty of Law, Comenius University. The authors published it on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the educational activities, a true milestone in Slovak legal education. The title of the second completed project, funded by the Slovak Research and Development Agency, was *New Challenges to Property Rights*. As a result, the project team members published numerous studies and a monograph on principles governing the rights in rem both in history and effective law. These days, the Department has been working on a dictionary of historical terminology of private law in Slovakia. The Department, in cooperation with other colleagues from the faculty will complete this work in 2023.

Another achievement in 2022 was the publication of an anthology in honour of Professor Jozef Klimko, a successful Slovak diplomat and an academician who, unfor-

tunately, passed away in 2021. The publication *Charm and Nobleness of the Diplomat* contains expert studies and memories of notable Slovak scholars of jurisprudence and the social elite.

The Department organized the legal-historical section of the traditional Bratislava Legal Forum. There, the participants of the legal-historical section discussed the historical private law terminology in Slovakia.

Furthermore, two doctoral students achieved significant qualification progress at the Bratislava Department. Adam Kőszeghy successfully defended his dissertation on the history of foreign trade in Czechoslovakia after 1948. Terézia Švedová defended her thesis on the legal background of the Public Against Violence, a political movement established in Bratislava in November 1989. After their successful defenses, both became lecturers at the Department.

The Department of the History of Law (Faculty of Law, Trnava University in Trnava) organized several activities and events, some for experts and some for students. For instance, on March 16, 2022, Doctor of Philosophy Marína Zavacká from the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences delivered a lecture on the Ilava concentration camp for enemies of the Hlinka's Slovak People's Party and of the regime in Slovakia between 1939 and 1945.

On September 30, 2022, the Trnava Department, in cooperation with the Slovak Historical Association, organized an international scientific conference "Reforms of Private Law in Legal History." The conference was part of the international scientific congress Trnava Days of Law, held biannually. Participants from Austria, Serbia, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic presented the outcomes of their research at the conference. The broad topic provided space for legal historians to comment on various issues, problems, and challenges of private law and its branches from a historical or present-day point of view. The editors published the peer-reviewed contributions of the participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> volume of the traditional conference proceeding entitled *Legal-historical Trends and Perspectives*.

The Department co-organized competitions for students, too. One was announced on the occasion of the Saints Cyril and Methodius Day, celebrated annually on July 5, to commemorate the Byzantine Greek brothers who came to the Slavic countries to spread Christianity. Students could send photographs with descriptions from their summer trips from places connected to Great Moravia, our first state. Another competition was announced on September 1 to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic. The authors of the most original "birthday wishes for the Constitution," predominantly essays on constitutional law, won books on the development of constitutional law.

The members of the Department were team members of several grant projects, e.g., the Visegrad grant project "Continuity and Discontinuity of Pre-war Legal Systems in Post-war Successor States (1918–1939)" or the grant project of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Centre for Social Sciences entitled "Constitutional Risk Management in the V4 Countries."

Department of State History and History of Law (Faculty of Law, Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice) organized two public lectures delivered by Associate Professor Erik Štenpien. The first one, on March 16, was about the public administration in eastern

Slovakia before the World War I. The second one, on October 19, was about the legislative activity of the Hungarian Parliament, predominantly during the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Department hosted domestic and foreign participants at two conferences: “Milestones of Legal Development in Europe after the First World War” (April 22) and “World War I and Its Influence on State and Law” (September 29–30). The Department published the contributions in two conference proceedings.

The Department members have been working on an international project entitled “100 Years from the Trianon Treaty – The Impact of the Trianon Peace Treaty on Regional History,” funded by the Slovak Research and Development Agency. The Department members (Professor Vladimír Vrana, Associate Professor Erik Štenpien, Associate Professor Miroslav Fico, and Doctor Dávid Pándy) delivered four public lectures on this topic for the members of the Historical Association in Košice. It is necessary to mention that there has not yet been research in Slovakia on the legal analysis of the Trianon Peace Treaty and its impact on the legal practice in the successor states of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The Department members have been cooperating with researchers from abroad – Poland and Hungary, affected by the Trianon trauma. Therefore, the research will bring objective results, based on international cooperation.

The Department of History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica) organized the 7<sup>th</sup> volume of the international scientific conference “The Banská Bystrica School of Legal History” on the topic: “Echoes of Legal History in the Present” on May 26–27. The conference participants focused on the turnaround cycle of the legal institutes, including changes in the law in the turbulent period after the Second World War and their influence on the current legal order.

In 2022, the publication activities of the Department members focused on university textbooks. Head of the Department, Associate Professor Ivana Šošková issued the 2<sup>nd</sup> supplemented edition of the Workbook on European and American Legal History. Associate Professor Martin Skaloš and Doctor Zuzana Mičková published the textbook *History of State and Law in Slovakia (Since the Oldest Times Until 1848)*. Associate Professor Martin Skaloš published another textbook, in co-authorship with Doctor Alexandra Letková, entitled *Workbook on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Czechoslovak Legal History*.

Department of Legal History (Faculty of Law, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen) organized activities dedicated to the national and international history of law and Roman law. The Department members have been, for a longer time, interested in topics such as the history of legal professions (especially the history of advocacy from the oldest times to the most recent period), religious law from historical and present-day views (in cooperation with experts on canon law, Hebraic law, Islamic law, etc.).

In 2022, the activity of the Department recovered from the impact of extraordinary measures responding to the spread of the COVID-19 disease. Hence, the Department organized several scientific events. From 23 to 24 June, the Department organized a conference in the hybrid form entitled “State and Law in the Course of Time.” A number of academics from Czech, Slovak, Polish, and Hungarian institutions attended the conference.

On September 22, the Department and the Czech Bar Association organized the 18<sup>th</sup> conference on the history of advocacy. On 25<sup>th</sup> November, the Department opened a legal-historical section on the traditional international conference “Hope for Legal

Science – Legal Science in Practice,” organized for students of doctoral study programs and young researchers, including researchers from Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland.

Among the most notable publication achievements are:

- the monograph by Václav Valeš and Andrea Hartl, who commented on the translations of key documents on the rise of fascism in Bavaria: *Legal History of the Free State of Bavaria During 1918–1933 in Documents*, Prague, 2022;
- the two-volume workbook on the study of Czech and Czechoslovak legal history, eligible for teaching: Vendulka Valentová and Antonín Lojek: *Workbook for the Study of Czech and Czechoslovak Legal History until 1918*, Pilsen, 2022, and *Workbook for the Study of Czech and Czechoslovak Legal History from 1918 to 1989*, Pilsen, 2022.

As part of international cooperation, the Department staff participated in the successful completion of the V4 project “Continuity and Discontinuity of Pre-war Legal Systems in Post-war Successor States (1918–1939).” The cooperation included work with colleagues from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, the University of Szeged, and the Trnava University in Trnava.

Unfortunately, sad events happened in the Department, too. At the beginning of 2022, the Department grieved the loss of two great persons and experts in their fields of work. First, an expert on religious and confessional law and legal history (especially Bavarian) JUDr. MSc. Václav Valeš, PhD passed away, to be followed shortly afterward by the eminent canonist, Romanist, and legal historian Professor JUDr. Antonín Ignác Hrdina, DrSc., O.Praem.

Department of Theory of Law and Legal History (Faculty of Law, Palacký University in Olomouc) organized a conference where the participants discussed the life of the interwar Czechoslovak president, Dr. Emil Hácha. It took place on September 6, 2022 and had an eloquent title: “Associate Professor Emil Hácha (1872–1945) – Unsettling Life in the Unsettling Period”. The readers will find the conference contributions in a special monothematic issue of *Acta Iuridica Olomucensia* in the first half of 2023.

Some Department members published new monographs, such as:

- Kamila Bubelová and Radek Černoč: *Falcidian Law – 35<sup>th</sup> Book of Digest*, Prague, 2022 (the book contains a translation of the 35<sup>th</sup> book of the Digest with commentary and an introductory study);
- Jakub Razim, *Border Law and Its Rituals in the Přemyslid era*, Prague, 2022 (the author gives a comprehensive understanding of the life of medieval man, influenced by law and rituals in the Přemyslid era. These included customary foot or horse processions, held ceremoniously in front of the public to establish and secure the ultimate limit to which the exercise of dominion or ownership of a formally demarcated territory was possible).

The Department members have been working on the international EEA and NORWAY GRANTS research project (2022–2024) “The Liechtenstein in Czechoslovakia and Central European Legal Science.” The Project leaders have been Ondřej Horák and Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff. The researchers have been working on two parts of the bilingual edition of legal opinions (vol. I. 1918–1938, vol II. 1945 and later), which reflect the development of legal relations between the Liechtenstein family, the principality of Liechtenstein and Czechoslovakia during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Department of Legal History (Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague) publishes one of the oldest legal history periodicals, *Legal Historical Studies*, included in the prestigious international SCOPUS database since 2022. In the Journal, the readers can find original scientific works on legal-historical topics, reviews, annotations, reports from scientific life, and commented legal-historical sources. The editorial board of the Journal accepts contributions from domestic and foreign authors. Contributions by foreign authors get published in the original language, namely in English, German, French, or Italian. Legal historical studies are published three times a year.

The Department published the following monographs and collective monographs:

- Petr Bělovský: *Obligations from the Contract* (2<sup>nd</sup> extended edition), Prague, 2022;
- Jan Beránek: *Trials of Nazi Criminals in the Occupation Zones of Germany and Their Influence on Czechoslovak Retribution*, Prague, 2022;
- Jan Kuklík: *The Story of the Czechoslovak Constitution 1920 II. The Constitution and Its Changes in the Interwar Era*, Prague, 2022;
- Vladimír Sharp, Gabriela Blahoudkova, Jakub Handrlica (eds.): *Law, Pandemics and Ownership Restrictions* (chapter “Selected Aspects of Crises and Their Solutions in Roman Law and Politics,” written by Václav Dvorský, Dominik Macek, Marek Novák, Kamila Stloukalová, Jan Ullmann, and chapter “Selected Aspects of the Legal Regulations of Epidemics in the Czech Lands from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century to 1948,” written by Tereza Blažková and Jiří Šouša, Bern, 2022);
- Jiří Rajmund Tretera: *Czech Memories*, Prague, 2022.

At the end of 2022, the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic announced funding of the project of Prof. JUDr. Michal Skřejpek, DrSc. on the topic: “Rituals and Symbols in Roman Law.” The researchers will work on the project from 2023 to 2025. They will identify the ritualized legal actions in Roman law, their characteristic features, origin, functions, development from the archaic to the classical period, and the introduction of rituals and the use of certain symbols in legal negotiations. Another task will be to interconnect these findings with modern law.

On November 22 2022, the workshop “Leopold Heyrovský and the Legacy of Roman law” took place to commemorate the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Nestor of Roman law in Bohemia. The workshop had a hybrid form (participants could take part both in-person and online). The readers will find the contributions in the *Legal Historical Studies* in 2023.

From the personnel achievements, the Department is proud to mention the professorship of Dr. Petr Bělovský. Among other Department activities, one can mention various events for students and the public, such as café seminars in cooperation with the Common Law Society. Furthermore, the Department members participated in the TV programs such as Historie.cs (Associate Professor Vacek) or Hyde Park Civilizace (Professor Jan Kuklík).

Also, the Department members regularly participate in the international project Mene Tekel against totalitarianism. As part of the Mene Tekel festival, the students traditionally reconstruct and comment on political processes from the era of the communist dictatorship. On April 20, 2022, they performed in the U Valšů Theater in Prague with the topic “Action Jizerka – Political Process with Scouts Desiring Freedom.”

Department of the History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno) is scientifically and pedagogically very active, too. The Department welcomed two new members in December 2022, Dr. Kabát and Dr. Dobeš.

From the perspective of international cooperation, we can mention the foreign research stays of the Department members in Bologna, Pécs, and Macerata and a visit of colleagues from the Trnava Department of Legal History, colleagues from Bratislava and Banská Bystrica under ERASMUS+ program.

The Department members published the following monographs:

- Karel Schelle, Jaromír Tauchen, Ladislav Vojáček, David Kolumber *et al.*: *Constitution and Constitutional System of Socialist Czechoslovakia* (vols. 1–2), Brno, 2022;
- Jaromír Tauchen, Ladislav Vojáček: *Veveří 70: History of the Building of the Faculty of Law of the Masaryk University*, Brno, 2022. The reason behind writing this monograph was the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of the teaching process at the Brno Faculty of Law;
- also Associate Professor J. Tauchen published a supplemented and edited version of the memoirs of Professor Vladimír Kubeš, a part of the *Reminiscentia Iuridica* edition.

The Department also organized an international conference of doctoral and post-doctoral students on September 8–9, entitled: “International Legal History Meeting of Doctoral Students.”

The Department collaborates with the Association Collegium Iuris Romani, where Dr. Kolumber delivered a lecture on the historical disintegration of Yugoslavia entitled: “From Brotherhood and Unity to Fratricidal War” in March 2022.

Further on, the Department co-organized the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Jewish Law Moot Court, which took place at the Brno Faculty of Law on August 2–4. The competition, under the patronage of the law faculties of the University of Vienna, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the University of Tel Aviv, and Yeshiva University in New York, aimed to acquaint the participants with Jewish law as practiced at the beginning of the modern period. Thirty-seven professors and students from Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, New York, and Vienna participated in the moot court. During the cultural program, the participants visited the Agudas Achim synagogue and Villa Tugendhat in Brno. The finals took place at the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic. The Department members discussed with Dr. Stephan Wendehorst, the main organizer of the moot court, about the future involvement of students of the Brno Faculty of Law under the leadership of Radek Černoch.