

Chronicle of Scholarly Events on Legal History Held in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in 2024

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In 2024, legal history research in Slovakia and the Czech Republic was conducted mostly within the traditional academic structures – law faculties, science academies, and specialized research centers. The Czech Republic has four law faculties, located in Prague (Charles University), Pilsen (University of West Bohemia), Brno (Masaryk University) and Olomouc (Palacký University). The College of Business and Law of the Pan-European University in Slovakia has a dual academic profile. Slovakia has six law schools: in Bratislava (Comenius University, Pan-European University), Trnava (Trnava University), Sládkovičovo (Danubius University), Banská Bystrica (Matej Bel University) and Košice (Pavol Jozef Šafárik University). Both the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Slovak Academy of Sciences have established the Institute of State and Law. Institutions such as the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes (Czech Republic) and the Nation's Memory Institute (Slovakia) also deal with specific issues related to law and history. Historical issues are often addressed by canon law scholars, for example, in the Church Law Society.

The Department of Legal History at the Faculty of Law of Charles University is well-staffed, which has enabled it to conduct research on a wide range of topics. The results were presented in 2024, primarily in periodicals. The Prague Roman law specialists, led by Michal Skřejpek, have been working on rituals and symbols in Roman law for a longer period. On April 22–25, members of the department participated in the multidisciplinary event *Sny o antice (Dreams about Antiquity)* organized by the philosophical association Praxis, where they gave several lectures on Roman law. The department also organized the conference *60 let od přijetí československého občanského zákoníku 1964 v historickopravní perspektivě (60 Years since the Adoption of the Czechoslovak Civil Code of 1964 from a Historical-Legal Perspective)* from September 24 to 25, which was attended by several guests from abroad, including Slovakia and Poland. The Department of Legal History oversaw the publication of three issues of the 54th year of the journal *Právněhistorické studie (Legal History Studies)*.¹

¹ Available as open access at <https://karolinum.cz/casopis/pravnehistoricke-studie/aktualni-cislo> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

The Faculty of Law of Comenius University has traditionally had several publications. In 2024 historically oriented research at the faculty was carried out at the Department of Roman Law and Ecclesiastical Law and the Department of Legal History and Legal Comparative Law. The Roman law specialist Martin Gregor published the book *Dejiny a filozofia trestného práva: Trestné sankcie a ich účel v rímskom práve, právnych dejinách a v súčasnosti (History and Philosophy of Criminal Law: Criminal Sanctions and Their Purpose in Roman Law, Legal History and the Present)*. At the end of 2024, a Slovak translation of the *Regestrum Varadinense* titled *Regestrum Varadinense seu Ritus explorandae veritatis – Varadínsky register alebo obrad skúmania pravdy (Regestrum Varadinense seu Ritus explorandae Veritatis – Varadin Register or the Rite of Truth-Seeking)* was produced under the authorship of Miroslav Lysý, Vincent Múcska and Daniela Rošková. It provides information on 13th century Hungarian social and legal history, the proceedings of trials by ordeal, the use of oaths, and the confirmation of legal acts. The work was accompanied by a scholarly study and commentary.² The faculty continued to publish the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Historia et theoria iuris* (3 issues in 2024).³

A research group on the history of Central European jurisprudence was established at Palacký University in Olomouc in 2024 as part of the university's internal grant system. The group, which is composed mainly of members of the Department of Theory of Law and Legal History, was responsible for the department's main activities in 2024. The department organized two workshops, "Spravedlnost jako fenomén dějin" (Justice as a Phenomenon of History) on September 13 and "Propojení teorie a praxe v české civilistice do roku 1990" (The Connection of Theory and Practice in Czech Civil Law up to 1990) on December 12. The department completed an extensive two-volume Czech and German edition of evaluations of the Liechtenstein family in Czechoslovakia and its legal status.⁴ In addition, the national report *The History of Comparative Law in the Czech Lands and Czechoslovakia* by Ondřej Horák was submitted to the section "The History of Comparative Law and the Academy" for the Thematic Congress and Centennial of the International Academy of Comparative Law, Paris (France) held on November 15–16.

Publication of a commentary on Czech law of succession edited by Filip Melzer and Petr Tégl, *Občanský zákoník: § 1475–1720: Velký komentář (Civil Code: § 1475–1720: Major Commentary)* was written by eighteen authors, civil and Roman law specialists from Masaryk

² Available as open access at <https://www.flaw.uniba.sk/pracoviska/katedry/katedra-pravnych-dejin-a-pravnej-komparatistiky/publikacie/> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

³ Available as open access at <https://www.flaw.uniba.sk/veda/hti/online-archiv/> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

⁴ Horák, Trauttmansdorff, *Lichtenštejnové v Československu a jejich právní postavení (1918–1938)*; Trauttmansdorff, Horák, *Lichtenštejnové v Československu a jejich právní postavení (1945–1949)*.

University, Palacký University and Charles University, as well as practicing lawyers. The Slovak representative in the preparation of the commentary was Veronika Kleňová, who currently works at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria.

In 2024, the Faculty of Law of the University of Trnava merged the vacant Department of Roman and Ecclesiastical Law and the Department of the History of Law to form the Department of Historical Law and Legal Methodology, which focuses on the area of the transformation of legal science and on the historical and contemporary forms of legal scholarship. As part of the project, Professor Tomáš Gábriš, in cooperation with Dr. Katarzyna Źák Krzyżanková from the Faculty of Law of Charles University, organized a workshop at the World Congress of Legal Philosophy in Seoul, South Korea, on July 7–12. As part of the congress “Trnava Law Days,” an international conference on “Just War in the Context of the Salamanca School and Other Intellectual Traditions” was held in Trnava on September 26–27, with the participation of many experts from European countries (Greece, Hungary, Czech Republic, Austria), as well as from Mexico. The outcome was a peer-reviewed volume of conference proceedings. Contributions related to the field of legal history were also made in other sections of the congress.⁵ Within the framework of a project dedicated to the creation of didactic materials, Miriam Laclavíková and Ingrid Lanczová worked on the textbook *Pramene práva v období ľudovej demokracie a socializmu (1948–1989) (Sources of Law in the Period of People’s Democracy and Socialism [1948–1989])*.⁶ In 2024, the Department of Historical Law and Legal Methodology published the eighth volume of the collection of papers *Legal-Historical Trends and Perspectives (Slovak: Právno-historické trendy a výhľady)*, which focuses on topics related to the history of private law. The department also participated in the project titled “Continuity and Discontinuity of Legal Systems after WWII in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland: The Difficult Heritage (1944/1945–1989).”

The Faculty of Law of Masaryk University in Brno, which focuses primarily on modern legal history, and specifically on the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic, had a very strong presence in historical-legal research. In 2024, Vladimír Kubeš’ previously unpublished manuscripts were edited by Jaromír Tauchen: the work *Teorie práva a státu a právní filozofie (A Theory of Law and State and the Philosophy of Law)*⁷ and the German-language monograph *Hans Kelsens und Franz Weyrs Leben und Werk (Einige Skizzen) (Life and Work of Hans Kelsen*

⁵ Available as open access at <https://publikacie.iuridica.truni.sk/> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

⁶ Available as open access at <https://publikacie.iuridica.truni.sk/ucebnice/> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

⁷ Available as open access at <https://munispace.muni.cz/library/catalog/book/2365> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

and Franz Weyr [*Some Sketches*]).⁸ As part of the *Reminiscentia iuridica* edition, Jaromír Tauchen also edited in 2024 the last unpublished manuscript of Franz (František) Weyr titled *Filozofie, politika a právo: Studie z let 1948–1951 (Philosophy, Politics and Law: Studies from 1948–1951)*.⁹ On January 15–17, the final part of the seminar “Österreichische Völkerrechtsgeschichte – Die k. u. k. Monarchie und die Erste Republik” took place at the University Centre in Telč. After a break caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the seminar followed two previous parts in Znojmo (2019) and Brno (2020). On October 7, a presentation of the completion of the 26th volume of the monumental *Encyklopedie českých právních dějin (Encyclopedia of Czech Legal History)* published for the period 2015–2024 by the publishing houses Aleš Čeněk and KEY Publishing took place in Brno. Dozens of lawyers from the Czech Republic and, to a lesser extent, from Slovakia contributed to the encyclopedias, whose main editors were associate professors from Brno, Karel Schelle and Jaromír Tauchen (and for the biographical volumes, David Kolumber and Ondřej Horák). The contents of the encyclopedias are also available in an electronic version for a fee. On September 11 and 12, the faculty hosted an international conference of doctoral students of legal history and Roman law. Conference proceedings titled *Edge of Tomorrow 2* were published.¹⁰ On November 22, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Franz Kafka, a workshop “Kafka Reconfigured: Law, Literature, Politics” was held at the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University, which was attended by prominent European experts in law and literature who discussed Kafka’s legacy and its relevance for contemporary legal thought. Kafka was presented both as a practicing lawyer and as a critic of the legal system. Roman law specialist Pavel Salák Jr. issued a new textbook on Roman law with the traditional genre title *Základy římského práva (Basics of Roman Law)*.¹¹

On September 4, the 30th annual conference *Církev a stát (Church and State)* was held at Masaryk University and addressed some historical and legal aspects. The conference is organized annually by the Church Law Society and the Department of Constitutional Law and Political Science of the Faculty of Law of Masaryk University in Brno. In 2024, the Church Law Society published the traditional four issues of the *Revue církevního práva (Church Law Review)*, which contain several texts on historical canon and confessional law.¹²

⁸ Available as open access at <https://munispace.muni.cz/library/catalog/book/2364> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

⁹ Available as open access at <https://science.law.muni.cz/knihy/monografie/weyr-filozofie-politika-pravo.pdf> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

¹⁰ Available as open access at <https://munispace.muni.cz/library/catalog/book/2394> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

¹¹ Available as open access at <https://munispace.muni.cz/library/catalog/book/2400> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

¹² Available as open access at <https://spcp.prf.cuni.cz/uplna-zneni-vsech-cisel-od-roku-1995/> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

The Department of the History of State and Law at the Faculty of Law of Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica organized the 24th International Scientific Conference of Czech and Slovak Roman Law Specialists under the title *Quo vadis rímske právo (Quo vadis Roman Law)* on May 16 and 17. The conference marked the 24th edition of this regular meeting of Czech and Slovak Roman law specialists. In 2024, the main topic was the direction of Roman law in the era of curriculum changes and understaffing of Roman law specialists at some faculties. In addition to classic contributions, the individual participants also evaluated the teaching methods and the examination process at the individual departments. As part of the conference program, the academic work and contributions of some prominent Roman law scholars were also presented.¹³ In addition, the proceedings of the 2023 Roman law conference held in Olomouc on the topic *Pravidla, regule a výjimky z nich v rímském právu (Rules, Maxims and Their Exceptions in Roman Law)* were published in 2024 by Leges publishing house. On November 14–15, the Banská Bystrica Department of the History of State and Law participated in the preparation of the 7th annual international scientific conference titled “Banskobystrické zámocké dni práva” (Castle Law Days in Banská Bystrica). The department organized a section on the theory and history of state and law, the central theme of which was “Law and Politics.” Martin Skaloš published a scientific monograph titled *Nežná revolúcia a jej právne dôsledky (The Velvet Revolution and its Legal Consequences)*. It is the first scholarly treatment of this area of Slovak post-revolutionary legal development.

On June 18, the Faculty of Law of the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen organized the interdisciplinary conference “Stát a právo v běhu času 2024” (State and Law in the Course of Time 2024). Vendulka Valentová and Antonín Lojek published a two-volume *Praktikum ke studiu českých a československých právních dějin, I. do roku 1918, II. od 1918 do roku 1989 (Practical Course for the Study of Czech and Czechoslovak Legal History, I. Until 1918, II. From 1918 to 1989)*. Vilém Knoll wrote the almost thousand-page monograph *Prokletí a usmíření (Curse and Atonement)*, which deals mainly with medieval criminal law and crime in the town of Cheb and the Cheb region. Vilém Knoll, Stanislav Balík and Tomáš Pezl from the Faculty of Law participated in the project “Continuity and Discontinuity of Legal Systems after WWII in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland: The Difficult Heritage (1944/1945–1989).”

The Department of Legal History of the Danubius University in Sládkovičovo is one of the smaller departments. In 2024, the head of the department, Tomáš Klokner, published the monograph *Aktuálne otázky rímskych právnych dejín (Current Issues in Roman Legal History)*,

¹³ The proceedings are available as open access at <https://www.prf.umb.sk/veda-a-vyskum/publikacne-vystupy-on-line/zbornik-quo-vadis-rimske-pravo-online.html> (accessed: 17.04.2025).

which addresses various issues, primarily connected with public law”]. However, the book is not being sold commercially. In addition, in 2024, a collection of proceedings *Sic fata voluerunt* from a conference held to mark the jubilee of Professor Jozef Králik was published. The conference itself, however, took place in December 2023.

The Department of the History of State and Law at the Faculty of Law of Pavol Jozef Šafárik University concluded its grant project “100 rokov Trianonskej zmluvy” (100 Years of the Treaty of Trianon), under which several monographs were published in 2024. Erik Štenpien authored the monograph *Municipálne zákonodarstvo Uhorska ako predobraz potrianonských zmien verejnej správy na Above a v Turni* (*Municipal Legislation of the Kingdom of Hungary as a Precursor of Post-Trianon Changes in Public Administration in Abov and Turňa*). Ľuboš Dobrovič and Vladimír Vrana wrote *Antické paradigmy a Trianonská zmluva* (*Ancient Paradigms and the Treaty of Trianon*), while Nándor Birher and Péter Tamás Bertalan published *Vatican Diplomacy around Trianon from a Hungarian Perspective*. Dominika Kováčová, Lucia Pištejová, and Ivan Vaňa co-authored *Hranice Československej republiky optikou Versaillského mierového systému* (*The Borders of the Czechoslovak Republic through the Lens of the Versailles Peace System*), and Péter Miskolczi Bodnár published the book *Impact of Legislation and Law Enforcement on the Content of Contracts with Particular Regard to the Time of World War I and the Treaty of Trianon*. All works were published by the university publishing house, Šafárik Press.

The Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences published Jozef Vozár’s book *Adolf Záturecký*, a monograph on a prominent Slovak lawyer who lived during the period of the First Czechoslovak Republic. Eva Vybíralová from the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes in the Czech Republic published a book, *Skrytá cirkev a tajná svätení* (*Analýza situace v Československu v letech 1948–89 pohledem kanonického práva*) (*The Hidden Church and Secret Ordination [Analysis of the Situation in Czechoslovakia in 1948–89 through the Lens of Canon Law]*).

Several events for students, such as the Roman law moot court, in which groups solve a case from Roman law, are also Czecho-Slovak in character. The historical section was also part of the Czecho-Slovak competition for the best student scientific study. The Department of the History of State and Law and the Gustav Radbruch Institute for the Theory of Law at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University organized for students the 12th annual simulated litigation according to the Hungarian medieval law recorded in the Tripartitum collection.

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