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Chronicle of Scholarly Events in Legal History Held in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic in 2021

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The Department of Legal History (Faculty of Law, Charles University in Prague) organized two international conferences in hybrid form. The Department co-organized the first conference with the colleagues from Brno i.e., the Department of the History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno). Between October 1 and 2, 2021, more than twenty participants from the Czech, Slovak, and Austrian universities discussed the topic: “Legal Relations Between the Austrians and the Czechoslovaks During 1900 and 1950”. The second conference was held between December 1 and 2, 2021. The multidisciplinary topic: “The Changes in the Legal Status of Women throughout History” attracted scientists from Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Latvia, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, and Slovakia. The contributions from both conferences will get published in monothematic issues of the reputable professional journal *Legal History Studies* (Právněhistorické studie) in 2022.

The occasions of a significant scientific impact were:

- The inaugural speech of the Czech Romanist doc. JUDr. Petr Bělovský, Dr., on the pragmatic, rational, and still partially idealistic approach of classical jurisprudence to legal questions related to Roman Law as the fundament of European legal thinking. Mr. Bělovský explained why Roman Law has always been at the center of attention of lawyers of all eras. He sees Roman Law and classical jurisprudence as the reasons for the pragmatism, rationalism, and idealism of modern

national legal orders in Europe. Mr. Bělovský's scope of research focuses on contracts in Roman Law and rights in rem. He issued monographs about both topics. He held lectures abroad, including University in Pretoria and SIHDA conferences.

- The publication of Mr. Bělovský's book *Contractual Obligations. Contract and Its Enforceability in the Roman Law*. Prague: Auditorium, 2021.
- The publication of Mr. Vacek's book *Sexual Delicts efore the Court of Appeal Between 1687 and 1727*. Prague: Academia, 2021.
- The successful index of the journal *Legal History Studies* in the SCOPUS database.
- The multidisciplinary grant NAKI II from the Ministry of the Culture of the Czech Republic aimed to support the applied research on national and cultural identity. The chief researcher, Professor Kuklík, has researched the topic of "Legal, Historical, and Social Aspects of the New and Traditional Minorities in the Czech Republic", together with his team, between 2018 and 2021.

The Department organized several interesting events popularizing science, such as "The Biblical Lessons Not Only for Lawyers" are audio courses on gospels prepared by Jiří Rajmund Tretera and Zábaj Horák. They are available online for the public and the students of The Law and the Bible, and the subject are taught at the Faculty of Law of Charles University. Two webinars were held on Roman law and history, i.e., "The Mysteries and Myths of Roman Law" and the virtual "Ancient Rome Tours" in English and Latin. It is noteworthy that the Faculty of Law of Charles University participants won the Moot Court in Roman Law, co-organized by the student organization ELSA. The Department members regularly participate in the project against totalitarianism called "Mane Tekel." Under the project, several events take place every year. The 2021 Festival featured a screening of the docudrama "The ATA." The film tells the story of the show trial of Štřiteský et al., the aim of which was to tarnish the reputation of the Church. The Faculty of Law of Charles University teach about this trial on the subject of Reconstruction of the Political Processes from the 1950s.

The Department of the History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Masaryk University in Brno) organized several notable activities. As already mentioned, the Department co-organized the conference "Legal Relations Between the Austrians and the Czechoslovaks During 1900 and 1950." On October 15, 2021, the Department organized the "Anti-State Criminal Violence in the Past and the Present" conference. It was an outcome of the long-term successful cooperation of the Department of the History of the State and Law and the Department of Criminal Law. Forty-two participants discussed different types of criminal behavior from historical and actual perspectives.

In February 2021, Mr. Ondřej Horák successfully habilitated.

A notable publication from 2021 worth mentioning is certainly the monograph from the collective of authors Karel Schelle, Ladislav Vojáček, and Jaromír Tauchen, *Jurisprudence*. Ostrava: KEY Publishing – ESHL, 2021.

Radek Černoch, Ondřej Horák and Pavel Salák worked on the extensive commentary on Inheritance Law in 2021. The C.H. Beck publishing house will publish The Commentary in 2022.

The Department of Legal History and Comparative Law (Faculty of Law, Comenius University in Bratislava) held its events predominantly online. The Department

rganized the legal-historical section of the Bratislava Legal forum, a traditional faculty event. It took place on April 22, 2021, and the participants discussed the topic “The Legal Terminology in the Modern Slovak Law.” In co-organization with the Department of Theory of Law and Social Sciences and the Department of Roman Law, Canon Law, and Ecclesiastical Law, the Department held the legal-historical section of the event Milestones of Law in Central Europe. It took place on June 25, 2021, and the participants discussed “The Subjects of Property Rights – Evolution and Perspectives.” Last but not least, the Department organized a conference on “Property Rights Between Tradition, Reformation, and Transformation.” In the Belá hotel, the experts in civil law, legal theory, legal history, European law, and international law presented the outcomes of their research about property rights on September 3–5, 2021.

The Head of the Department, Miroslav Lysý, a graduate in history and law, held his successful inauguration speech and became a professor on November 16, 2021.

The Department of the History of Law (Faculty of Law, Trnava University in Trnava) organized the conference “The Metamorphosis of Inheritance Law and Eschatology” on September 21–22, 2021. Due to the worsened pandemic situation, the organizers discussed the topics with the participants from Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Estonia and Serbia informally and individually. Afterwards, they published the contributions in the sixth volume of the annual conference proceedings called Legal-Historical Trends and Perspectives and the faculty journal FIE.

Among the notable publications issued by the Department members was Mr. Vyšný’s co-authored book, *Legal History of Latin America. Colonial Era and Era of Independent States*. Trnava: Typi Universitatis Tyrnaviensis, 2021.

Among the popularising scientific events, it is worth mentioning that Professor Tomáš Gábriš and Dr. Ingrid Lanczová recorded short online lectures on some topics from the interwar Czechoslovak law available for the general public. It was an outcome of the Visegrad Project called *Continuity and Discontinuity of Pre-war Legal Systems in the Post-war Successor States (1918–1939)*. Also, other project researchers from the V4 countries spoke on their interwar national laws. On October 7, 2021, the project researchers presented some outcomes of their research on the webinar, “Difficult Heritage: Interwar Codification Movement in Central and Eastern Europe (1918–1939)”, too. Under the project, selected legal interwar regulations of the V4 countries were translated into English and are accessible online to the public.

The Department organized several events for students, too. On November 10, 2021, the Department and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic prepared an online lesson and debate about the diplomatic protocol. On November 22, 2021, the students discussed with the teachers from the educational institution Teach for Slovakia. On December 10, 2021, to commemorate Human Rights Day, three students who had an internship at the Department co-organized a discussion with a member of The Nation’s Memory Institute about how the Slovak nation keeps facing and settling with the undemocratic eras in the national history.

The Department of History of the State and Law (Faculty of Law, Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica) participated in the third volume of the online scientific conference called “Legal Disputes On-Screen.” The participants met via MS Teams on May 7, 2021 and presented the outcomes of their research on various topics. They discussed

sections oriented on history and theory of law, civil law, and public law. Foreign participants debated in the international section and students in the student scientific section. The presenter was the Head of the Department, Associate Professor Ivana Šošková. The Department got five contributions on legal history, theory of law, and legal philosophy issued in the reviewed conference proceeding.

The Department members issued some notable publications, too. Among the monographs from 2021 one can find: Michal Turošík, *Obligations in Roman Law*. Prague: Leges, 2021; Michal Turošík, *Kaufvertrag im römischen Recht und im modernen Recht*. Prague: Leges, 2021; Michal Turošík, *Darlehen und Verwahrung im römischen Recht und im modernen Recht*. Prague: Leges, 2021; Martin Skaloš, *Evolution of Rights in Rem in Slovak Law*. Banská Bystrica: Belianum, 2021. The Department members issued several university textbooks, too.

From among the popular scientific events, the online series of lectures by Dr. Alexandra Letková is truly interesting. In 2021, she made two series named “All Rise for the Court!” that are available for the public via audio and video sharing platforms. The first series traced the turbulent criminal cases in 20th century Czechoslovakia (“Operation Anthropoid”, “Criminalization of Homosexuality”, “The Baťa Family and the Bojnice Castle”, “The Černová Massacre”, “(Self)-Murder of Jan Masaryk”, “Joseph Tiso – The Martyr or the Traitor”, “Rudolf Slánský – The Czechoslovak Robespierre”, “The Cervanová Case”, “The Nazi Criminals”, and the “Milada Horáková v. Ludmila Brožová Cases”). The second series was about important controversial topics in Czechoslovak legal history (“The Anniversary of the Slovak National Uprising”, “The Vasil Biľak Case”, “Art as the Representant of the Nation’s Collective Memory”, “The 1918 Czechoslovak Border”, “The Czech Bohemes before the Retribution Courts”, “The Holocaust Denial”, “Assassinations in the Czechoslovak History”, “Was There a Legal Right to Have One’s Last Wish Fulfilled?”, “The Longhairs Before the Court” and “The Case of General Jan Syrový Before the National Court in Prague”).

As seen above, the work of the Departments is miscellaneous, interesting, and enriching, despite the difficult times we all face. We wish all our Slovak, Czech, and foreign colleagues a lot of inspiration and success in their future work.