
XVII PPJ Course and Conference, IUC Dubrovnik

THE HEROES OF JUDICIAL PERIPHERY

COURT EXPERTS, COURT CLERKS AND OTHER ACTORS IN THE SHADOW

29 May – 2 June 2023

Conference outline

In national civil justice systems, the limelight is all too often cast on the main actors: judges, lawyers, and parties. However, the central stage cannot play a successful play without the supporting staff. The intention of the Seventeenth Public and Private Justice Conference is to assess the role of the ‘judicial periphery’ – the actors in the shadow who nevertheless often determine the pace, the outcome, and the flavour of the judicial process.

A particularly complex relationship exists between litigation and court experts. Their knowledge and expertise may be indispensable at times, but it is among the most expensive, complicated and time-consuming means of evidence. The judges adjudicate, but where experts are involved in the process, they have a decisive impact on the outcome of litigation. Therefore, the principal focus of the XVII PPJ Conference will be on experts and the way how they are appointed, managed, and remunerated across Europe and the world.

Other ancillary professions may also be decisive for effective provision of court services. Different jurisdictions have different rules and habits, but inevitably recognize the need of securing an adequate support to judges. Sometimes judges command the whole team of clerks and lawyers, sometimes share a secretary or a clerk. But in all cases, those who assist judges in their daily work produce a decisive impact on the effectiveness and quality of the judicial process. Therefore, we will inquire into their contribution, no matter whether they are called clerks, secretaries, advisors, counsels, reporters or else.

This time, our goal is to focus on cooperation and interplay between judges and other professional actors. We do not wish to address the privatization of court services or the outsourcing of judicial functions. In the same vein, we would like to focus on court proceedings such as litigation or voluntary jurisdiction, disregarding enforcement and other proceedings transferred to other judicial professionals, such as bailiffs or public notaries. But, if such outsourced proceedings have a judicial epilogue (eg via appeals) and require cooperation, assessing their impact on court proceedings may be a matter of study as well.

The speakers at the XVII PPJ Conference are invited to reflect on how court experts and/or other supporting actors affect the quality and speed of civil justice, both comparatively and in their own jurisdiction. The thematic circles to be discussed also involve the current developments, e.g. changes in the appointment of experts; the role of court staff in collective litigation; the impact of new technologies on the appearance or disappearance of the new ‘actors in the shadow’ etc.

The draft programme of the 2023 PPJ Course and Conference will be published soon at <http://alanuzelac.from.hr/text/iuc-course>. We warmly welcome you to join us for a discussion of the above matters.

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