



NEWSLETTER

FOR THE ENGLISH SPEAKING MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE CHURCH LAW SOCIETY
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Christmas Concert of the Faculty of Law, Charles University

On 18th December 2018 the Faculty of Law of Charles University organized a festive Christmas concert for its teachers, students and employees in the main hall of the Karolinum in the Old Town of Prague.



*Professor JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc., Dean of the Faculty of Law, opens the concert.
Photo Ms. Kateřina Mikulcová*

After a short organ introduction *prof. JUDr. Jan Kuklík, DrSc., Dean of the Faculty*, opened the event. In his address, he recalled the 100th anniversary of the declaration of independent Czechoslovakia on 28th October 1918 and highlighted the contribution of the members of the Faculty of Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague in forming a free Czechoslovak state in the following years as well. He recalled the anniversary of the Versailles peace system, created by the leading European legal and political thinkers and diplomats of the winning party, to celebrate in the year 2019.

He mentioned the importance of the ideas of the President Liberator, *Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk*, and position of the Czechs in Europe and the world, and the necessity to constantly remind these facts.

Prof. Kuklík also mentioned the tragic years of Czech history ending with the numeral eight: the Munich treason in September 1938 and Communist coup in February 1948. He marked the dictatorship of the Communist Party after 1948 was the worst period in which the Central European legal culture was quickly destroyed.

The attempted reform of the regime in 1968, which brought the possibility of a gradual transformation into a little more humane state, was crushed by Soviet military intervention, sadly supported by four Soviet subordinate satellites from the so-called Warsaw Pact.

The Dean of the Faculty of Law emphasized the importance of the *field of legal history*, and recalled that this field, while examining the past, is reversed into the present and the future.

At the end of his speech, he formulated the *principles of law teaching*, including a balanced approach: on one hand emphasizing the links of Czech law to foreign and integrational legal systems in a European and global context, on the other hand, not retreating from preservation of law education in the *Czech language* as Czech law and Czech legal terminology are an indispensable part of Czech culture.

Regarding the social situation, the dean of the faculty recommended discussing different views, while at the same time *identifying what threatens democracy*.

In conclusion, the Dean stressed that he wishes us all wonderful musical and social experience in Karolinum, as well as Christmas full of peace and a happy new year.

The concert followed, rich in content, performed by the *Virtuosi di Praga* string orchestra, led by *Oldřich Vlček*. At the end, as every year, the whole hall rose and all sang four verses of the Czech and Slovak Christmas hymn *Christ Was Born the Lord*.



Photo Ms. Kateřina Mikulcová

After the end of the concert, hundreds of people present moved to the ground floor halls of Karolinum, where a rich refreshment was prepared. Present teachers, students, employees, performers, family members and their friends took the opportunity to chat over a glass of wine.

The evening was organized mainly by *prof. JUDr. Věra Štangová, CSc.*, Vice-Dean *JUDr. PhDr. Marek Antoš, Ph.D., LL. M.*, other members of the management of the Faculty of Law, and students from the Všehrd Association of Czech Lawyers.

Záboj Horák

Congratulations to Members of Church Law Society

R. D. Richard Bóna from Cleveland (Ohio) defended his dissertation *The Right to Ministry, Remuneration and Support of Unassignable Incardinated Presbyters: A Canonical Analysis* at the School of Canon Law of the Catholic University of America in Washington D. C. on December 5, 2018, and was awarded J.C.D.

Taxation of Property Returned to Churches

We regret to announce that on Wednesday, January 23, 2019, the Lower House of the Parliament of the Czech Republic approved, contrary to the opinion of the Czech Bishops' Conference, the Ecumenical Council of Churches and the Federation of Jewish Communities, and contrary to the opinion of an important part of the legal public and the numerous parliamentary opposition, the Act on Taxation of Financial Reimbursements to Churches and Jewish communities according to the Act of 2012. The proceedings in the upper chamber of the Parliament (The Senate) will follow and, as we suppose, also before the Constitutional Court of the Czech Republic.

From New Publications

SCHWENDENWEIN, Hugo, *Das österreichische Katechetenrecht: Religionsunterricht in der österreichischen Schule. Eine Handreichung für Religionslehrerinnen und -lehrer*, Lit Verlag, Wien, 2009, 258 pp., ISBN 978-3-7000-0929-0.

KALETA, Paweł, *Legal Aspects of the Management of Church Property*, Wydawnictwo KUL, Lublin, 2017, 204 pp., ISBN 978-83-8061-403-1.

Journals

Communicationes, Vol. 50, N. 1, Junii 2018, Pontificium Consilium de Legum Textibus, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Città del Vaticano, 360 pp.

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