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## REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “INTERDISCIPLINARY PROBLEMS OF CORRUPTION”

(16 December 2015, Bialystok, Poland)

On 16 December 2015 was held International Conference: “Interdisciplinary problems of corruption”, organized by the Scientific Association of Financial Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Bialystok. The aim of the conference was a scientific debate on corruption. This is not only a scientific problem, but primarily social and political, and therefore, considered to be an appropriate extension of the subject of scientific debate, as it was done, creating an interdisciplinary conference. The conference was held under the auspices of the Dean of the Faculty of Law of the University of Bialystok, Bialystok Mayor, Dean of the District Bar Council in Bialystok, Podlaskie Province Governor, Regional Police Headquarters in Bialystok, the President of the District Court in Bialystok and Publishing Temida 2.

The ceremonial opening of the conference was conducted by Prof. zw. dr hab. Eugeniusz Ruśkowski - tutor of the Scientific Society of Financial Law, who presided over the work of the Scientific Committee, watchful over the organization of the conference. The conference consisted of a main panel of experts, during which the moderator was Ewa Lotko, M.A. a member of the Centre, and two student-doctoral panels. During the panel of experts the first speaker was a specialist in the field of public finance

and tax law, Janusz Bonarski, PhD who gave a lecture entitled “The areas of risk and mechanisms of corruption in the tax system”. Another expert lecture was the speech of Professor Wojciech Filipkowski titled “Politically Exposed Persons - an instrument against corruption clerical”. Then Dean of the District Bar Council Kazimierz Skalimowski referred to the topic “Corruption in the judiciary”, subsequently appeared appellate prosecutor Henryk Żochowski with the theme “Problems of corruption related to the EU funds”. Expert panel ended the lecture of Emilia-Jurgielewicz Delegacz, PhD: “Prevention of and the fight against on the basis of the government program of anti-corruption for the years 2014-2019”.

Great importance gained the presence of practitioners among the speakers who are not representatives of science but are confronted with the phenomenon of corruption at work and have an objective overview of the scale and complexity of the phenomenon. Practice was represented by an officer of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau and the prosecutor Henry Żochowski discussing hazard areas and activities of the Central Anti-Corruption Bureau, including issues such as conflict of interest, interoperability of services and law enforcement agencies in the field of corruption offenses.

The second part of the conference constituted two student-doctoral panels during which was the exchange of views from various academic institutions including foreign ones. Students and doctoral students from the Jagiellonian University, University of Wrocław, Adam Mickiewicz University and the University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński in Warsaw, Tbilisi State University, Ivane Džawachiszwili or Vilnius University participated in them. In addition to interesting legal issues associated with the phenomenon of corruption such as public finance law, criminal law and philosophy of law, the speakers referred to the topics from the perspective of, inter alia, political science and history. One paper focused on the analysis of the phenomenon of the ethical dimension. The multidimensionality of the issues under consideration was also through the prism of their harmful effects both in terms of the institutions involved in this infamous phenomenon and in the context of the entire state and society. Students and doctoral students during that panel came to important and concrete proposals that corruption has a negative impact on the entire administrative apparatus, destroying the courage to maintain a high standard of integrity and to convince the public that corrupted governments cause a decrease in respect for legitimate authority. It was noted above that corruption degenerates environment in which operate private companies and it is also worth mentioning that corruption as institutionalized injustice causes jealousy and unjust accusations with which even honest politicians could be blackmailed.

Below are the most interesting topics presented at the student-doctoral panel:

- Patrycja Marczak - "Introduction to the topic of corruption - legal definition under the Act on the CBA, etymology, features a catalog of effects and basic principles of the fight against corruption";
- Adrianna Niegierewicz - "The scope of the notion of performing a public function in the interpretation of the offense of active and passive bribery";
- Magdalena Olchanowska - "Corruption in public procurement in Poland - threats and recommendations for the future";
- Marlena Żukowska - "Custom as a circumstance excluding illegality of accepting gifts by doctors";
- Lash Zarathustra - "Combating and preventing corruption in acts of international law";

- Maciej Letkiewicz - "Power and money - institutional causes of corruption";
- John Durko and Ireneus Rimoit - "Corruption in the public sector - the study of the statistical";
- Maria Górnicka - "Polish regulations on corruption in sport";
- Michael Nowak - "Corruption in Polish football";
- Peter Nasuto - "The phenomenon of corruption in the history on the example of ancient Athens";
- Grzegorz Marciniak - "Pecunia non omelet or financial and personal benefits of corruption in the public sector";
- Patryk Zabrocki - "Responsibility for violation of public finance discipline and corruption in the public finance sector - penalties and the rules of their measurement";
- Valdemar Maskevic and Sylwester Grunt - "Anti-corruption policy of Lithuania - plans and reality";
- Adam Rzetecki - "Anti-Corruption Regulations at the level of local government - characteristics and their significance".

To conclude, corruption is a complex phenomenon and difficult to investigate. Nevertheless, we believe that the diversity of approaches to the problem allowed participants to explore this multi-dimensional topic. We believe that the interdisciplinary organization of the conference gave it an interesting character and ensured gripping discussions. Scientific debate that took place during the conference resulted in the expansion of knowledge and conclusions. Specialists in criminal law the other disciplines agree that the greater the transparency of organizational structures in the country, the more effective enforcement of accountability for crimes of corruption and simplified administrative procedures - the less likely the appearance of corruption. In contrast, complexity, ambiguity and imprecision of tax law are definitely factors that increase the probability of activating more and more corruption.

Our common goal, as the scientific community, is that corruption should be perceived by the public as a real threat to the idea of a law-abiding state. We hope that this conference contributed at least a little to this idea.

We invite you to see the photos from the event on the conference website: [www.korupcjakonferencjauwb.pl](http://www.korupcjakonferencjauwb.pl).