

Igor Isailovic, lawyer, partner in Law company Simeunovic-Ikonovic-Isailovic

Fiat iustitia, pereat mundus

-Let there be justice though the world perish-

Contemporary practice of law was established in Serbia under the Law on lawyers and legal representations, adopted at the proposal of the Government of Ilija Garasanin, on 28 February 1862. As provided for under this Law, legal assistance was entrusted to trained lawyers, registered by the Ministry of Justice only. The first Association was established in 1886 by lawyers, and modern Bar system was introduced in Serbia under the Law on Advocacy in 1929, when Belgrade Bar Association was founded. Law, as well as law practice, have been developed together with the development of society.

We talked to lawyer Igor Isailovic, partner in Law company Simeunovic-Ikonovic-Isailovic, DK Group and other successful businesses in the country and abroad legal consultant, about the trend as well as the globalization opportunities and law firms connecting.

How has the globalization trend influenced the work of law firms in Serbia?

Outsourcing services, such as the practice of law, which no legitimate business decisions can exist without, inevitably has followed the trends where their principals are, and those are the expansion of the market for goods and services, financial resources, the flow of people, ideas ... Therefore, we as legal consultants have to keep up the pace.

The trend of globalization of law firms contributes to fusion of comparative legislation and practice, and as the product of cooperation between several offices in legal issues, being in contact with several legislations, is a high-quality legal advice, which is the basis for rapid and important business decisions.

Globalization, on the one hand, lowers the cost of services, because they are provided by local offices, on the other hand, creates a network of offices cooperating worldwide, providing larger

number of clients, but also creates a practice that could be the forerunner of international multilateral agreements, which would regulate the area of business operations

This new trend has not bypassed our office, and now we cooperate with offices in New York, Moscow, London, Paris, Singapore, Brussels, Abu Dhabi, Ljubljana, Skopje, Kotor, Pristina, Jaipur, Luxembourg, Lugano, etc.

Being a lawyer today means not only representing clients. Contemporary practice of law requires active social engagement, as well. You are, among others, Vice President of Disciplinary Commission of BC, "Red Star", one of the founders of the "Red Star" basketball school, Chairman of the Board of Minel Elvo, member of the Board of Recreations, Centroslavije and other companies and the humanitarian association "Dome, slatki dome"

Social engagement is very important. I think that all, whose credibility may affect decision-making, should take the advantage and be involved not only to help the development of their profession, but also the development of society in general. It is very important that this support is not reduced only to appeals, the words. It must be concrete. I, like most of my colleagues, try to contribute to that sense, hence the en-



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gagement you mentioned. As participation in the humanitarian organizations concerned, I believe that humanity is something to be expressed by deeds, not by words, and I would not like to talk about that in particular.

You are one of the founder sof organization Partner for democratic change in Serbia. What does exactly this organization deal with?

Partners for Democratic Change, as an international non-governmental organization, is

dedicated to building sustainable institutions and strengthening civil society in the world. Partners founded local offices in 19 countries on 4 continents, specializing in peaceful conflict resolution, change management, cooperative planning, facilitating dialogue, strategic planning and (advocacy). The Partners Serbia Office was established in October 2008.

The Partners will celebrate 20 years of successful work world wide in November and will organize a meeting in Washington, with "innovation for future" as subject-topic, which is a new opportunity for new contacts and acquaintances, especially having on mind that members of the Board of Directors are: H.E. William M. Bellamy Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC, Karan Bhatia Vice President and Senior Counsel, International Law and Policy, The General Electric Company, Washington, DC, Jonathan Davidson, Vice Chair Former Senior Advisor, European Union Delegation of the European Commission, Washington, DC, Helen L. Frick, Ph.D. Former Leadership Development Manager, International Finance Corporation, World Bank, Washington, DC, Alton Frye, Ph.D. Presidential Senior Fellow Emeritus, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, DC, Michael Gadbow Vice President, Senior Counsel, General Electric Company and many other important factors worldwide.

Is it hard to meet clients' demands, given the dynamism of economic activity?

Sometimes it could be very hard, and requires the engagement of the entire team even 14 hours a day. It mostly depends on the preparation of strategy and quality of management decisions, but the people who are managers of the companies we represent do their job professionally and with vision, therefore working with them is a real pleasure.

You are one of the youngest registered lawyers, at the time of enrollment, in the history of Serbian legal profession and have been awarded as the best young lawyer in Serbia by the Young Lawyers of Serbia, at the General Meeting of European Lawyers Association

This is true, I was enrolled as the youngest lawyer in history and winner of the title the best young lawyer in Serbia. The Award surprised me but I am also very proud of it, because even today I do not who proposed me and who followed my work, but it seems that every effort pays.

In the explanation of the decision under which I was awarded as one of the best lawyers by Young Lawyers of Serbia at the general meeting of the European Association of Lawyers, it was written that I was awarded for promoting European values.

The award is a great incentive, but really a great burden, because the best are not entitled to mistakes.

I must emphasis that titles and positions are not my objective, but I see them as recognition for efforts and continuous improvement.

Rebellious attitude towards injustice and bad legal decisions, embodied in the ancient Latin maxim, which is also the motto of our office: Fiat iustitia, pereat mundus (let there be justice though the world perish) are, I hope, were decisive in assigning flattering awards.

World economic crisis and their effects on law practice?

Advocacy is one of the few professions not affected by the global economic crisis. Scope of work has remained, if not more compared to period before the crisis, but, in the essence, the focus has been transferred to the field of termination of the contract and not acquisition, reducing costs and everything else that follows the newly created circumstances accompanying the world economic crisis.

Companies, in order to save resources but also for the sake of efficient and quality operations in the most sensitive business areas, i.e. legality of business operations, often replace legal services with outsourcing i.e. lawyers who follow the lawfulness of their clients' operations on the daily basis.

Plans for the future?

Our mission is to create the office, similar to those already existing in the U.S., which will employ a large number of highly specialized experts in all legal areas. Such offices would provide our clients with better and more efficient services.

The best lawyers need to be gathered in such office, to provide the best communication and coordination for the purpose of this project, as well as to place all that in the service of clients. I believe that soon we will organize this team and that we will achieve our mission. ■

Jelena Markovic

