

IN MEMORIAM

PROFESSOR PREDRAG ŠULEJIĆ, PHD

**Departure of the Greatest Serbian Expert in Insurance Law
and Devotee of Law Sciences**

Professor Predrag Šulejić actively participated, from the moment of foundation until today, in the work of our journal and it is hard to find words with which we could repay for all his efforts and faith in the journal. As great admirers of his work, a long-time friend of Dunav Insurance Company, whose expert support was never denied to our company, in this issue of the journal Insurance Trends we will publish a speech given by professor Mirko Vasiljević, PhD, to pay last respects to his colleague at a commemorative session held at the Faculty of Law on 30th May.

Cruelty of life's truth – death, took away our respected and beloved professor Predrag – Peđa Šulejić, PhD, took him away from the scientific community and the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, a genuine and a quiet enthusiast and a thinker; took from the Foreign Trade Court of Arbitration of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia a long-time recognisable and responsible arbitrator; took away from the Commission for drafting the Civil Code of Serbia a prominent member; took away from the general professional public and expertise a man whose words were always the final ones in insurance law. At that moment, power of words failed to express everything that these institutions, and especially professor's family, would have liked. However, the task of words, and even words at this commemorative session, remains to memorise, to establish, to remind, to express, to save, to keep, to transfer, to imprint, not to let oblivion prevail.

Professor Šulejić was born in Smederevska Palanka in 1934. He loved his home town and returned there whenever he could. He studied at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, and graduated as an excellent student in 1957. As a Bachelor of Law, he started his career as a legal trainee in Smederevska Palanka and Belgrade. In the academic year 1961/1962 he went to the European University Centre in Nancy, where he successfully completed specialisation. In 1962 he was elected an assistant at the Faculty

of Law, University of Belgrade, and in December 1964 he defended his PhD thesis "Insurance against civil liability". In the academic year 1967/1968 he was a scholarship holder of the government of France at the Faculty of Law I in Paris where he studied insurance law. After his return in 1968, he was elected a lecturer at the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. Since 1970 he independently taught insurance law, and he participated in teaching commercial law, law on obligations, introduction to the civil law and property law. He was elected an associate professor for the course Commercial Law and Insurance Law in 1973 and a full professor in 1979. By the force of law, he retired on 30th September 2001.

Scientific work of professor Šulejić was extremely fruitful. Over 100 scientific and expert articles, numerous reviews and opinions were published. He was a mentor to many master's and doctoral thesis. It goes without saying that his greatest contribution to the scientific community is a book *Insurance Law*, whose first issue was published in 1973, when I, as a final year student, had the pleasure and honour to prepare the examination for the course Insurance Law by using this particular book.

Professor Šulejić was indeed a child of the university, the faculty, and resisted the challenge to share it with some other, more attractive functions and positions outside of university. He felt that otherwise he would not be what he really were – a university professor and a teacher of law students. The book *Insurance Law* later had many editions, but the first edition surely left a great mark. It was the first book and a pioneer venture in this field in our country at that time. This book left a profound impression and mark not just in our university community, but also in general professional population. Yesterday, today and, I am certain that it will exist in future, our mutual feeling that whenever the insurance law is mentioned one would remember professor Šulejić, just as whenever the name of professor Šulejić is mentioned, one would think of the insurance law. As a poet would say "For he had reason in this world to come"! Decade-long conferences of lawyers held in Kopaonik, Vrnjačka Banja, Budva, Palić, Zlatibor and many other places, could not be held without participation and a scientific paper written by professor Šulejić, that left a mark.

Professor Šulejić participated with his scientific papers as a national representative at several Congresses of the International Association for Insurance Law, and his papers were published in foreign magazines, especially French magazines, he held lectures at the Faculty of Law in Novi Sad, at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Engineering in Belgrade, and he was a long-time director of specialist studies "Foreign Trade Contracts", which were successfully organised by the Faculty of Law in Belgrade. Editorial activities of professor Šulejić cannot be forgotten and unnoticed – he was a long-time editor of the journal *Insurance*, one of editors of the *Encyclopaedia of Property Law and the Law on Associated Labour*, the *Law Lexicon*. His professional participation

In memoriam - Professor Predrag Šulejić, PhD

in the work of our leading insurance company Dunav Insurance Company is especially noticeable.

Dear Šule, professional and intellectual public, as well as public in general, owe you indefinitely. That debt to a professor and a pedagogue – a role model, a devotee scientist – a role model, a man – a role model, this public can only repay in one way – by vowing to keep memories and never forget. The public does so with these words.

A speech made by professor Mirko Vasiljević, PhD, at a commemorative session held at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade

*Translated by: **Jelena Rajković***