

HABILITATION THESIS

Performance and Enforcement of Civil Liabilities in Maritime Law

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ABSTRACT

I have presented in this thesis my major research topics and scientific works, in civil law and civil procedural law (with special focus on the region I come from and where I carry out most of my activity), and maritime law; I have also tackled the objectives pursued in my future activity.

This thesis summarizes the strengths of my research, which was disseminated in about 60 scientific papers presented at conferences or research workshops, in several countries, in articles published in academic journals or in book chapters published at prestigious publishing houses, specialized in the legal field.

It includes both scientific and professional achievements as well as my evolution and career development plan, following the various stages of my scientific career.

At the end of this thesis, I have presented my future projects and a bibliography that is meant to testify the inspiration sources I referred to during my research. In this case, I had in mind the major papers that I published and several papers I am working at, considered for the next period.

The declared purpose of this endeavor is to demonstrate the existence of my abilities to accompany young researchers on a high-quality doctoral path.

A. Scientific, professional and academic achievements

1. Scientific achievements

This habilitation thesis proposes a documented presentation of my professional achievements and scientific contributions throughout my academic career and presents the development directions of my scientific research in civil law and civil procedural law from two perspectives, i.e. the theoretician's and the practitioner's perspective.

The approach is undertaken in order to demonstrate my skills to coordinate excellence research in civil law, civil procedural law and maritime law.

This thesis includes both my scientific and professional achievements as well as my evolution and career development plan, following the various stages of my scientific activity.

The first part of the thesis is focused on my scientific and professional achievements after my debut in the academic career at the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, at “Ovidius” University of Constanta, in 2001.

a. The PhD thesis

“Simion Bărnuțiu” Faculty of Law, within “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, awarded me the title of Doctor of Law, after the defense of the PhD thesis entitled *Real Estate Foreclosure*, under the coordination of Professor Ioan Leș, PhD.

This PhD thesis was particularly appreciated by the examination commission due to the special approach of the topic and its novelty elements. These positive assessments materialized in the commission’s invitation to publish the thesis, which happened in 2009, at Universul Juridic Publishing house.

b. Publication of courses, monographs and specialized articles

After being awarded the title of Doctor of Law, I continued my scientific activity by publishing numerous scientific papers in Romanian, English and French languages, both in Romania and abroad.

The research activity carried out so far in the legal field can be summarized as follows: the publication of 12 books, 6 of which as sole author, 2 as coordinator and 4 as co-author; more than 30 articles published in journals specialized in legal sciences, in the country and abroad, indexed in international databases; over 20 participations in national and international conferences.

2. Professional achievements

a. member in various research centers or institutes

Since 2008, I have been a member of the Center for Studies and Research on Human Rights and Discrimination, within “Ovidius” University of Constanta, where I have carried out various activities with a special impact at university and community level.

b. member in institutional structures

In 2006, I was elected Deputy Treasurer of the International Union of Judicial Officers; in 2009, I was appointed Secretary, and currently, I am a Permanent Consultant of the Executive Bureau of this organization. From this position, I coordinate research activities of the national

systems regarding the organization and operation in the field of forced execution, and the promotion of effective rules for the organization and operation of national judicial systems.

c. member of the Editorial Councils of prestigious scientific journals acknowledged or indexed in international databases

I have held important positions in the editorial committees of prestigious national journals, specialized in legal sciences, as follows: I am a member of the Scientific Committee of *Revista Romana de Drept Maritim (Romanian Maritime Law Journal)* and of the Scientific Committee of *Ars et Aequi Journal* of the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, “Ovidius” University in Constanta.

d. grants and scholarships

Since December 2018, I am a member of the Management Committee of the COST AC Action 18114 - ENTAN, a project involving 21 countries, which will be implemented between 2019 and 2023.

3. Academic achievements

a. Teaching activity

My academic path was a natural one: in 2001, I was awarded the BA degree in law, at the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, “Ovidius” University of Constanta.

After the BA studies, I graduated from the MA programme “Maritime Legislation”, at Constanta Maritime University. In 2009, following the defense of the PhD thesis entitled *Real Estate Foreclosure*, coordinated by professor Ioan Leș, I was awarded the title of Doctor of law by “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu.

I have carried out my teaching activity at “Ovidius” University of Constanța, and I went through almost all the academic ranks: Lecturer, Associate Professor and Professor.

Since 2016, I am Professor and holder of the following courses: Civil Execution Law, Civil Law. General Theory of Obligations, and Organization of Legal Professions.

During this academic journey, I have carried out my teaching activities professionally, in an interactive manner, constantly adapting my teaching methods to the needs identified by the students. I coordinate BA and MA graduation papers in my areas of expertise, and I am always concerned about the feedback received from students.

This habilitation thesis presents the way I have approached my teaching activities, referring to the positive role that the long practical experience as a bailiff has played on the way information reaches students.

The subjects taught are covered by teaching materials, i.e. university courses containing both theoretical elements and practical situations; both approaches can be rated through evaluation elements.

My most recent book, i.e. *Manual de Drept civil. Teoria generală a obligațiilor. Note de curs. Teste grilă (Civil Law Handbook. General Theory of Obligations. Course Notes. Grid Tests)* includes, in addition to the theoretical presentation of the subject, a consistent and extremely useful set of grid tests grouped on the main institutions of obligations, enabling students to assess themselves directly and rapidly.

It is also noteworthy that I have held lectures on the activities organized by various professional associations – such as the International Union of Judicial Officers, the National Association of the Romanian Bars, etc.

Punctual collaborations that concretized in solutions and answers to the requests of colleagues from other institutions in the country and abroad can also be added to the above-mentioned activities.

At the external level, I attended international colloquies and conferences organized by foreign universities. Among these, I would like to recall: **“The Washington Congress of the International Union of Judicial Officers”**; the International Conference **“The 10th Anniversary of the Dakar Appeal”**, Dakar, Senegal; **“The second day of professional training of bailiffs”**, Paris, France; **“The third day of professional training of bailiffs”**, Brussels, Belgium; **“The Statute of the bailiff in the exercise of his/her duties. Evolutions of the Execution Procedure”**, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, etc.

I was also a member of the scientific committees and organization committees of many events – conferences, symposiums, congresses – organized both in the country and abroad by academic or professional institutions.

In this thesis, I have made reference to the conferences, symposia and research seminars that I have organized, especially over the last 5 years, as interim Dean (2015-2016) and Dean (2016 - present) of the Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, as well as member of the board of national and international professional associations.

I attended conferences organized by prestigious institutions specialized in legal sciences, such as **The International Union of Judicial Officers, the National Association of the Romanian Bars, and the National Institute for the Training and Development of Attorneys in Romania, the Romanian Chamber of Commerce, Universul Juridic Publishing House, Ovidius University of Constanta, the Public University of Chisinau, etc.**

B. Evolution and career development plans

a. Evolution and development plans of the professional career

As far as the professional development of my academic career is concerned, I intend to become a PhD supervisor, to develop the teaching skills and techniques within the areas of competence, to improve and to expand my specialized knowledge permanently.

b. Evolution and development plans of the scientific and academic career

The development of my scientific and academic career will involve the organization of scientific research activities both at individual and group level, the participation in international scientific events, the publication of papers in specialized journals or at prestigious publishing houses.

I also have envisaged the involvement of BA, MA and PhD students in national and international projects, being convinced that only the in-depth knowledge of the various problems faced by the legal system in different countries can lead to the identification of the right solutions.

c. Research/ teaching directions and implementation methods

The main research and teaching directions will remain the civil law, civil procedural law and the specific regulations in the area of maritime law.

In the next two years, I intend to finalize and publish a larger work, i.e. “Treatise of Civil Execution Law”, and several courses on Civil Law, the General Theory of Obligations and Maritime Law.

In addition, as action means, I will participate in relevant research projects in the above-mentioned directions, especially through the collaboration with researchers from other universities in the country and abroad, and I will disseminate the results in a variety of ways.

I intend to initiate the interdisciplinary project entitled “Legal Culture in the Danubian-Pontic Area”, involving people from different areas of expertise and addressing a wider public. I consider that such an opening will be extremely beneficial to the entire community.

I also want to encourage the research activity carried out by BA, MA and PhD students. I intend to continue organizing specific events but also to participate in international projects.

Steps in this direction have already been made. Thus, for the next 4 years, the institution that I head will be involved in the ENTAN Project, an action developed by the European Network of Scientific Research - COST, which will facilitate the PhD students’ participation in short term scientific research practical training; this project will also include a program dedicated to early career researchers.

At the end of this habilitation thesis, I have presented my future projects and a bibliography that is intended to highlight the inspiration sources I have referred to during my

research. I have taken into consideration two major works that I published and the titles of the papers that I intend to publish in the future.

Having in view my current concerns and the specialization areas mentioned in this habilitation thesis, I express my confidence in my ability to coordinate future PhD students and to continue the ascending evolution of the institution that I have been serving since 2002.

As a future PhD supervisor, I intend to capitalize on my teaching and scientific experience in order to train specialists in my areas of expertise, by promoting a positive attitude among the members of the academic community I belong to (and beyond) and by intensifying the relationships with our partners in the country and abroad.