

## FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear Readers, Authors, Reviewers,

We're happy and proud to present to you another issue of our journal.

Thanks to our contributing authors and reviewers, we manage to publish original and relevant texts. We are glad to see articles from our past issues being read and cited.

The academic and scientific community interested in our journal continues to grow. On 15 November, we had another open editorial workshop on how to prepare scientific papers. The lecture by Witold Krzymowski, PhD, was very popular with both academics and doctoral/graduate-level students.

This issue is titled *Freedom of Speech and Communicative Competence of a Judge*. The contributing authors are theorists and philosophers of law from Poland and Turkey.

In this issue, we also reflect on a significant event of the year 2022, which triggered an important discussion. On 8 September, Elizabeth II, the British queen and the longest reigning monarch in British history, died at the age of 96. During her 70-year reign, she worked with 15 British prime ministers. In light of the above, we have an article on the United Kingdom contributed by a lawyer and expert on British political issues, Krzysztof Łokucijewski, PhD (*Continuity and Change – the New Monarch of the United Kingdom: the Political Implications of Transformation*).

We intend to further explore the subject of remote hearings, and we'd like to encourage authors to submit papers on this subject as well as texts addressing the issue of the quality of scientific publications in journals.

Finally, I have a very important message to share with the international legal research community.

In May-November this year, our editorial board rejected many texts that we considered attempts at scientific fraud.

This year's summer, our editorial office starting receiving submissions from abroad, generally of a rather poor scientific quality. The authors of these submissions did not give us their university or institutional email addresses, did not disclose their academic degrees, and attempted to deceive us by providing us with a list of recommended reviewers, where the email addresses indicated turned out to be fake.

We checked each of these texts in great detail and analysed all the data associated with them thoroughly. It appeared that the scientists recommended by the

authors (?) as possible reviewers (from many countries) did not have the email accounts indicated by the authors of the submitted articles, nor were the authors of the reviews sent to us from their fake addresses. In several cases, we sent texts to the addresses provided to make sure our guesses were correct – as a result, we received fake reviews. We also identified some plagiarism in this set of submissions.

Below, KU Professor Małgorzata Skórzewska-Amberg, PhD, DSc, deputy editor-in-chief of *The Critique of Law*, describes how this scam works in more detail.

Let me make it clear: these were FAILED attempts because **ALL** such articles that we have received since the summer have been **REJECTED**.

We want to bring this matter up without delay because we consider it an unprecedented situation in the scientific legal community.

In my opinion, such practices meet the legal criteria of crime and gross violation of scientific ethics, which is revolting.

We have, of course, reported this situation officially to the relevant entities, and we are hoping to see an appropriate and strong response. We will keep you posted on the developments in this case.

**Our internal system of careful analysis and control of incoming submissions has not failed.** The question, however, is: what did this group of people hope to achieve?

Perhaps this has worked with other journals around the world? The instances of plagiarism we detected may suggest it is so.

Therefore, I would like to warn fellow editors from other law journals around the world: please check all email addresses carefully and make sure to verify the identities of the contributing authors and of any recommended reviewers.

You are most welcome to share your experience with this phenomenon. Fake studies, fake authors, fake reviews, fake journals – how to put an end to all this? We look forward to receiving articles on this topic. We will be also co-organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> national conference of law journals – this time dealing entirely with the issue in question (April 2023).

As you can see, this volume is interesting from the first page to the last. I hope you do enjoy this issue. You're also highly encouraged to share your thoughts on judges, remote hearings, and fraud in scientific journals.

Of course, we continue to accept submissions from authors from all over the world. Your texts will be kept safe and get the quality treatment they deserve. You have our guarantee.

Jolanta Jabłońska-Bonca  
Editor-in-Chief of “*The Critique of Law*”