Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc.

SVU

in cooperation with

The John Marshall Law School

CHALLENGES TO THE RULE OF LAW
IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND AMERICA TODAY

CHICAGO
JUNE 23–25, 2019

Welcome reception sponsored by

and hosted by

Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago
CHALLENGES TO THE RULE OF LAW IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND AMERICA TODAY

PROGRAM OUTLINE:

Sunday, June 23

**Welcome Reception @ The Czech Consulate General**, 205 N. Michigan Ave, Ste #1680, Chicago sponsored by the Prague Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Monday, June 24

**Conference DAY 1 @ The John Marshall Law School**, 315 S. Plymouth Ct, Room 1200, Chicago
- Morning Sessions 09:00 AM – 12:05 PM
- Afternoon Sessions 01:15 PM – 05:00 PM

Tuesday, June 25

**Conference DAY 2 @ The John Marshall Law School**, 315 S. Plymouth Ct, Room 1200, Chicago
- Morning Sessions 09:00 AM – 01:15 PM
- Afternoon Sessions 02:15 PM – 05:15 PM

**Farewell Reception @ The Cliff Dwellers Club**, 200 S. Michigan Ave, Ste # 22, Chicago
- 06:00 PM – 08:00 PM (everyone pays their own bill)


GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact [chicago2019@svu2000.org](mailto:chicago2019@svu2000.org)
ACADEMIC PROGRAM:
Format of the sessions – discussion panels bringing the best practitioners in their fields, made accessible to a non-lawyer audience.

Monday, June 24
09:00 AM Welcome and Introductions
09:15 AM A Tribute to Czech Lawyers – SVU Founding Personalities
10:15 AM Coffee Break
10:30 AM Across Borders: Wills and Decedent’s Estates; the Private Ownership of Property; Disputes involving the Custody of Children
12:05 PM Lunch Break (everyone on their own)
01:15 PM Discussion of New Book: A History of Czech Economic Thought
01:45 PM Language and Justice: The Problem of Translation
02:30 PM Coffee Break
02:45 PM Across Borders: Nationality, Citizenship, Immigration, Refugee Status, Protecting National Security, and Halting Sex Trafficking
05:00 PM Business Meeting of SVU Officers and Members

Tuesday, June 25
09:00 AM Civil Society: The Role and Governance of Not-Profit Organizations
10:30 AM Coffee Break
10:45 AM The Rule of Law: Judicial Independence Balanced against Judicial Accountability
01:15 PM Lunch Break (everyone on their own)
02:15 PM Justice in Resolving Disputes: Case Management, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Restorative Justice Models
05:00 PM Conclusion

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:
Prof. Michael Seng, SVU Vice President, Director for Academic Exchanges

CULTURAL & SIGHTSEEING OPTIONS:
(everyone pays their own ticket)
Visit www.svu2000.org for the links to Art Institute; Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise; Bohemian National Cemetery; Grant Park Music Festival; Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM IN DETAIL:

MONDAY

09:15 AM  A Tribute to Czech Lawyers – SVU Founding Personalities
Presenters:  Georges Eichler, Secretary General, Czechoslovak Society of Arts & Sciences
Antonie Doležalová, Charles University (Prague), Cambridge Univ. (UK)
Discussants:  Eliška Hašková Coolidge (Prague), Marianne Kabeš (Washington DC),
Thomas Miskovsky (Ann Arbor, MI), Thomas Holbik (Boston, MA)

10:15 AM  Coffee Break

10:30 AM  Across Borders: Wills and Decedent’s Estates; the Private Ownership of Property;
Disputes involving the Custody of Children
Our nation state system raises practical questions involving the handling of decedent’s estates when
property or heirs are located in another state, when and under what conditions foreigners may own
property in another state, protecting the environment, and how disputes over the custody of children
are resolved when the parents reside in different states. This panel will discuss how disputes are settled
across borders.
Moderator:  Mila Novak, Attorney
Panelists:  George Drost, Attorney
Joseph Vosicky, Attorney
Randall Kadlec, Bohemian Lawyers Association of Chicago
Kenneth Janda, Political Science Professor, Northwestern University
John Zelenka, Attorney
Sarane Siewerth (Ret.), Attorney

12:05 PM  Lunch Break (everyone on their own)

01:15 PM  Discussion of New Book: A History of Czech Economic Thought
Presenter:  Antonie Doležalová, Charles University (Prague), Cambridge Univ. (UK)

01:45 PM  Language and Justice: The Problem of Translation
The challenges of translation and court interpreting; how translation can affect a legal proceeding.
Moderator:  Georges Eichler, former EU Law Translations Officer
Panelists:  Vera Wilt, Attorney
Ondřej Klabal, Palacký University (Olomouc)
02:30 PM  Coffee Break

02:45 PM  Across Borders: Nationality, Citizenship, Immigration, Refugee Status, Protecting National Security, and Halting Sex Trafficking

Countries in modern Europe are distinguishable largely based on their ethnic composition. The United States has been a “melting pot” for different ethnic and racial groups. Both models are under scrutiny today. This panel will discuss citizenship, immigration policies, and refugees. To what extent are new definitions and policies required? What is the relationship between national law and international law? What is the role of national security? Another dimension is sex trafficking. This panel will discuss vital issues related to law and policy that affect everyone.

Moderator:  Richard Vavra, Attorney
Panelists:  Royal Berg, Attorney
           Michael Jordan, Attorney
           Václav Stehlík, Professor of Law, Palacký University (Olomouc)
           Benjamin Frommer, Professor of History, Northwestern University
           Hon. Virginia Kendall, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois
           Marijane Placek, Cook County, Illinois Public Defender

05:00 PM  Business Meeting of SVU Officers and Members

TUESDAY

09:00 AM  Civil Society: The Role and Governance of Not-Profit Organizations

Perhaps more than any other country in the world the United States has relied on volunteers and not-for-profit organizations to provide assistance and services to individuals and the public. The private sector supports the arts and sciences, education, and many social welfare programs. Traditionally Europeans have relied more on government support for these kinds of programs. How not-for-profit organizations operate and how they are regulated and governed will be the topic of this discussion.

Moderator:  Ernie Melichar, Michigan Election Inspector, Retired Development Officer
Panelists:  Cecilia Rokusek, President & CEO, NCSML
            Floyd Perkins, Attorney
            Edward Dellin, Prague Committee Chairman, Chicago Sister Cities Intl.
            Jean Hruby, President, American Sokol
            Joseph Kolar, President, Bohemian Lawyers Association
            Michael Schlesinger, Attorney
            Slavomír Halla, Attorney (Brno)
10:30 AM  Coffee Break

10:45 AM  **The Rule of Law: Judicial Independence Balanced against Judicial Accountability**

This session will focus on the role of judges and courts in our society. It will discuss the importance of judicial independence under the concept of separation of powers and judicial ethics. It will also explore the accountability of judges in a system that protects their independence. Focus will be on the criminal and civil liability of judges. Panelists will make suggestions on how the judiciary can earn the trust and respect of the public.

**Moderator:** Anne Marie Brunner, Attorney  
**Panelists:** Hon. Pavel Šimon, Czech Supreme Court (Brno)  
Andres Laszlo Pap, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)  
John Gealfow, Graduate Student, Masaryk University (Brno)  
Hon. Daniel Locallo (Ret.), Circuit Court of Cook County  
James Grogan, Illinois Attorney Discipline Commission

01:15 PM  Lunch Break (everyone on their own)

02:15 PM  **Justice in Resolving Disputes: Case Management, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Restorative Justice Models**

Judicial backlog is a problem everywhere, but it is especially acute in the Czech and Slovak Republics. “Justice delayed is justice denied.” Participants will discuss how judges can manage their caseloads more efficiently. At the highest appellate levels, American judges often have discretion in deciding what cases to hear. Similar flexibility is not present in Middle Europe. American courts are now using mandatory mediation as a means of settling disputes without going to trial. A worldwide movement urging the use of restorative justice techniques in both civil and criminal cases is underway. Chicago has a new restorative justice community court. The panel will discuss the efficacy of these models.

**Moderator:** Lester Munson, Attorney and Journalist  
**Panelists:** Hon. Pavel Šimon, Czech Supreme Court (Brno)  
Justice Michael B. Hyman, Illinois Appellate Court  
Hon. Colleen Sheehan, Circuit Court of Cook County  
John Gealfow, Graduate Student, Masaryk University (Brno)  
Hon. Sheila Murphy (Ret.), Circuit Court of Cook County

05:00 PM  Conclusion

*Conference program conclusion is followed by a Farewell Reception at The Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S Michigan Ave, Ste # 22, Chicago, from 6:00 PM (everyone pays their own bill)*
This conference is covered by

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