

Mid December 2019 will mark ten years since Serbian judiciary was forced to take part in a retrograding and a rule-of-law-wise demolishing process – reappointment of all the judges and public prosecutors. In only two days, over 1000 judges and public prosecutors lost their jobs without charge, trial and guilt, without the right to be presented with any evidence, which were never there in the first place, without judgement and right to appeal.

People of both virtue and flaws were found on both sides. The appointed ones did not know why they were appointed, and those who were not appointed did not know why they were not. The authorities at the time did not care for reasons, and collected evidence only several months after dismissing judges and public prosecutors, without distributing such a decision to the most of them. In just a couple of months, some of the non-appointed judges and public prosecutors were appointed to other judicial functions, or were appointed by the authorities to one of the following positions: Director of Commission for Protection of Competition, Deputy of the Republic State Attorney, Ombudsman of the City of Niš, and assistant to the Minister of Justice.

It all began and ended with the then Constitutional Court, which expressed “understanding” for all legislative solutions, even for those arbitrary and contrary to basic principles of rule of law, as well as for actions of the High Judicial Council and the State Council of Prosecutors, as long as they were obedient executors of such solutions.

Nobody expected the appearance of someone who will want to fight these tendencies – Judges’ Association of Serbia and Association of Public Prosecutors of Serbia, who have demonstrated that they are consistent scrutinizers and auditors of unlawful actions of state authorities.

Judicial reform had become its own antithesis and had cost this state, when it comes to remuneration of dismissed judges’ and public prosecutors’ salaries only, approximately EUR 44.000.000. Citizens of Serbia who had wasted their years, while being harassed on access to courts, with their expenses increasing, and waiting for their disputes to be settled before judges who were ten times more overloaded than before the so-called reform, as well as the entire country being internationally compromised, actually cost a lot more.

Did the 2012 political elections really unravel this unlawful situation, as it is commonly pointed out by today’s judicial officials, or was there anything else that led to disclosure of the failed reform of judiciary?

Where are the 2009 appointed and the non-appointed ones today, and what happened to those who decided on their appointment?

Is it possible to encourage judges and public prosecutors who were demoralized in 2012 because the sanctions towards the responsible persons, especially the responsible judges and public prosecutors were lacking?

The people who took part in the events will cover these topics on the conference, from their different points of views and positions.

10 Years Since the Reappointment – Reminiscing Baleful Actions So That They Do Not Happen Again

December 16 2019, 11AM

Media Center, 3 Terazije Street, Belgrade

Judges’ Association of Serbia and Association of Public Prosecutors of Serbia hereby invite you to take part at the conference and discuss the past in order to avoid failing in the future.

Agenda of the Conference

10 Years Since the Reappointment – Reminiscing Baleful Actions So That They Do Not Happen Again

moderator **Ljubica Gojgić**

11:00 – 11:45 **Dragana Boljević**, Honorary President of Judges' Association of Serbia, judge at the Belgrade Court of Appeals

Goran Ilić, Member of Presidency of Association of Public Prosecutors of Serbia, Deputy Republic Public Prosecutor, Member of State Council of Prosecutors, Commissioner for Independence of Prosecutors

Omer Hadžiomerović, President of the International Cooperation and Public Relations Department, judge at the Belgrade Court of Appeals

Radovan Lazić, President of the Management Board of Association of Public Prosecutors of Serbia, Member of State Council of Prosecutors, Novi Sad Deputy Appellate Public Prosecutor

Konstantin Mitić Vranjkić, Member of the Management Board of Judges' Association of Serbia, judge at the Belgrade Higher Court

Lidija Komlen Nikolić, Presidency of Association of Public Prosecutors of Serbia, Novi Sad Deputy Appellate Public Prosecutor

Snežana Bjelogrić, president of Judges' Association of Serbia, Acting President of Ivanjica Basic Court

11:45 – 13:00 Q&A and Discussion