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The title of the dissertation

The commission judges in the former Prussian Partition (1920-1928). Their role in the judiciary system and extra-professional fortunes

Summary

The institution of a commission judge appeared in the Polish legal system together with the incorporation of the former Prussian Partition territories and the establishment of the Polish judicature there. From 1920 the commission judges functioned in the Poznań and the Toruń appellations units. On the Polish Upper Silesia they operated from June 1922. They were mostly judges from Galicia. On the one hand, they helped to manage the backlog in courts, functioning as judges in all court units, which significantly complemented staff shortages. However, this job enabled them to quickly open their law firms, and later notary firms.

The main aim of the dissertation is characteristic and description the role of commission judges, who worked in the former Prussian Partition (appeal courts in Poznań, Toruń and the Upper Silesia). An institution of commission judge was established to manage with backlog in all court units and to complete staff shortages. There were two kinds of commission judges: the lawyers (advocates, notaries) who were running their business at the time and the lawyers, who came from former Austrian and Russian partitions and wanted to open their own lawyer firms in former Prussian partition. Both groups of lawyers were obligated to have judge qualifications gained in any part of former partition (they were after graduations and legal trainings, as well). Lawyers from Galicia and Russian partitions couldn't become an advocate in Prussia partition without completing a one-year traineeship as a regular judge or a commission judge. The commission judges weren't permanent government officials. They were hired on the basis of civil-law contracts and appointed by the Minister of the former Prussia Partition, a president of appeal court and the Minister of Justice as well. They weren't appointed by the President Republic of Poland.

The work consists of five chapters preceded by an introduction and closed with a conclusion. The first chapter presents history of acquisition (requisition) Wielkopolska, Pomerania and the Upper Silesia from Prussia after World War I. The differences between the legal systems in the former Prussia Partition and the rest of Poland are stressed. The second chapter is devoted to the legal status of commission judges in different aspects e.g. constitutional status. The third chapter is a description of statistic depiction commission judges such as: an amount of commission judges, their age, origin and nationality and their activity before becoming commission judges as well. The fourth chapter presents the quality and efficiency of commission judges' service. An assessment of their job is compared with the job of regular judges. The financial factors of working as commission judge are described there. The last chapter is devoted to characteristic the further activity of former commission judges. The answers

to the questions, whether they fulfilled the hopes placed in them and their own hopes, if they could set up and run their own legal businesses, can be found there. At the end of the dissertation there is a comprehensive appendix, containing some basic information about each judge.

Key words: judicature, commission judge, advocate, notary, Wielkopolska, Pomerania, the Upper Silesia, intelligentsia, interwar period

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