

Vesna Travljanin

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Work: Association of Municipalities and Cities in the Federation of BiH

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SUMMARY:

- M.P.Adm. – “Legal Aspects of Local Self Government in Bosnia and Herzegovina with special review on EU Standards”
- Lawyer L.L.B, 25 years of practical legal experience in legal issues of former Yugoslavia and post war Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Specialist in Media Law; including serving as a Chief Counsel for the only independent newspaper “Oslobodjenje” during the Bosnian war
- Extensive knowledge of the international legal standards and practices
- 2 years of intensive work experience in various judicial reform projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina through Independent Judicial Commission at the OHR
- 2 years of the work experience in the field of Public Administration Reform in BiH with OSCE as the Legal Advisor
- Director of the Association of the Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Liaison Officer with the Network of the Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)
- Member of the Steering Board of NALAS
- Main Treasurer of NALAS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, November 2004 – Present

- Represents Association domestically and internationally
- Responsible for preparation of Presidency and Assembly Sessions of the Association
- Prepares and follows budget implementation with signatory and representative powers
- Establishes plan for Association’s revenues, follows membership fee collection and donor activities (national and international) that are pertinent for the development of the Association and local self government
- Prepares Ordinance on internal organization of the Association, responsible for hiring staff, decides about rights and responsibilities of the employees based on relevant laws

- Prepares legal acts of interest for member municipalities
- Prepares yearly Work Plan of the Association
- Organizes consultancy services for units of local self government
- Monitors preparation and organization of conferences, seminars and round tables
- Participates in national and international organization that are of interest for the Association
- And other duties as assigned by the Presidency of the Association

National Legal Advisor, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Public Administration Reform Department , Sarajevo, June 2003- November 2004

- Provided legal advice and analysis on various legal issues affecting public administration reforms in the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of BiH;
- Involved in reform of the local self-government at all levels in BiH;
- Assessed weaknesses in the legislative functioning within executive and legislative structures and developed strategies to improve quality of laws and other legal documents ;
- Provided legal training to field officers and advisors on the topics such as the legal framework for the public administration reform in BiH; Human resource management; Application of the Law on Civil service;

National Judicial Reform Officer, Office of the High Representative, Independent Judicial Commission, Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina, March 2001 – December 2002.

Plans and Policy Department

Member of several projects aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of the judicial system in Bosnia such as:

- Civil Procedure Reform in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska which included preparing written materials for the working groups comprised of experts in the field of civil law, co-ordination of the meetings, participation in the working sessions, and drafting Amendments upon conclusions of the working groups. The work necessitated forming a close professional relationship with Ministry of Justice officials, Judges of the Supreme Court, Law professors and others.
- Monitoring and commenting on behalf of Independent Judicial Commission activities related to the reform of the Criminal procedure in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Comparisons, explanations and comments to the reform Projects of the various laws such as: Law on Notaries, Land Registry
- Contribution to several projects such as Access to Legal Information Project etc.

Restructuring Department

Member of the IJC Restructuring of the Courts Project

- Collection of data in order to determine the appropriate total number of courts and judges in Bosnia, Court visits, and participation in producing final report on the Restructuring of the Court System in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Verification and Investigation Department

- Preparing profile reports for the Bosnia and Herzegovina High Judicial and Prosecutorial Councils relating to individual judges and prosecutors, verification of information in application materials provided by applicants for judicial and prosecutorial posts, advise on matters relating to the selection process for judges and prosecutors.

Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program-Fulbright Exchange, 1999-2000.

University of Maryland, College of Journalism

Selected for international fellowship on a competitive process based on professional accomplishments and leadership potential through the American Embassy in Sarajevo. Specialization work focused on the field of Comparative Media Law Regulations. Established professional contacts in prestigious American Institutions for the Freedom of Press and protection of Journalists Rights such as Freedom Forum, World Press Freedom Committee, and Center for Protection of Journalists-New York, International Center for Journalists. In summary:

- Completed professional affiliations with:
 - **Levine, Sullivan & Koch**, Washington D.C
 - **Washington Post**, Legal Department
 - **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**, Legal Department
- Presenting experience during fellowship:
 - “*State of Media Law and the Freedom of the Press in Bosnia*”
Media Law Committee of the District of the Columbia Bar, 2000.
 - “*Bosnia: Rights and Wrongs of NATO’s War in Yugoslavia*”
University of Maryland, 2000.
 - “*Role of the Media in Establishing Peace in Bosnia.*”
Conference on State of Media in former Soviet Union held in Istanbul-Turkey, 1999.
Center for International Development and Conflict Management.
 - “*Legal System and the State of Media in Bosnia*”
International Law Group-Bar Association Tucson and Phoenix, 1999.
 - “*Women and Media in Bosnia*”
University of Maryland, 1999.
- Graduate Coursework Completed: Mass Media and Society, Law of Mass Communication, Advertising and Society, and The State of the American Newspaper

Executive Director of the Legal Department for the Independent Newspaper and Publishing Company “Oslobodjenje” Board of Directors

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1994 – 2001.

- Chief Legal Counselor;
- Responsible for all legal affairs of The Company including legal representations of The Company in disputes at courts, labor relations, selection and disciplinary procedure; issues - related to Corporate Law, Privatization and Apartment Laws;
- Attending to individual complaints and providing advice on legal remedies,
- Responsible for all legal regulations for The Company’s branch offices abroad;

- Head of the legal and administrative department of The Company;
- Supervision of 32 employees, 5 of which are Legal Department professional staffers and 27 are Administrative worker

Deputy General Manager for Legal Affairs, Newspaper and Publishing Company “Oslobodjenje”

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1984 – 1994.

- Responsible for creating statutory regulations, provisions and contracts;
- Organizing seminars, conferences and roundtables;
- Providing legal advice on media related issues, as well as labor apartment and employment issues;
- Review the legal aspects of draft letters and agreements and other texts and correspondence;
- Perform other related duties as required;

Staff Attorney, Newspaper and Publishing Company “ Oslobodjenje”

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1982-1984

- Prepared professional materials and provided legal interpretations and legal opinions on materials for the Managing Board and Executive Board of Directors
- Prepared working papers, notes and reports for committees and commissions.

EDUCATION:

University of Sarajevo, Master of Public Administration

University of Maryland, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow Program, Fulbright Exchange Activity Program

University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Law, Lawyer L.L.B.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

Federal Ministry of Justice, Board Exam -Professional examination for the professionals working in the state agencies

Federal Ministry of Justice, Bar Exam –Professional examination on all current legislative regulations

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND AFFILIATIONS:

- **Member of Parliamentary Commission set up to establish Media Law** for Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted by State Parliament in 1990.
- **Consultative work for the Lawyers Office Galijatovic**, Sarajevo.
- Participated in **Intensive English Program at University of Arizona**, Center for English as a Second Language, 1999
- Passed TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), 1998
- Computer Skills: Windows, Word, Excel, and Internet Communications.