

In memoriam prof. dr. sc. Zoran Pokrovac

Zoran Pokrovac passed away at his home in Frankfurt am Main on 24 September 2025. He was born on 28 April 1955. He is survived by his daughters, Dora and Laura, and his wife, Ida Jambek.

He received his basic law degree (dipl. jur.) in 1978 and his Doctor of Juridical Science degree in 1995 from the Faculty of Law at the University of Split. He pursued further legal studies and research at law faculties and institutes in Belgrade, Vienna, Berlin, and Frankfurt am Main.

From 1980 until 2020, he researched and taught in the field of theory of law and state at the Faculty of Law in Split, progressing from assistant to tenured full professor. He guided his demonstrators with great enthusiasm in their scholarly and professional development, and several of them have become outstanding lawyers, and some have joined him as colleagues at the Faculty. He took part in teaching Company Law at the Vienna University of Economics and Business in 2001 and the Methodology of Legal Scholarship at the University of Rijeka Faculty of Law from 2013 to 2016.

He published over 130 scholarly and professional works, including two books: *Hrvatsko izorno zakonodavstvo: za parlamentarne i predsjedničke izbore od 17.2.1990. do 30.9.1993.* [Croatian Electoral Legislation: For Parliamentary and Presidential Elections from 17 February 1990 to 30 September 1993], Split, Puls, 1995 (124 pp.), which remains the most detailed account of the subject to date; and *Slobodno stvaranje prava. Hermann Ulrich Kantorowicz i slobodnopravni pokret* [Free Law Making: Ulrich Kantorowicz and the Free Law Movement], Zagreb, Naklada Breza, 2018 (815 pp.), which is probably the definitive study of the subject and the most thorough scholarly writing of Croatian legal theory up to the time of its completion in 1995. He edited *Građansko društvo i država: povijest razlike i nove rasprave* [Civil Society and the State: A History of Distinction and New Debates], Zagreb, Naprijed, 1991 (419 pp.), a scholarly guide to Croatia's transition to a civil society and liberal democracy.

Of international relevance is his work at the Max Planck Institute for European Legal History in Frankfurt am Main. In 1993, he participated in a research project on judicial independence in post-totalitarian societies (a comparative analysis of West German and Croatian experiences), and in 1995 he collaborated on the international research project “Normdurchsetzung in den osteuropäischen Nachkriegsgesellschaften“ (“Norm Implementation in East European Post-War Societies“). He was also deputy coordinator and coordinator of the international research project “Rechtskulturen des modernen Osteuropa. Traditionen und Transfers / Legal Cultures of Modern Eastern Europe. Tradition and Transfers / Pravne kulture moderne Istočne Europe. Tradicija i transfer“ (together with the late Prof. Dr. Marie Theres Fögen, Director of the Institute, and Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Dr. h. c. Michael Stolleis, Acting Director of the Institute). He edited the following volumes of preparatory materials and research results:

Juristenausbildung in Osteuropa bis zum Ersten Weltkrieg. Frankfurt a.M.: Klostermann, 2007 (Studien zur europäischen Rechtsgeschichte Band 225; Rechtskulturen des modernen Osteuropa: Traditionen und Transfers, Band 3), VIII + 425 S.;

Reader zum Workshop “Koexistenz und Konflikt: Die Rechtsordnungen Südosteuropas im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert“ / “Coexistence and Conflict: The Legal Systems of South-Eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries“. Frankfurt a.M.: Max-Planck-Institut für Europäische Rechtsgeschichte, 2007, Bd. 1-2, 154 + 324 S.;

Rechtswissenschaft in Osteuropa: Studien zum 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert. Frankfurt a.M.: Klostermann, 2010, X + 436 S. (Studien zur europäischen Rechtsgeschichte, Band 248);

Rechtsprechung in Osteuropa. Studien zum 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert. Frankfurt a.M.: Klostermann, 2012, XVIII + 748 S. (Studien zur europäischen Rechtsgeschichte, Band 275; Rechtskulturen des modernen Osteuropa: Traditionen und Transfers. Bände 6.1 und 6.2).

He was a member of the editorial boards of *Zbornik Pravnog fakulteta u Splitu* and the *Croatian Critical Law Review*, as well as a collaborator for Croatian law in *Recht in Ost und West* (Berlin) from 1994 to 1998, *Osteuropa-Recht* (Köln) from 1998 to 2004, and *VWD Südosteuropa* (formerly *VWD Mittel- und Osteuropa*) from 1996 to 1998.

From 1997 to 2010, he convened and chaired 14 German-Croatian legal symposia in Split. He chaired and/or participated in several international professional gatherings on the legal aspects of investment in Croatia and Eastern Europe in Germany and Austria.

From 1978 to 1987, he was a member of the Group of Legal Theory of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He was also a founding member of the Croatian Law Centre in 1994, as well as the Croatian Association of Legal and Social Philosophy and Theory of Law and State (serving as president from 2011 to 2015). He has been a member of the Croatian Academy of Legal Sciences since 2003.

He was licensed as a *Rechtskundiger auf dem Gebiet des kroatischen Rechts* by the Amtsgericht Frankfurt/M. from 1996 to 2016, during which time he collaborated with the law and tax office *Haarmann, Hemmelrath & Partner*, advising foreign investors in Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In February 2020, the Dean of the Faculty of Law in Split summarily removed Zoran Pokrovac from his professorship, a few months before the Faculty Council was due to decide whether to extend his tenure beyond the initial retirement age of 65. In 2022, Croatian courts finally declared the removal unauthorized and ordered the Faculty to indemnify him, albeit only until his initial retirement date, *i.e.* the end of September 2020.