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VALERIJA GROZDIĆ

Valerija Grozdić was born on 22 February 1989. She finished both elementary school “Borislav Pekić” and high school “Mihailo Petrović-Alas” with excellent grades. She graduated at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade in 2012, with average grade (9.2). In October 2012, she enrolled Master in European Integration at the same faculty, which she has finished in June 2014, with average grade (9.6). She defended master thesis “*Harmonizing Serbian Environmental Legislation with the European Acquis*” with the highest grade (10).

Valerija was a scholar on Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Serbia and “Sveti Sava” prizewinner, awarded by Faculty of Law for each successfully finished year of studies. Currently, Valerija is a PhD student at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade – narrower scientific field of Theory of State and Law, Sociology of Law and Philosophy of Law.

During the basic studies term, Valerija attended and completed several professional practices (the most interesting being professional practice in the area of banking business at the UniCredit Bank Serbia, being the one out of seven selected students with the average grade above (9); and professional practice at the Law office “Schoenherr”). She was also the attendant of different courses, some of which are „*European Integration Process*“, organized by the Office for European Integration, within the Government of the Republic of Serbia,, „*Criminal law in the United States*“, led by the lecturer-judge Dale A. Crawford from Ohio, organized by the Belgrade Faculty of Law) ; in addition, Valerija also attended numerous seminars and conferences (such as „*State and perspective of advocacy in Serbia and region*“; „*Economy and law*“; „*Civil disobedience as one of the basic human rights*“; „*European Union and Western Balkans 2015-2020 - Partnership Opportunity and Mutual Concern*“, etc.).

Valerija was hired to work with the students’ organizations AEGEE and ELSA, acting as a head of sector for seminars and conferences, where she designed and organized many interesting activities, seminars and workshops. Later on, as a trainer and lecturer in the summer school, Valerija trained young colleagues to become new members. Since 2016, Valerija is an honorary member of ELSA.

Following completion of basic studies, Valerija worked as a junior associate at the leading law office in Eastern Europe and the Balkans - Karanovic-Nikolic Law office, within the Competition Law department. After that, Valerija worked at “Dragoš Cukavac“ law office, practicing mainly criminal and corporate law. Finally, she has finished her internship at „Ivić“ Law office, where she had mainly practicing Civil law.

In school year 2014/2015, Valerija led practice classes at the Faculty of Law, University of Belgrade, at the subject Basics of Sociology, as a Demonstrator. In February 2016, Valerija was elected for a Teaching Assistant at the Belgrade Faculty of Law.

In 2016, Valerija mentored students who participated at the Moot Court contest “Condemn discrimination”. As a representative of the Faculty of Law, Valerija also enrolled and successfully finished training course for project writing, named “Horizon 2020”, organized by EUTA. In the same year, Valerija conducted research on the judiciary in Serbia with reference to the judges’ perception of their independence in decision making process. The analysis is based on the semi-structured in-depth interviews with twenty judges, randomly chosen from different courts and towns in Serbia, all members of the Judges’ Association of Serbia (JAS). The results of the research Valerija presented on the “Third students conference on Theory and Philosophy of Law– Judiciary in Serbia” as a main speaker.

Valerija is a fluent speaker of English and Spanish language. She is a volunteer engaged in humanitarian work organized by different organizations in Belgrade and Serbia.

List of papers:

1. *The attitude of the state towards the professional association of judges - the case of the Society of Judges of Serbia (Serbian: Однос државе према професионалном удруживању судија – случај Друштва судија Србије)* - Law and Economy no. 10-12/2016, Belgrade;
2. *How to Harmonize Serbian Environmental Legislation with the European Acquis? – the GMO Issue - Studii Cercetari Juridice Europene (European Legal Studies and Research), Timisoara 2016 (part of the master thesis);*

Book review

1. Reza Banakar, *Normativity in Legal Sociology – Methodological Reflections on Law and Regulation in Late Modernity*, Springer International, Sociology vol. 57/4, 2015.