CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF UKRAINE ON THE BAR'S ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

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When joining the Council of Europe, Ukraine has undertaken international legal obligations to ensury the proper protection of the status of the legal profession (lawyers) and to establish a professional bar association on an independent basis at the legislative level (see paragraph ix of the article 11 of the Opinion No. 190 (1995) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council Of Europe on the joining of Ukraine to the Council of Europe dated September 26, 1995 [1]; paragraph 10 of Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1346 (2003) «Honouring of Obligations and Commitments of Ukraine» dated September 29, 2003 [2] paragraph 7.3.6 of the Article 7.3 of Resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 1755 (2010) «The Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Ukraine» dated November 04,2010 [3]).

In this context, in view of the current situation, the Ukrainian Bar (Art. 2 of the Law of Ukraine «On the Bar and Practice of Law» dated July 05, 2012 No. 5076-VI [4]) was defined at the legislative level as a nongovernmental self-governing institute providing protection, representation in court and other types of professional juridicial (legal) assistance (on an independent basis), as well as independently resolving all key issues of its organization and activity [4; 5].

All attorneys of Ukraine, regardless of their will, were united in the Nongovernmental Non-commercial Professional Organization «Ukrainian National Bar Association» (UNBA), which, according to the Law of Ukraine «On the Bar and Practice of Law» (dated July 05, 2012 No. 5076–VI) [4], was created with the purpose of ensuring the implementation of the tasks of advocate self-government, enhancing the level of juridicial (legal) assistance provided by attorneys, the role and authority of the bar in society [6; 7]. The historical background is presented in Table 1.

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Table 1 Historical background [7, p. 11–12]

DATE	EVENT	SIGNIFICANCE
DATE	EVENI	1. Ukraine assumes
September 26, 1995	Joining of Ukraine to the Council of Europe	obligations on ensuring the proper protection of the legal profession status and establishing a professional bar at the legislative level
June 28,1996	Adoption of the Constitution of Ukraine [8]	2. The Bar in Ukraine acts to secure the right to defense against prosecution and to provide legal assistance in courts and other state bodies (Part 2 of Art. 59 of the Constitution of Ukraine)
July 05, 2012	Adoption of the Law of Ukraine «On the Bar and Practice of Law» [4]	3. The Bar in Ukraine is constituted as a non-
August 15, 2012	Coming into force of the Law of Ukraine «On the Bar and Practice of Law» [4]	governmental self-governing institute
November 20, 2012	Coming into force of the new Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine [9]	4. Only attorneys can be defenders in criminal investigations
November 19, 2012	Registration of the «Ukrainian National Bar Association» (UNBA) [6] (https://unba.org.ua/)	5. The non-commercial Professional Organization «Ukrainian National Bar Association» (UNBA), which consolidates all the attorneys if Ukraine, started to operate
June 02, 2016	Introduction of amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine (on justice) [10]	6. The attorney's monopoly on the standing in the law
September 30, 2016	Coming into force of the amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine (on justice) [8; 10]	proceedings of Ukraine
December 15, 2017	Coming into force the amendments to the Commercial and Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine and other legislative acts [11]	7. The attorneys only can stand for the other persons in court, except the events, regulated by the court

Thus, with the adoption and coming into force of the Law of Ukraine «On the Bar and Practice of Law» (dated July 5, 2012, No. 5076-VI) [4], which needs improvement, the registration of the National Bar Association of Ukraine and the beginning of its activity [6], Ukraine formally fulfilled its international legal obligations to the Council of Europe to ensure the protection of the status of the legal profession (lawyers) and the establishment of a professional bar association at the legislative level [7]. At the same time, it is also worth noting that today the professional bar community emphasizes the problems of violation of the lawyers' rights and the guarantees of advocacy in Ukraine (when providing professional juridicial (legal) assistance to a client on an independent basis). Independent bar is a necessary and important prerequisite for securing the rule of law and democracy in society [7; 12].

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Table of Contents

ARCHITECTURE
ARCHETYPAL PROTOTYPES OF VARIOUS ARTFICIAL LIGHTING SYSTEMS Lidiya Koval, Angelina Tregub
CULTURAL STUDIES
MENTAL IDENTITY IN THE FOCUS OF LINGUISTIC-CULTURAL STUDIES Liubov Lysenko
HISTORY OF ART
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE IN THE ASPECT OF THE COGNITIVE PARADIGM OF MUSIC KNOWLEDGE Olga Lysenko
METHODS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THEORETICAL MUSICOLOGY: HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY PROJECTIONS Kateryna Fadyeyeva
PEDAGOGICAL SCIENCES
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONCEPTUAL FIELD OF STUDYING THE ISSUE ON DEVELOPING INTERNET TECHNOLOGIES OF SCIENTIFIC-PEDAGOGICAL COMMUNICATION IN UKRAINE (THE OF END THE 20 TH CENTURY – THE BEGINNING OF THE 21 ST CENTURY) Oleksandr Bielikov
PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PROBLEMS OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OF CHILDREN AND JUNIORS IN BUKOVINA ON THE XX CENTURY («BUKOVINER STATEMEN») Serhii Dariichuk
DESCRIPTION OF THE CONCEPT FIELD OF RESEARCH
OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY OF DEPARTMENTS OF PRESCHOOL PEDAGOGICS IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL
ESTABLISHMENTS OF UKRAINE (1991–2010) Maryna Iotkovska 19

I EACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN MULTILEVEL GROUPS
Oksana Semyda
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CONCEPTUAL FIELD OF STUDYING THE ISSUE ON HISTORIOGRAPHY OF DEVELOPING HIGHER PEDAGOGICAL EDUCATION IN DOMESTIC RESEARCHES (THE OF END THE 20 TH CENTURY – THE BEGINNING OF THE 21 ST CENTURY) Maryna Tymoshenko 25
PHILOLOGICAL SCIENCES
ENGLISH AS A LANGUAGE OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATOR OF CULTURE Viktoriia Slabouz, Nataliia Nikitina
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES
ADOLESCENCE AS A PERIOD OF ACQUISITION OF ADULT IDENTITY Katerina Mannapova
HISTORICAL SCIENCES
MAJOR TRENDS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MONUMENTAL PAINTING IN THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENT UKRAINE Anastasiia Gorkova
GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES
THE METHOD FOR CALCULATIONS OF THE VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF TEMPERATURE FIELDS BY SATELLITE DATA ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE BLACK SEA Andrii Sryberko
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT
RESULTS OF PRENOSOLOGICAL DIAGNOSTICS OF STUDENTS OF THE FIRST COURSE OF TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
Olga Martynyuk, Galina Shamardina47

MEDICAL SCIENCES

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF DENTAL STUDENTS ON HEALTH RISKS RELATED TO ORAL PIERCING	
Olesia Strelchenia, Vadym Orishchenko	50
ENGINEERING SCIENCES	
REDUCING RISKS OF WELDING POROSITY Volodymyr Haievskyi	54
PROBLEMATIC ASPECTS AND WAYS TO INCREASE THE LEVEL OF METALLURGICAL SLAGS DISPOSAL Mykhailo Petlovanyi, Oleksandr Filonenko	55
THE RESEARCH OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESS OF GRAIN EXTRUSION WITH VEGETABLE COMPONENTS Ivan Ulianich, Igor Didenko	60
ECONOMIC SCIENCES	
THE NEEDS OF THE SERVICES MARKET IN UKRAINE FOR STAFFING Lyuda Burdonos, Vita Vynogradnya	65
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Nadiia Hrazhevska, Daryna Rozum	
THE CONCEPT AND ROLE OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY Olena Karas	72
LAW SCIENCES	
CURRENT CONDITIONS OF FORMING FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN DECENTRALIZATION CONDITIONS Eugeniy Bova, Liubomyra Kolesnik	77
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF UKRAINE ON THE BAR'S ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY Ruslan Skrynkovskyy, Olha Zaiats	81

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