

PREFACE

University of Warsaw (the Chair of Civil Procedure), the Supreme Court of the Republic of Poland and the National Council of the Judiciary of Poland were co-organising an international conference *The functions of the Supreme Court – issues of process and administration of justice* that was held on 12–14 June 2014 under the auspices of International Association of Procedural Law. The conference aimed at drawing a comparison between models of supreme courts operating in different countries with a special focus on dissimilar approaches to it in civil law and common law systems, as well as the presentation of the Polish perspective on the discussed issues.

This volume contains the contributions to this conference, both prepared reports and other submitted papers. Its main chapters correspond to topics of panels during the conference and concern: Functions of the Supreme Courts in the judicial system (I), Organisation of Supreme Courts (II) and Access to the Supreme Courts (III).

In the first part the authors present a comprehensive overview on the functions of supreme courts both in common law and civil law countries. In particular they focus on the role of the US Supreme Court as well as French and German highest instances, taking into account the very different nature of these legal systems. They also deal with the crucial issue of where is a balance between the public and private functions in the European national supreme courts.

In the second part you will find considerations related to relationship between the functions and organisation of the supreme courts at the present time. Apart from the in-depth analysis of the various organisational elements that influence the operation of the supreme courts, there are many national examples of a huge impact of efficient organisation on the work of these courts. The authors present very interesting comments on Dutch, Russian, Chinese and Polish organisational issues.

In the third – most comprehensive part – the authors consider questions of limits in access to supreme courts. They do so by setting out the following issues: the court's jurisdiction; standing; permission to appeal requirements; and substantive nature of appeals. In this part individual authors describe in detail rules

of access to the supreme courts of England, France, Italy, Germany, the Republic of Macedonia and Poland.

Taking this opportunity, we would like to offer our sincere thanks to professor Loïc Cadiet, who as the President of the International Association of Procedural Law was extremely helpful in organising our conference. Moreover, we warmly thank all reporters and moderators for their successful work.

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