

**Iva Brožová**  
**Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic**

**INVITATION TO THE CONFERENCE**  
**„LENGTH OF THE COURT PROCEEDINGS“**

Brno, September 24, 2014

*Dear members of the judiciary,*

*The length of the court proceedings is one of the aspects of the right to a fair trial. It is equally important for a judge to take into consideration all circumstances of each and every case to reach verdicts, which are just for the individual parties to the proceeding. The quality of the decision-making is closely linked to the amount of time the judge devotes to each case as well as to his or her personal disposition and conception of the role of the judge. It cannot be simply said that a quick decision is therefore a good decision and, on the contrary, that the court that delivers a judgment within a reasonable time, reaches a priori just verdict.*

*I hereby most cordially invite you to attend the conference which will focus on the issue of the length of the court proceedings from the perspective of common law system, from the perspective of European Court of Human Rights and its case law on the Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and of national judiciaries, which face the challenges of ever and rapidly changing national and European law and related case law.*

*The upcoming conference will also show what effective tools are used within Continental and Anglo-Saxon legal system in order to lower the courts' backlog, including the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.*

*Among the invited speakers of the conference are Irmgard Griss, former President of the Supreme Court of Austria and former President of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union, András Baka, former President of the Supreme Court of Hungary, former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights (1991-2008) and former President of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union or J. Clifford Wallace, Senior Judge, Chief Judge Emeritus, United States Court of Appeals, California, USA.*

*The Conference will take place on September 24, 2014 in the premises of the Hotel Continental in Brno (<http://www.continentalbrno.cz/>).*

With regard to the preparation of the conference, I kindly ask you to confirm your attendance **by September 10, 2014**, to the attention of the Director of the Office of the President of the Supreme Court, Mgr. Aleš Pavel (email: [konference2014@nsoud.cz](mailto:konference2014@nsoud.cz), tel: +420 541 593 148, fax: +420 541 593 149).

The registration of participants will be open from 9.00 – 10.00 a.m. and will finish by 4.30 p.m. Lunch will be provided for the participants.

**Programme:**

9.00 – 10.00 Registration of participants

9.30 – 9.50 Press Conference

**10.00 – 12.50 Panel I.**

10.00 – 10.30 Welcome address by the President of the Supreme Court of the Czech Republic  
Iva Brožová

*Iva Brožová: The right to justice within a reasonable time*

10.30 – 11.00 Clifford Wallace: *How to overcome backlog in a modern court?*

11.00 – 11.40 András Baka: *Aspects of the right to a fair trial. The length of proceedings under Article 6 of the Convention*

11.40 – 12.20 Irmgard Griss: *Justice delayed is justice denied: The right to a get a decision in a reasonable time from a national perspective*

12.20 – 12.50 Discussion

**12.50 – 14.10 Lunch break**

**14.10 – 16.30 Panel II.**

14.10 – 14.50 Vojtěch Cegl: *Length of the court's proceedings from the perspective of the judge first instance court and appeal court*

14.50 – 15.20 Clifford Wallace: *When is a late judgment too late?*

15.20 – 16.00 Brian Hutchinson: *Experiences in out-of-court settlement of disputes*

16.00 – 16.30 Discussion

**16.30 End of the conference**

The conference will be conducted in Czech and English, simultaneous interpreting will be provided. Please contact directly the reception of the Hotel Continental Brno if you need accommodation. The Supreme Court does not provide any accommodation.

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