



Czech Bar Association

**Country Report
Czech Republic**

53rd European Presidents' Conference 2025

STATISTICS

Statistics on lawyers and trainee lawyers as of 10 February 2025

Number of lawyers: 13 099

Number of trainee lawyers: 2603

Number of lawyers registered in 2024: 507

CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATION AND PROFESSIONAL RULES ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Amendment to the Act on the Legal Profession

The adoption of an amendment to the Act on the Legal Profession, initially expected in 2024, has been delayed due to the preparation of a new amendment addressing a recent case of embezzlement involving a lawyer's escrow account. The proposed amendment establishes a new guarantee fund under the Czech Bar Association to compensate clients harmed by potential embezzlement by lawyers in the administration of escrow accounts. Additionally, the Czech Bar Association will gain authority to access data on escrow accounts from all banks, enabling more effective oversight of escrow accounts.

Key Changes Introduced by the Amendment:

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

The amendment codifies the protection of information exchanged within the confidential relationship between a lawyer and a client. Communications made by a lawyer in the provision of legal services will be deemed confidential. Control over such confidential information rests exclusively with the client, and no one may be compelled to disclose it without the client's consent.

B. Lawyer's Declaration on the Authenticity of Electronic Signatures

The draft amendment proposes a legislative solution for lawyers to issue declarations of authenticity for electronic signatures. In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Agency for Digital Information, a mechanism will be established to allow lawyers to provide such declarations under conditions comparable to official verifications conducted by public authorities.

C. Part-Time Practice for Trainee Lawyers

The amendment introduces provisions for part-time practice by trainee lawyers in special circumstances. Currently, trainee lawyers must adhere to a full-time weekly working schedule of 40 hours. The proposed change allows exceptions, permitting part-time practice with a proportionate extension of the total required training period. This provision aims to accommodate trainees with specific needs, such as those caring for minor children.

D. Stricter Penalties for Unauthorized Legal Practice by Non-Lawyers

Existing legislation addressing offenses related to unauthorized legal services provided by non-lawyers has proven insufficient, as enforcement often required proof of corrupt intent. The amendment seeks to address these gaps by criminalizing unauthorized provision of legal services outright, ensuring more robust protection of the profession.

Amendment to the Lawyers' Tariff

Following extensive legislative efforts, the Czech Bar Association has successfully implemented an amendment to the lawyers' tariff, resulting in increased fees and remuneration for legal services. The adjustment accounts for inflation and rising costs since the last revision in 2006. It also revises non-contractual fees in specific areas where rates were previously deemed unreasonably low, such as claims for non-patrimonial damages, representation in misdemeanour proceedings, and tax-related matters.

Creation of the Trainee Lawyers' Section

The Czech Bar Association has long been striving to increase the participation of young colleagues in its activities and events. The Czech Bar Association leadership values the perspectives of young lawyers on the functioning of their professional self-governance and their approach to the legal profession. It also welcomes constructive criticism and suggestions for potential improvements in various areas. For this reason, the Board of Directors of the Czech Bar Association has initiated the establishment of the Trainee Lawyers' Section. The first meeting was held in December.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE CZECH BAR ASSOCIATION

Lawyer of the Year 2023

The 18th annual Lawyer of the Year competition was held in May 2024 in the prestigious setting of the Municipal House in Prague. This event, organized by the Czech Bar Association in cooperation with EPRAVO.CZ, honors distinguished legal professionals in various categories, including Civil Law, Criminal Law, IT Law, and Insolvency Law. The highlight of the evening was the induction of a new member into the prestigious Legal Hall of Fame. For 2023, this honor was awarded to **JUDr. Martin Foukal**, an esteemed notary and honorary president of the Notarial Chamber of the Czech Republic. Dr. Foukal was recognized for his lifelong contributions to the legal profession and his efforts in strengthening the notarial system in the country.

Second Bar Leaders Meeting in Prague and Memorandum between the Czech Bar Association and California Lawyers Association

On the occasion of Lawyer of the Year 2023, the Czech Bar Association also staged its second Bar Leaders Meeting, involving presidents and representatives of bar associations with which the CBA closely collaborates. The invitation was accepted by representatives from Slovakia, Germany, Slovenia, France, USA, Croatia and Hungary, and the topics discussed was focused

on Artificial Intelligence. During the second meeting of bar leaders, the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Czech Bar Association and the Immigration and International Section of the California Lawyers Association was renewed.

Launch of the New Czech Bar Association Website

On 15 May 2024, the Czech Bar Association launched its new website after several years of development. The new platform serves both the general public, particularly for searching the official list of registered lawyers, and the legal profession. The private section "PORTÁL ČAK" now allows lawyers to manage their professional affairs through a secure remote access system, with further functionalities planned for the coming years.

Launch of the Czech Bar Association Instagram Account

To enhance communication with younger generations, the Czech Bar Association launched its official Instagram account in October 2024. Within the first three months, it attracted approximately 800 followers, supplementing its existing presence on LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter).

Czech Bar Association Open House Events

In 2024, the Czech Bar Association expanded its "Open House" events, inviting young lawyers and law students to engage with the profession. Events were held in both Prague and Brno, providing insight into the operations of the Bar Association and offering networking opportunities with senior professionals.

Renovation of the Czech Bar Association Training and Education Center

Following years of temporary arrangements, the Czech Bar Association completed the renovation of its Training and Education Center at the Dunaj Palace in Prague. The facility, which reopened in October 2024, now fully serves the professional development needs of lawyers and trainees.

In Prague, 10th February, 2025