



Adam Bodnar



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About me: Between 9 September 2015 and 8 September 2020 serving as the Polish Ombudsman, top independent state official responsible for safeguarding human rights, appointed by Parliament for 5 years term; still in the position until the election of the new Ombudsman. Previously human rights lawyer managing the legal department of the Polish leading non-governmental organization, active domestically and internationally in strategic litigation, advocacy and monitoring. Since March 2020 professor at the SWPS University of Social Science and Humanities in Warsaw: research and lecturing on rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

09/2015 – CURRENT – Warsaw, Poland

OMBUDSMAN – POLISH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE

Commissioner for Human Rights is the constitutional authority for legal control and protection. In his activities, the Commissioner is integral and independent from other state authorities. The Commissioner acts pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Poland and the Commissioner for Human Rights Act of 15 July 1987. The Commissioner is appointed by the Sejm and approved by the Senate for a 5-year term of office. The Commissioner for Human Rights safeguards human and civic freedoms and rights specified in the Constitution and other legal acts. In order to fulfill this task the Commissioner investigates whether actions undertaken or abandoned by the entities, organizations or institutions obliged to observe and implement human and citizen rights and freedoms have not led to infringement of the law or the principles of social coexistence and justice, and undertakes appropriate measures. Commissioner for Human Rights is assisted by the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.

The official term ended on 8 September 2020. Under the Ombudsman Law, the service is prolonged as the new Ombudsman is elected by the Parliament.

03/2020 – CURRENT – Warsaw, Poland

PROFESSOR – SWPS UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Law Professor teaching courses on human rights for graduate and doctoral students. Research on rule of law, human rights and constitutionalism.

10/2019 – 09/2020 – Warsaw, Poland

PROFESSOR – POLISH-JAPANESE ACADEMY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Law Professor teaching MBA course on diversity at workplace, corporate social responsibility and business and human rights; the School of New Media on freedom of speech in a digital world.

08/2001 – 09/2020 – Warsaw, Poland

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR – UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

2001 - 2006 - Doctoral student and lecturer

2006 - Doctor of Law title awarded by the Warsaw University (topic: "Multi-level citizenship in the European constitutional space")

2006 - 2015 - Associate Professor in the Human Rights Chair, Faculty of Law and Administration

September 2015 - February 2020 - unpaid leave due to the service as the Polish Ombudsman

2019 - Habilitation title awarded by the Warsaw University (topic: "Implementation of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Poland - institutional dimension")

11/2013 – 09/2015 – Geneva, Switzerland

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

- participation in the works of 5-persons Board of Trustees which decides on grant making activity of the UN Fund and its strategy, meeting twice a year in Geneva
- appointed to complete a term until October 2014, with a possibility of re-appointment for 3 years term

2011 – 09/2015 – Warsaw, Poland

SENIOR EXPERT WITHIN FRANET NETWORK – EU FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY

- supervision over preparation of reports on human rights' protection in Poland by group of social and legal experts - under the tender awarded to the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights,
- in years 2008-2011 expert and senior expert within the FRALEX network managed by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency

10/2014 – 09/2015 – Warsaw, Poland

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD COMPANY – HELSINKI FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- head of the Legal Division
- supervision over different legal programs
- 2004 - 2009 - head of the Strategic Litigation Program
- 2009 - 2011 - Secretary of the Board
- 2011 - 2015 - Vice-President of the Board

1999 – 2004 – Warsaw, Poland

ASSOCIATE – WEIL GOTSHAL AND MANGES

- assisting in different mergers and acquisitions transactions, due diligence work, legal research on different issues, including registration of first open private pension funds
- mergers and acquisitions, privatizations, private equity, capital markets, corporate law
- 1999 - 2000 - Legal Assistant
- 2001 - 2004 - Associate

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

2007 – 2019

DOCTOR HABILITATUS – University of Warsaw

2001 – 2006

DOCTOR OF LAW – University of Warsaw

2000 – 2001

LL.M. IN COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW – Central European University

1995 – 2000

MAGISTER IURIS – University of Warsaw

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): POLISH

Other language(s): ENGLISH | GERMAN

● PUBLICATIONS

Citizen.PL

2020

"Obywatel.PL" [Citizen.PL] - book interview made by Bartosz Bartosik on contemporary Poland, Ombudsman's mission, challenges to human rights' protection, democratic transformation, threats to rule of law and divisions in Polish society.

Enforcement of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Poland - institutional aspects

2018

The book concerns the institutional dimension of the execution of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in Poland. The subject of consideration are the issues of constitutional law and public international law, mainly the standards of the European Convention on Human Rights and soft law documents adopted by the Council of Europe, as well as the practice of functioning of individual institutions confirmed by internal documents.

The impact of the European Convention on Human Rights on the functioning of business

2016

The monograph is an original and innovative in Polish legal doctrine discussion of substantive and procedural aspects of the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights on the functioning of business.

Multi-level citizenship. Status of an individual in European constitutional space

2008

The book deals with the status of an individual in member states of the European Union after the introduction of the EU citizenship. Individuals in Europe belong currently to two or three political communities, operating at different levels. Book analyzes interaction between those levels of governance and impact on status of citizenship and rights of citizens.

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

03/2020 – Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights at the University of Alberta

Visiting Lectureship in Human Rights at the University of Alberta

Lecture title: "The Fight for Rule of Law in Poland."

<https://www.ualberta.ca/global-education/visiting-lectureship-human-rights>

02/2020 – Indiana University in Bloomington, Maurer School of Law

Addison C. Harris Memorial Lecture at the Maurer School of Law, Indiana University in Bloomington

Lecture title: "Human Rights and Power: Polish Road towards Illiberal State."

<https://www.idsnews.com/article/2020/02/polish-human-rights-commissioner-gives-speech-at-ius-maurer-school-of-law>

12/2018 – Leiden University, Faculty of Law

Sackler Distinguished Lecture Series on Human Rights at Leiden University

Lecture title: "When human rights clash with politics and desire for power: reflections on the current status of liberal democracy."

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2017/01/sackler-distinguished-lecture-series-on-human-rights>

11/2018 – Center for European Studies of Harvard University

August Zaleski Memorial Lecture in Modern Polish History at the Centre for European Studies of Harvard University

Lecture title: "'It is Our Court': Defending the Rule of Law in Poland."

<https://ces.fas.harvard.edu/events/2018/11/zaleski-lecture-2018>

● HONOURS AND AWARDS

09/2020

Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor - Republic of France

04/2019

Rule of Law Award by World Justice Project - World Justice Project

11/2018

Thorolf Rafto Prize - Rafto Foundation for Human Rights

10/2016

Alumni Impact Award - Central European University
