

It is with deepest sorrow that we inform you that on 9 June 2022 the international academic community lost a great Polish civil and comparative lawyer – **Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska** (1927-2022).

Professor Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was the author of publications of fundamental importance for the development of Polish private law, a co-founder of the Department of Civil Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Lodz, and one of the architects and unquestionable leaders of the Lodz school of civil law. She served as the dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration for two terms (1981-1984 and 1993-1996).

After graduating in law from the Jagiellonian University in 1949, she was the organizer of the scientific and didactic life at the newly established University of Lodz (founded in 1946). Dedicated to teaching and sympathetic to students and young academics, she raised several generations of lawyers and promoted many doctors in law.

For many years, she was a practising advocate at the Bar of Lodz (until 1965, when the private practice of academics was forbidden by the communist regime).

After the democratic transformation in Poland, she was elected judge of the Constitutional Tribunal by the Parliament and held this position from 1997 to 2006.

Passionate about comparative law, Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was a titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL) and for many years the coordinator of national reporters preparing Polish reports for the General Congresses of the Academy. Starting in 1998, she was the editor of the Polish Reports published by the University of Lodz every four years for General Congresses in a special series (including the latest issue prepared for the Congress in Asunción, Paraguay to be held in October 2022). She was member of the Société de législation comparée in Paris.

Professor Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was a long-time lecturer (1976-2006) at the International Faculty of Comparative Law (Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg) and a doctor honoris causa of the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg (2002).

In the years 1998-2002, Professor Petrykowska was the General Secretary of the Polish section of the Association Henri Capitant des amis de la culture juridique française.

Biruta Lewaszkiewicz-Petrykowska was a person of great honour and righteousness. During the Second World War, as a young girl, she showed exceptional bravery joining the resistance movement within the structures of the Polish Home Army (AK). Also after the war, under another totalitarian regime that took hold of Poland, she always acted with great courage and in accordance with her convictions. During the martial law imposed in Poland in 1981, when students at the Faculty of Law went on strike protesting against the regime, she saved them from pacification by special forces and then defended them against repressions.

A person of great spirit, great heart and steadfast character who had a huge intellectual impact on the community of lawyers.

On behalf of the academic community of the University of Lodz

Professor Małgorzata Pyziak Szafnicka

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