



NEWSLETTER AEQUITAS (Nr 3)

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SOURCES OF FINANCE FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH JUDGES IUSTITIA

The Association of Judges IUSTITIA, which declares itself to be apolitical and politically independent, in 2019, 2022 and 2023 received a total of EUR 156.958 and PLN 95.000 from the Stefan Batory Foundation, founded in 1988 by George Soros, (PLN 753.958.69 in total at the current exchange rate).

Financial resources from the same source – just like in case of IUSTITIA – were received by, among others:

- **Committee for the Defence of Democracy:** EUR 50,000 in 2022 and EUR 40,000 in 2023 – a total of EUR 90,000,
- **Democracy Action:** EUR 50,000 in 2022 and EUR 40,000 in 2023.

These funds came mainly from the EFTA Financial Mechanism Office Brussels Belgium (Norwegian Financial Mechanism and European Economic Area Financial Mechanism), the Foundation for the Promotion of Civil Society NY USA associated with the Democratic Party and the Open Society Foundation Zug Switzerland founded by George Soros.

The Open Society Foundation is a partner of Campus Polska.

The source: Annual reports – Stefan Batory Foundation.

IS A JUDGE POLITICIAN STILL A JUDGE?

In an ideal world, a judge should be independent and free from political influence, guided only by the law and his own conscience. When a judge is actively involved in politics, doubts arise as to his impartiality.

Members of the Association of Polish Judges IUSTITIA have been trying to convince people in recent years that all judges nominated since 2018 are not independent and are judges associated with the "authorities". Meanwhile, it is the representatives of this association who meet with politicians, participate in political rallies or feast with politicians.

Here are just some examples of such behavior:

<https://dorzeczy.pl/.../sedziowie-i-politycy-wycieklo...>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10154799197972132>

<https://wpolityce.pl/.../575911-zurek-iustitia-i-brygada...>

JUDICIAL TRAINEE SCHOLARSHIP IS EVEN LOWER THAN THE MINIMUM WAGES

This week, the topic of the financial situation was raised, or rather reminded, including the amount of **the scholarship received by trainees of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution**. The current amount of the scholarship is **close to the minimum wage**. Within this amount, trainees shall cover, among other things, the costs of travel and accommodation in Krakow and also finance their basic needs, sometimes also the needs of their families. **Trainees cannot take up additional employment. Appeals from trainees in this matter have not met with sufficient interest from the Ministry of Justice.**

As indicated by the Association of Graduates and Trainees of the National School of Judiciary and Public Prosecution VOTUM, **trainees and their representatives have repeatedly asked the Minister of Justice to establish a scholarship in the amount of 70% of the basic salary of a court registrar and to apply other solutions to improve the living and financial situation of trainees.** They pointed out that an effective and reliably functioning state should not select trainees based on their financial status, and thus eliminate talented graduates of law faculties from the possibility of completing the traineeship and then practicing the profession of a judge or prosecutor.