



**Association of Lawyers**

**PILA**

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# Public Interest Lawyers Association:

associates lawyers whose foremost goal is to achieve **systematic changes** which would help to **make legal instruments** in the Czech republic **more effective** in protecting human rights, public interests and important common values.

PILA's engagement originates in the Anglo-American concept of ***public interest law***, which PILA understands as the participation of lawyers in activities that are in aid of the common good

# Open Professional Discussion

PILA supports open and critical discussion between the lawyers of nongovernmental organizations and other legal professionals. We consider the passing on of practice-based experience gained within the nongovernmental sector to judges, barristers, public prosecutors and law school lecturers to be a very important tool in making the Czech legal system more effective. Direct contacts between NGO lawyers and other legal professionals help to improve the quality of the legal work done within NGO's and such personal contacts also eliminate certain mutual prejudices.



## Projects:

- discussion and educational forums
- workshops and seminars
- conferences

[www.pilaw.cz](http://www.pilaw.cz)

# The Education of Lawyers in the Czech Republic

Law education in the Czech Republic suffers from its negligible stress on the interconnection between law, ethics and other value systems and from its strong emphasis on theory. Students of law schools acquire insufficient practice-based legal skills. There is only a little stress put on using law for human rights and public interests protection in law schools curricula.



## Projects:

- Human Rights School
- Methodical workshop for lecturers of law schools „How to Improve Teaching Law“
- Development of practical teaching forms at Law School of Palacky University in Olomouc

# Spreading Information on Legal Protection of Human Rights and Public Interests

PILA considers it important to spread information among lawyers and the public about the employment of legal instruments in protecting human rights and public interests, as well as about the most serious problems in this area, innovative methods of problem solving, and experience from abroad which can serve as inspiration for the Czech legal context.

## Projects:

- **Via Iuris** online – [www.viaiuris.cz](http://www.viaiuris.cz)
- Information sources database on [www.pilaw.cz](http://www.pilaw.cz)

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# Public Interest Lawyers Association:

To ensure the maximum effectiveness of its activities in achieving the greatest possible effect, PILA upholds **the principle of partnership**. Therefore PILA seeks to cooperate with other organizations, institutions and individuals.

Institutions below represent programme partners of PILA:

## Partnership

- Judge Union of CR
- Czech Bar Association
- Law School of Palacky University Olomouc
- Environmental Legal Service
- League for Human Rights
- C.H.Beck Publishing House
- ASPI Publishing
- Sagit Publishing House

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