

XII annual international scientific-practical conference on constitutional law
on the occasion of the Day of the Constitution

The Role of Independent Oversight Institutions in the Constitutional Framework

The Conference is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Parliamentary
Ombudspersons' Office of the Republic of Lithuania

📍 The Conference Hall of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Building 3
The Conference will be streamed live on the YouTube channel "Atviras Seimas"

PROGRAMME OF THE CONFERENCE

08:30–09:00 **Welcome Coffee**

09:00–09:35 **Opening of the Conference and congratulatory statements**

Moderators: **Prof. Dr. Toma Birmontienė**, Professor at Mykolas Romeris University, and **Dr. Stasys Šedbaras**, Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania

Dr. Juozas Olekas, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Prof. Dr. Inga Žalėnienė, Rector of Mykolas Romeris University

Julius Sabatauskas, Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Dr. Laurynas Šedvydis, Chair of the Committee on Human Rights of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jolita Miliuvienė, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania

09:35–10:15	<p>Introductory part:</p> <p><i>The Guardians of Human Rights: The Constitutional Status and Functional Challenges of Independent Oversight Institutions</i></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Gintaras Goda, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania and Professor of Practice at Vilnius University</p> <p><i>The Pillars of Democracy: The Constitutional Status and Role of Independent Oversight Institutions</i></p> <p>Assist. Prof. Dr. Erika Leonaitė, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the National Human Rights Institution, and Assistant Professor at Vilnius University</p> <p><i>Beyond a Single Role: Opportunities and Hurdles for Multi-Mandate Ombudsman Institutions</i></p>
10:15–10:30	Break
10:30–12:30	<p>Part I:</p> <p><i>Ombudspersons as the Subsidiary Mechanism of the Protection of Human Rights</i></p> <p>Moderators: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jolita Miliuvienė, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania and Associate Professor at Mykolas Romeris University, and Prof. Dr. Haroldas Šinkūnas, Dean of the Faculty of Law of Vilnius University</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Algirdas Taminskas, first Head of the Parliamentary Ombudspersons' Office of the Republic of Lithuania, former Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania, Judge at the Supreme Court of Lithuania, and Professor of Practice at Vilnius University</p> <p><i>The Establishment and Early Years of the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office: Challenges and Achievements</i></p> <p>Erik Nymansson, Chief Parliamentary Ombudsman of Sweden</p> <p><i>The Origins and Nature of the Ombudsman Institution: To Serve the People</i></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Oleksandr Petryshyn, Acting Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine</p> <p><i>The Ombudsman's Right to Address the Constitutional Court and Constitutional Proceedings Initiated by the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights</i></p> <p>Prof. Dr. Skirgailė Žalimienė, President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania and Professor at Vilnius University</p> <p><i>Bureaucracy vs. Humanity: The Erosion of Human Rights</i></p>

Ann-Charlotte Nygård, Representative of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Challenges to the Independence of Oversight Institutions

Assist. Prof. Dr. Wojciech Włoch, Assistant Professor at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Constitutional Legalism as an Ombudsman's Virtue

Q&A

12:30–13:30

Lunch Break

13:30–15:15

Part II:
Specialised Independent Oversight Bodies

Moderators: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Juozas Valčiukas**, Associate Professor at Mykolas Romeris University School of Law, Member of the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, and **Assist. Prof. Dr. Erika Leonaitė**, Parliamentary Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania, Head of the National Human Rights Institution, and Assistant Professor at Vilnius University

Andrii Ovsienko, Representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights

The Diversity of Ombudsman Mandates and Their Role in the Protection of Human Rights During War

Prof. Dr. Toma Birmontienė, Professor at Mykolas Romeris University and former Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Lithuania
Specialised Independent Institutions: A Critical Look at Success, Failure, and Unexplored Avenues

Birutė Sabatauskaitė, Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson of the Republic of Lithuania

When Can We Expect Equal Opportunities for Everyone?

Prof. Dr. Edita Žiobienė, Ombudsperson for Child’s Rights of the Republic of Lithuania and Professor of Practice at Mykolas Romeris University
The Role of the Ombudsman for Children in Contemporary Society

Dainius Radzevičius, Media Ombudsman of the Republic of Lithuania
Media and People

Mindaugas Kukaitis, Chairman of the Council of the Lithuanian Bar
Protecting Human Rights Together: Inter-Institutional Cooperation in Human Rights Defence

Q&A

15:15–15:30

Summary of the Conference and Closing Remarks