

**This year the solemn swearing in ceremony of trainee lawyers of the Warsaw Bar Association was held on 7 January 2020. The ceremony was attended by over 1000 people – including relatives of the new trainee lawyers, as well as invited distinguished domestic and foreign guests. Among them were the Dean of the Paris Bar Association Madame le Bâtonnier Marie-Aimée Peyron and our representative Mr. Ulrich Schellenberg – the former President of the German Bar Association (Deutscher Anwaltverein).**

In their speeches, Polish and foreign guests paid special attention to the community of European values, which constitute the elements of the rule of law.

The Dean of the Paris Bar - Madame le Bâtonnier Marie-Aimée Peyron emphasized in her speech the joint axiology of European advocates, as well as close ties between the Bar Associations in Paris and Warsaw.

*The relations that exist between the Paris and Warsaw Bar Council are an expression of shared values that are not only specific to the Paris or Warsaw Council, but are universal, for the Advocates Bar in its global perspective. These values include humanism, listening to others, defense, commitment and courage, that is so important to the practice of this profession. These values unite us in joint actions, especially when the principles of a democratic state of law are under threat.*

The former President of the German Bar Association - Mr. Ulrich Schellenberg pointed to the importance and the role of the judiciary.

*The judiciary itself may be the weakest among the three powers in democracies, but it is perhaps the most noble of them. It is the judiciary which is the ultimate guardian of justice, the rule of law and all the other fundamental values we are committed to. Let me only mention the protection of the minority from the majority and the idea of a common strong European Union as a symbol of this community of values.*

*We must never forget those values, even if we sit in meeting rooms and talk about complex M&A cases.*

The Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association pointed to the essence of the change that occurs in the lawyer's life after taking the official vow.

*From today on you are expected to meet the highest ethical standards, not only in professional and public life, but also in personal life. From today on you are representatives of the Bar, and thus the justice system, and guardians of human dignity, civil rights and freedoms.*

Congratulations to the Lawyers who took the oath and their loved ones!

**After the ceremony, a working meeting was held of the so called “The Weimar Triangle”, during which a joint statement was signed in defense of the independence of the judiciary in Poland.**