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BESFORT TAHIR RRECAJ

EDUCATION

STUDY MOBILITY: State University of New York (U.S.A.);
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" (Kosovo);
Vienna Diplomatic Academy (Austria);
George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (Germany);
University of Pittsburgh (Kosovo).

University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" (Kosovo)

PhD / Legal Sciences

Field of study: International Law

Dissertation Topic: Politics of Legal Regimes of Nuclear Energy in the Aspect of International Security: The NPT Regime; International Security; Nuclear Terrorism; International Cooperation.

(Thesis defense on 9 December 2013).

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

European Security Seminar-East

(22-27 January 2017)

Vienna Diplomatic Academy

Postgraduate Intensive Program on International and European Relations (July-September 2012)

State University of New York at Buffalo Law School

Legum Magister LL.M.

Field of Study: International Law and Human Rights

Master Thesis: The Right to Self-Determination and Statehood.
(thesis defense in May 2006)

American International Law Association, Mentoring Hope Program (over the year 2006)

The American International Law Association aimed to support the establishment of contacts between members of this Association and University of Prishtina students in a mentor-student relationship, who later might become members of this association.

University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, Kosovo

Juris Doctor Degree (Equivalent; four-year Law program) (2004)

University of Pittsburg in Prishtina, (May 2004 – June 2004)

The University of Pittsburg in Prishtina offered specialized courses for the students of the faculty of law at University of Prishtina in the field of International Business transactions, International Commercial Law and English language courses for lawyers. The intensive courses were held by specialized Professors from the University of Pittsburg, USA. Part of the program was preparation for the Vis moot court competition in international commercial law organized in regularly each year Vienna.

AWARDS & GRANTS RECEIVED

George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies

Seminar participation grant (2017)

Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Research and publication grant (2015).

The Austrian Federal Ministry Foreign Affairs

Scholarship for the postgraduate program on International and European Affairs (2012).

University of Zagreb Center for Advanced Academic Studies, Dubrovnik, Croatia

Scholarship for the program on Regional Security and Cooperation in South East Europe (since 2009).

International Summer School in Croatia by Atlantic Council of Croatia

Scholarship for the summer course on Euro-Atlantic integration (2007 &2008).

State University of New York, U.S.A.

Partial fellowship for master studies (2005-2006).

RESEARCH WORK AND PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS & BOOK CHAPTERS

Books:

- Politics of Legal Regimes of Nuclear Energy in the Aspect of International Security: The NPT Regime, International Security, Nuclear Terrorism and International Cooperation (LIT, Berlin, Munster, Wien, Zurich, London, 2014). The Albanian version is financed for publication by the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and published in 2015.
- Introduction to International Organization Handbook (Kosovo Law Centre, Prishtina, 2011).
- Kosovo's right to self-determination and statehood/E drejta e Kosovës për vetëvendosje dhe shtetësi ("Victory" College, Prishtina, 2006).

Book chapters:

- R2P vs. Sovereignty: Controlling Hard Law with Soft Law, Not a Good Idea?!, in *Hannes Swoboda ed., Military Interventions: Between Prohibition of Force and the Responsibility to Protect* (Vienna International Institute of Peace, LIT, Berlin, Wien, Munster, 2017).
- A Contemporary Interpretation of the Principles of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity and Self-Determination in Kosovo Conundrum in *James Summers (ed.), the Kosovo Precedent: Implications for Statehood, Self-determination and Minority Rights* (BRILL - Martinus Nijhoff Publishers: Leiden and Boston, 2011, pp. 109-142).

JOURNAL & OTHER ARTICLES

- A Relationship in Limbo: Challenges, Dynamics and Opportunities of Kosovo Integration in NATO, *Croatian International Relations Review*, Zagreb, 2017 (*Index: Scopus-Elsevier, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts/Worldwide Political Science Abstracts/Sociological Abstracts/Social Services Abstracts, ProQuest, PAIS etc.*)
- Integration of Kosovo in Euro-Atlantic Structures: Dynamics, Opportunities and Challenges, April 2016, Published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Prishtina. The paper was discussed at the First EUROAK international conference in Prishtina on NATO and SEE: Challenges and Perspectives during 13-14 April 2016.
- The Reminiscence of the Cold War in Europe and the Relations between the West and Russia, 2015, *Security Studies Dialogues*, Skopje (*Index: Index Copernicus International*).
- Nuclear Weapons within the concept of the use of force and the right to self-defense: the shift to threshold and potential implications, "Law", *Journal of University of Prishtina, Faculty of Law*, 2013.

- Kosovo in International Relations after the Declaration of Independence: Admission to UN, NATO and EU, *Croatian International Relations Review*, Zagreb, 2009 (*Index: Scopus-Elsevier, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts/Worldwide Political Science Abstracts/Sociological Abstracts/Social Services Abstracts, ProQuest, PAIS etc.*) & YEARBOOK of Atlantic Council of Croatia, Zagreb, 2008 (*Index: Public Affairs Information Service*).
- Resavanje Konacnog Statusa Kosova: Procesi i Perspektive (Trans. Resolving the Final Status of Kosovo: Processes and Perspectives, *Medunarodne Studije*, Zagreb, 2008 (*Index: Elsevier-Scopus, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts/Worldwide Political Science Abstracts, Sociological Abstracts, Social Services Abstracts*)).
- Establishment of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Kosovo and Immunities and Privileges of Foreign Missions in Kosovo: Legal Analysis, "Victory" Journal of the Institute for international political and economic affairs, 2008
- Towards SEE Stability: Resolving the Final Status of Kosovo, *YEARBOOK of the Atlantic Council of Croatia*, Zagreb, Croatia, 2007 (*Index: Public Affairs Information Services*)

PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- International conference/Summer School, Atlantic Council of Croatia & Vienna International Institute for Peace & NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Euro-Atlantic Integrations and South East Europe, Dubrovnik, Croatia, 24-28 June 2018.
 - Presentation: Kosovo a state: In pursuit of truth
- George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, SEE Regional ONE, Garmisch, Germany, 18-22 June 2018.
- International Conference, University of Paris Nanterre & University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" Kosovo with Respect to International Law, Paris, France, 5-8 June 2018
 - Presentation: International Law as Part of Municipal Law: Kosovo's Monistic Approach.
- Zagreb Forum II, International Scientific Conference on Russia and Euro-Atlantic Integration, 13-15 May 2018
 - Presentation: Integration of Kosovo in Euro-Atlantic Structures: Dynamics, Challenges and Perspective.
- Kosovo Diplomatic Academy, 5th Diplomatic School for Junior Diplomats "Economic Diplomacy, Regional Cooperation and Integration through the Berlin Process", 6-10 May 2018
 - Presentation: International Law, Small States and Economic Development in the Time of Globalization.

- Cyber Law conference organized by Faculty of Law UPHP & Innovation Center Kosovo & SENTRY (Cyber Security Organization), 5 May 2018
 - Presentation: The Need for Legal Certainty and Accountability in Cyber Space: The Development of Cyber Law.
- George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Seminar on European Security Seminar - East "Hybrid Threats and Resilience Building in the Eastern Flank", Garmisch, Germany, 22-28 Janar 2017.
- 93rd NATO Parliamentary Assembly Roth-Rose Seminar in Kosovo, Tetor 2016:
 - Presentation: Prospect of Security Sector Review in Kosovo with Specific View on Kosovo Orientation Toward NATO.
- SEE after NATO Warsaw Summit 2016, George Marshall Center for Security Studies & NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Gusht 2016, Ohrid, Macedonia:
 - Presentation: NATO after the Warsaw Summit and Implication for the Region and Kosovo. Contribution for drafting of policy paper containing recommendation of NATO in formulating its policies towards Western Balkans.
- NATO and EU and Crisis Management Tools & Normalization of Relations between Kosovo and Serbia, July 2016, Sipan, Croatia.
- Integration of Kosovo in Euro-Atlantic Structures: Dynamics, Opportunities and Challenges, International Conference on NATO and SEE: Challenges and Opportunities, April 2016, Prishtina, Kosovo.
- The Reminiscence of the Cold War in Europe and the Relations between the West and Russia, Scientific Conference Organized by the Institute for Security, Defense and Peace Studies on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Institute, 2015, Ohrid, Macedonia.
- Threats of nuclear terrorism in contemporary world, Atlantic Council of Croatia International Conference, 2011, Sipan, Croatia.
- Kosovo and its way to the Euro-Atlantic integrations, Interuniversity Center, 2009, Dubrovnik, Croatia.
- Kosovo in International Relations after the Declaration of Independence, University of Lancaster, 2009, Lancaster, Great Britain.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- **WORKING MOBILITY - FULL TIME, PART-TIME AND PROJECT BASED:**
 - University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", Faculty of Law;

- Constitutional Court of Kosovo;
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo;
 - Ministry of European Integration of Kosovo;
 - Agency for European Integration of Kosovo;
 - American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative;
 - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission in Kosovo;
 - Kosovo Chamber of Advocates;
 - Alliance Francaise Kosovo;
 - American Refugee Committee Mission in Kosovo;
 - Save the Children Kosovo.
- *Over 10 years of experience of teaching with higher education institutions at national and international level.*
 - *Over 5 years of experience in medium and high level management with governmental and non-governmental organizations.*
 - *Legal expert/consultant with different projects involving international and national non-governmental and governmental organizations.*
 - *Active participation in research projects and conferences with national and international character.*

AFILIATION NETWORKS: University of Prishtina Alumni
 State University of New York Alumni
 Vienna Diplomatic Academy Alumni
 George C. Marshal European Center for Security Studies Alumni

TEACHING MOBILITY: University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” (Kosovo);
 Inter-University Center Dubrovnik (Croatia);
 Prishtina International Summer University (Kosovo);
 Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (Kosovo);
 Kosovo Academy of Public Safety (Kosovo);
 Kosovo Diplomatic Academy (Kosovo);
 International Summer School Sipan (Croatia).

Professor Assistant,

University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, 2016-current.

- Public International Law
- Human Rights
- International Organizations
- International Relations Theory (past)
- The Law of Diplomatic and Consular Relations (past)
- International Economic/Business Law (past)

- International Humanitarian Law (past).

Vice Dean for Education/Academic Affairs

Faculty of Law, University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, 2016-current

Main responsibilities: In this position I was in charge of the main portfolio of the Faculty that is taking care of the regular education process including evaluation process in line with approved curriculum and strategic papers of the Faculty and University. Managing the academic development of our faculty was part of my main responsibilities. This position allowed me to become ex office head of the Faculty Study Commission. During the admission process of the academic year 2017-2018 I was president of the Faculty Commission for Admission of Students in the year 2017-2018. Currently I serve as deputy head of the Faculty Advisory Body which links market partners with our Faculty and provides strategic advices for curriculum improvements and design programs in line with market needs.

Major achievements:

- First time 5 year accreditation award for all of our study programs. First such accreditation awarded to any University/college in Kosovo until 2017
- Creation of the Faculty Advisory Body for strategic development and creating link between the Faculty and market needs.
- Student admission process in the year 2017-2018 was fundamentally improved
- Establishment of the Legal Clinic on Refugee Rights in partnership with the UNHCR

Visiting Lecturer,

University of Zagreb, Center for Advanced Academic Studies, 2009-current.

- Regional Security and Cooperation in South East Europe (co-lecturer with lecturer from Croatia, the U.S. and other countries).

Trainer / Expert,

Kosovo Chamber of Advocates-Training Center for Advocates, October 2015-current

- Referral of Application with the European Court of Human Rights: Admissibility Criteria and Application Manifestly Ill-founded (course dedicated for advocates and intern advocates).

President and CEO,

Euro-Atlantic Association of Kosovo (EUROAK), 2016-2017

Main responsibilities: EUROAK is a newly established NGO dealing exclusively with the Euro-Atlantic integration through raise of awareness of the role of NATO, organization of conferences, debates and research activities to facilitate Kosovo institutions, NGO's and Kosovo citizens with the NATO integration process. I, together with other colleagues and enthusiasts of Euro-Atlantic issues have founded EUROAK and established its formal structures. As president and CEO I am head of the current five member board of the EUROAK.

Major achievements:

- Organize the first international conference on Euro-Atlantic integration with participants from the Atlantic Treaty Association as the main NATO think tank and important partner from civil society.
- Production of a policy paper on Kosovo perspective in joining NATO and presenting it to key government decision makers for consideration in policy making.

Lecturer,

Prishtina International Summer University, 2013 & 2014.

- Modern Approaches to Conflict Resolution (2014) – Co-teacher with Rok Zupancic from Slovenia;
- International Commercial Contracts (2013) – Co-teacher with Mark Houghes from the U.S.A..

Assistant Professor / Lecturer,

University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, 2006-2015

Main Responsibilities: Participate in the delivery of Public International Law, International Law and Environment, International Law of Human Rights, Diplomatic and Consular Relations, International Organizations and other related modules within the Law School’s Undergraduate and Graduate Program. My job also included the development of syllabus and course programs in the related courses and advise students on different matters of the curriculum and the course.

Senior Legal Advisor,

Constitutional Court of Kosovo, May 2013 – January 2014

Min Responsibilities: Prepare reports, draft decisions, hearings, legal analysis and other texts regarding cases within the jurisdiction of the Court; Contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the Legal Unit; Perform other work as necessary for consideration and decision by the Court; Monitor and guide junior legal advisors and legal officers regarding tasks assigned by them in individual cases.

Major Achievements

- Engage actively in establishing the practice of the Constitutional Court based on the practice of the European Court of Human Rights. As part of the team, I used my knowledge to advance contemporary constitutional and human rights interpretation in addressing individual and group referrals with the constitutional Court.

Chief Policy Advisor to the Minister European Integration,

Ministry of European Integration of Kosovo, March 2011 – April 2013.

Main Responsibilities: To advise the Minister of EU Integration on broad policy issues regarding integration process and its orientations towards EU. Specifically my job was to coordinate the work the advisory body of the Minister; develop policy paper for the Minister and the Government; negotiate international agreements on EU integration; develop internal legal infrastructure of the Ministry regarding its organizational structure; take part at the highest level of meetings in Brussels

and Prishtina with the representatives of EU and members states; and other duties as required to the nature of my work.

Major Achievements:

- In 2012 I was appointed by the Minister of European Integration as key coordinator for the fulfillment of the so called short-term criteria for opening talks on negotiating the Stabilization and Association Agreement. This meant many talks and meetings with key government sectors such as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Finance and the Ombudsperson. As a result the negotiation of the SAA started in due time with no unnecessary delays.

Chief Policy Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo 2009-2011.

Main Responsibilities: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo was established in 2008 after the Kosovo declaration of independence. At the time of appointment the Ministry needed to establish itself and put in operation its activities. My job was to advise on policy issues regarding establishment and representation of Kosovo as a state in international relations; development of Kosovo foreign policy; establishment of Kosovo diplomatic network; negotiation of international agreements on behalf of the government; organization of the Ministry; participation in high level meetings in Prishtina and abroad.

Major Achievements:

- Under the supervision of the Minister, I was the main coordinator in cooperation with the USAID project for the structuring of the MFA which was a newly established Ministry right after the independence. As a result the Ministry started to operate at normal level and engage on behalf of Kosovo in international relations such as establishment of Kosovo embassy and consulates.
- Prepare Kosovo Reports to be represented at the UN Security Council on the situation in Kosovo and be part of the Kosovo delegation in the Security Council discussing the situation in Kosovo.

Chief Executive Officer,

Agency for European Integration, September 2008-January 2009

Main Responsibilities: The role of the Agency for European Integration was to coordinate all government efforts and processes leading to European integration. As chief executive officer, my job was to make sure that this process is running at best in line with government policies and actions plan for European integration. In specific, the agency was the main coordinator between line ministries but also between the government and the European Commission regarding European integration and reported directly to the Prime Minister. The job involved negotiations, high level meetings and setting objectives regarding relationship between Kosovo and the EU.

Major Achievements:

- Establishment of normal relationship with the European Commission and management of the first Progress Report as an independent state. Organization of the Agency to work properly in new environment with more responsibilities and accountability.

Coordinator / manager of Master Development Program in the field of International Law,
University of Prishtina and WUS Austria, 2008-2010

Main responsibilities: managing and coordination of the master development program through a twinning program between the University of Prishtina and University of Graz and implemented by WUS Austria in Kosovo in designing and establishing a master program in the field of international law within the Faculty of Law at University of Prishtina. In this position, I was the key person in coordinating the work and establishing links between professors from both universities for developing program curriculum and course syllabus. The end result was the established program which is still in function today.

Major Achievements:

- Accreditation of the Master LL.M. Program in International Law within the deadlines of the project.

Legal Education Associate,

American Bar Association Rule of Law in Kosovo, June 2008-September 2008.

Main Responsibilities: The project of the ABA in Kosovo was to support strengthening of the rule of law in a society struggling to overcome transition of the post-war period and new state building. Part of the project was to help the school of law at University of Prishtina in reforming its curricula to the contemporary needs in an open and democratic society. In this project I was involved in the development and implementation of introduction of new courses in law school undergraduate level. These courses were legal clinics in civil and criminal law; legal English and legal methodology.

Major Achievements:

- Introduction of legal clinics in civil and criminal law and also legal writing skill for the students at bachelor level.

Legal Consultant,

Save the Children in Kosovo, June 2007-September 2007

Main Responsibilities: Save the Children is an organization which promotes the rights of children and its protection. In Kosovo, they have established its presence since after the war ended in 1999 in an environment where children's rights were in many cases to a certain extent ignored. In this project I was involved as a consultant for the promotion of legal infrastructure in the area of protecting the rights of children. Part of my job was to analyze the legal infrastructure and give advises on possible improvements in harmony with the international conventions on human rights and those protecting children's rights.

Major Achievements:

- Production of a report on the rights of children in Kosovo. The report was presented to public authorities in Kosovo in order to use it for improving children's rights.

Legal Affairs Instructor,

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, January 2005-August 2005

Main Responsibilities: OSCE Mission in Kosovo was established right after the war in Kosovo to help building democratic institutions under the umbrella of United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Part of this mission was to build the new police service of Kosovo in line with the highest democratic standards. I was positioned at the Department for Police Education and Development since 1999. From 2005, after finishing law school, I was asked to work as legal affairs instructor. Part of my job was to train cadets and graduated police officers of their responsibilities in a democratic society in line with the law of Police; Criminal Law, Law on Criminal Procedure and other legal infrastructure. The main focus was to protect human rights during law enforcement.

Administration Assistant,

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, August 1999-August 2005

Main Responsibilities: OSCE Mission in Kosovo was established right after the war in Kosovo to help building democratic institutions under the umbrella of United Nations Mission in Kosovo. Part of this mission was to build the new police service of Kosovo in line with the highest democratic standards. I was positioned at the Department for Police Education and Development since 1999. In this position I was assigned to help the chief of administration in carrying its day to day duties, managing information flow and management of duty officer list.

Project Assistant,

American Refugee Committee, June 1999-August 1999

Main Responsibilities: American Refugee Committee was established in Kosovo right after the war to help the return of refugees, assessment of damages and rebuild houses. My job was to assist the main engineering officer to do the above mentioned tasks in the south-east part area of Kosovo.

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