

**Seminar on „Judgecraft“ in Riga 19-20 June 2017**  
**- cases for the workshop on „Conduct and ethics“**

**Case 1**

Judge AM is the judge of the first instance court and a member of the presidency of the National Association of Judges. At meetings of the association, he speaks very often of dissatisfaction of many judges, as well of his personal dissatisfaction, who consider that the Ministry of Justice does nothing to solve the problems that heavily burden the work of judges, such as:

- working conditions are below a satisfactory level
- the number of cases which by their nature and the legal weight do not even need to come to the courts is increasing which takes time for judges and prevents high-quality work on more complex cases
- there is no policy for hiring new staff at the courts
- there are generally no necessary reform activities contemplated.

Judge AM proposes that the National Association of Judges should send to the Ministry an official complaint regarding the above mentioned problems, thinking that this would encourage the ministry to certain actions and activities.

Because nothing happens after several meetings of the Association, Judge AM decides to act independently.

He writes a very critical article in the law journal. A journalist of very influential newspaper finds out about the article. He contacts Judge AM and proposes an interview in which the Judge could speak openly about the problems in the judiciary. The interview took place and was published in the newspaper.

**Case 2**

Judge BC is a member of the Lions Club. She is also a judge in a case where one of the parties is a member of the same Club. That person approaches to the Judge and begs her to talk about the legal aspects of the case. The legal situation is such that if he loses the dispute, the company will go bankrupt, he will lose a large personal property mortgaged, and 200 workers will be fired.

On the other side is the creditor who has solid evidence of his legal position. If he loses the court case, he goes bankrupt.

### **Case 3**

Judge DM feels pain in the stomach. He can not concentrate on his work and decides to seek for medical help. He attends a nearby hospital for an examination by a medical specialist. Walking into the waiting room, he sees a crowd of patients waiting their turn for examination, some of them have been waiting since early morning.

That afternoon he has scheduled an important two hour court hearing in which it is necessary to hear several witnesses coming from abroad and which has been postponed several times. So he decides to call a friend, a doctor at the same hospital. The friend comes over and escorts him to the front of the queue in full sight of the crowd of patients who had been waiting long before him.