

FOREWORD

Prof. JUDr. Monika Pauknerová, CSc., DSc. is a leading figure in Czech legal science in the field of private international law and international trade law. She has made a significant contribution to developments in these disciplines in recent decades, not only through her scientific and pedagogical activities at the Faculty of Law at Charles University and the Institute of State and Law at the Czech Academy of Sciences. Professor Pauknerová is moreover an internationally acknowledged expert in her field, as evidenced not only by her work in major international institutions, such as GEDIP or UNIDROIT, but also by the number of contributions by foreign authors in this book. Professor Pauknerová began her scientific and academic career with her dissertation in 1980 titled *Liability of the carrier in the international transport of goods*, followed in 1996 by her habilitation thesis titled *Company in Private International Law*. In 2002, she was appointed a full professor by the then President Václav Havel, and in 2010 she received the scientific degree of *doctor scientiarum*, which is awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences in recognition of a substantial contribution to scientific knowledge by distinguished academics.

International transport and the law applicable to companies are still two of Professor Pauknerová's favourite topics. However, her professional interests cover not only topics relating to business law, but also other areas of private law relations with an international element, including general issues. She is undoubtedly an acknowledged expert in all areas of Private International Law. After the accession of the Czech Republic to the European Union, she published the monograph *Evropské mezinárodní právo soukromé* (European Private International Law), the significance of which extended far beyond that of a common university textbook, as it constituted a major contribution to the perception of the rules of European Private International Law as a part of Czech law. The considerable publishing activity of Professor Pauknerová includes an extensive number of foreign publications.

As a university teacher, Professor Pauknerová became known both for her excellent ability to impart professional knowledge to her students, awakening in them an interest in Private International Law, and for her very kind and firm approach. After all, she is the one who brought all the editors of this book to this beautiful field, for which we are very grateful to her.

Professor Pauknerová has reached a significant jubilee this year – we wish her the very best and are presenting her with this gift of a collection of contributions as an expression of our gratitude for her lifelong work, collegiality and friendship.

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Magdalena Pfeiffer Jan Brodec Petr Bříza Marta Zavadilová