

PRESENTATION THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL AS A GUARANTEE OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE: LITHUANIAN EXPERIENCE

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The Constitutional Court, by extensively developing the constitutional doctrine of the Judicial Council, *inter alia*, in the ruling of 15 April 2022, confirmed the established practice, which still raises some questions, of dismissing judges from office, and vested significant powers to the Judicial Council, as the self-governing body of judges, which are likely to protect judges from possible future populist political pressures in cases of the removal of judges from office.

The Judicial Council takes on a much broader role of protecting the guarantee of the inviolability of judicial office, which brings it closer to the role of a *quasi-judicial* authority, whose decisions can be appealed to the courts. The decisions of the Judicial Council are binding upon the political institutions. However, it is questionable whether the judicial self-governing institution will, in all cases, be able to withstand some possible political pressures.



ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

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