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UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
UNIVERSITAS LABACENSIS



PРАВNA FAKULTETA
FACULTAS IURIDICA

P o l j a n s k i n a s i p 2 , 1 0 0 0 L j u b l j a n a

Letter of Reference

As an Assistant Professor for Legal History at the University of Ljubljana Law Faculty I had the pleasure to meet Professor Fortney at the beginning of the 2000/2001 summer term. We very quickly established a meaningful working and personal relationship. The contacts, which we maintained in the year to come, culminated in Professor's returning to Slovenia for a month in July 2002.

I am convinced that Professor Susan Fortney's knowledge, experience and enthusiasm about her subject, *i.e.* legal ethics, and, in addition, her creative approach to teaching it, enriched the curricula of both institutions, the Texas Tech University School of Law and our home faculty. She is very committed to fostering the awareness of the importance of her subject for the legal profession and for the broader community. This was strongly felt among students and my colleagues during her stay in Ljubljana.

At the University of Ljubljana Law Faculty the legal ethics has never been taught as a separate subject, because its contents were meant to be integrated throughout the curriculum. However, Professor Fortney's Comparative Ethics Class at our Faculty showed that our idealistic approach to the subject left many key questions unanswered – motivating the students for the subject being one of them.

A very telling example of Professor Fortney's ability to establish very productive relationships cross culturally is her very approach to structuring her Comparative Ethics Class, linking together her Texas and Slovene students via internet and e-mail on a weekly basis. She encouraged the students to several projects, *i.e.* exploring the moral responsibility of attorneys. The combination of fieldwork in the form of interviews and of

the informed reflection on the contents learnt by the students of both countries gave the subject a genuine comparative context.

I also had the opportunity to take part in several debates among my colleagues on legal ethics issues, taken from the current Slovene legal reality, which were motivated by Professor Fortney. I was very impressed by her ability to keep her mind open throughout the conversation, listening to diverse arguments and not judging prematurely, and at same time encouraging the others to appreciate different perspectives. By challenging the implicit presumptions of the participants in a debate, she is able to attract the engaged attention and response from the students as well as from her fellow teachers.

At the occasion of a lecture of one of our colleagues (Professor Franz-Stefan Meisel) from the University of Vienna Law Faculty in Ljubljana, Professor Fortney established a contact with him in a debate on one of his thesis. This led to her being invited to Vienna and, in addition, to participate in their Law Review, *Juridicum*. (Fortney, S.: "Is it Educational Malpractice not to Teach Comparative Legal Ethics?", *Juridicum*, Vienna: Verlag Österreich, p.144-147). Professor Fortney has also been invited to write an article for a Slovene Journal for Human Rights, *Dignitas* (Fortney, S.: A Jurisprudential Analysis of Government Intervention and Prenatal Drug Abuse, *Dignitas 10*, 2002)

Judging from the enthusiastic response from her Slovene students and from my colleagues, I can sincerely say that Professor Fortney is an inspiration to her students as well as to her fellow teachers.

Katja Škrubej