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APPEAL ON POINTS OF LAW BY PERMISSION IN CROATIAN LEGISLATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO COURT

Summary: The subject-matter of this paper is the development of appeal on points of law by permission in Croatian legislation, particularly in the light of the 2019 and 2022 Amendments of the Civil Procedure Act. Special attention is devoted to the development of the aforementioned legal remedy in the context of the right of access to court guaranteed by Article 6 § 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights with regard to the permissible restrictions of the said right. Furthermore, the paper deals with certain deficiencies, gaps, and illogicalities that occurred in national case-law, due to the aforesaid Amendments of the legal text. Additionally, fundamental characteristics of the appeal on points of law by permission are elaborated on, with special attention being devoted to the public function of this legal remedy. The paper further addresses the appellate procedure, and the decisions made by the Supreme Court. Lastly, the paper separately deals with the influence of the 2022 Amendment of the Civil Procedure Act on the corelation between appeal on points of law by leave and constitutional complaint, with special attention given to the (variable and somewhat inconsistent) case-law of the Constitutional Court on matters of exhaustion of legal remedies and admissibility of constitutional complaints.

Key words: Appeal on points of law by permission, Civil Procedure Act, Supreme Court, right of access to court, case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

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