



SÚDNA RADA
SLOVENSKEJ
REPUBLIKY

**The speech of the President of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic on the occasion of
farewell to judges emeritus**

Bratislava, November 21, 2024

Dear Mr. President,
distinguished guests,
dear ladies and gentlemen,

I am deliberately addressing you as judges, even though you are now retired. For we judges know that our profession remains in our hearts forever.

I greatly appreciate that you all accepted the invitation to this festive event, which is a moral appreciation of your hard work and a thank you for all the years you have worn the judge's robe. I believe that you will remember this time above all with fondness, a smile on your lips and a sparkle in your eye. After all, anyone who did not form a loving bond with the blindfolded lady could not have performed this job.

I know that each of you has experienced days of judgment that were not exactly flooded with sunshine and you felt that the lady with the scales hesitated too much and did not retreat from the amendment of certain act. Days when, despite all your best efforts, the files did not vanish, but their pile grew. Days when the old saying " what does not kill me, makes me stronger" did not apply" and "what doesn't kill me, doesn't kill me" was quite enough. The nights you spent writing decisions. The nights when you couldn't sleep and you were still mentally browsing the file in your thoughts.

But I'm sure you know from your own life experience that gloomier days are part of every love and fortunately, there is also the optimism of remembrance. After the storm, the sun comes out. Mostly. Many of us who are parents know that the more worry our children add, the stronger the bond we form with them and the more we love them.

Now it is the time for you to devote your full attention to your families and loved ones, without their support the judicial profession cannot be practiced. Without their tolerance, it would not be possible to spend long evenings and many weekends on the files. Do you think they didn't know when you were talking to them that your mind wandered the case files and you were pretending that you listened to what they were saying? They knew it quite accurately. But they understood and tolerated it. Mostly. So my heartfelt thanks go to your loved ones especially.

You are entering a period that gives you room for your hobbies and interests. Space to fulfill your secret desires, but also those that you have been talking about for years but have not had the time. I am personally acquainted with several of you and therefore know that there is no busier person than a retired judge. It takes real logistics and patience to arrange a lunch or coffee with a retired judge. But I enjoy it. It's a sign that you are still active and lively.

Ladies and gentlemen,
we are sorry to say goodbye to you as you leave our family of judges, but at the same time, we are aware that this farewell brings you something new and beautiful and I believe that it also brings something certainly adventurous. Just to wake up in the morning without a thought of whether you missed a deadline must be an adventure. Thank you on behalf of the entire Judicial Council for everything.