



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear Colleagues,

Christ & Jurist e.V. is hosting the

Congress „Freedom“

from April 29th to May 1st 2016

at the Evangelisches Bildungszentrum Hospitalhof,
Büchsenstraße 33, 70174 Stuttgart/Germany

Patron: Dr. Gerhard Maier, regional bishop (retd.)

Lawyers of all occupational groups, from all walks of life and educational backgrounds, students, retirees, and members of related professions, are cordially invited to attend, irrespective of denominational affiliation.

Freedom is a central value of society and a fundamental legal term. Yet there are many different facets of its legal usage: the law is to ensure freedom, harmonize the freedom of one individual with the freedom of another, and bring compensation wherever the freedom of individuals conflicts with the common good. As lawyers, we also know the freedom of the legal practitioner when there is leeway in decision-making, or in the exercise of discretion. And we also deal with the question of how to properly practice our “free profession”. At the same time, commitment to statute and law as well as professional ethical standards limit the available freedom.

On the one hand, the congress will explore the importance of freedom for the legal system in general. On the other hand, it will create space for reflecting on the personal significance of freedom for us as lawyers in different professions and denominations. Here, the possible conflicts in the professional life of lawyers can be brought up, and experiences can be shared. The participants are invited to challenge their perspective on their profession, their daily routine, and even long held convictions. Having dealt with freedom regarding the aspects of law and professional ethics, the topic will also be approached from a theological and philosophical perspective. Freedom is a defining concept of Christianity with a key role in the Bible as well as in church history.

Presentations, workshops, and interaction with members of other legal professions are intended to move us towards a deeper understanding of freedom, both in our workplace as well as in our spirituality, and not least in our society.

During the congress, we will host special offers for law students and junior lawyers.

We would be delighted to welcome you from April 29th to May 1st. Further information on the congress and registration is provided on the following pages or on the internet: www.christ-jurist.de/kongress.

Warm greetings

Board and Preparation Committee for the congress of „Christ & Jurist e.V.“

Program

Friday, April 29, 2016

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| starting from 4:00 p.m. | Registration of the Participants at the Congress Office

Contact persons of the various “Christ und Jurist” regional groups are available for questions. |
| starting from 4:15 p.m. | Guided walks in small groups through the city center of Stuttgart, incl. Stiftskirche and St. Eberhard’s Cathedral |
| 6:00 p.m. | Supper |
| 7:30 p.m. | Inaugural Speech

Dr. Patrick Menges
Attorney-at-law, Chairman of the association “Christ und Jurist”

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Maier
Regional bishop, retd. (Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg)
Patron of the Congress

Key Note speech
„Le rapport entre la vérité et la liberté“ –
The relationship between truth and freedom:
Sharing from personal experience (with translation)

Georgina Dufoix
Former French Minister of Social Affaires |
| starting from 9:30 p.m. | Late Night Café |

Saturday, April 30, 2016

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 8:30 a.m. | Devotional (optional) |
| 9:30 a.m. | „Freedom in the Constitutional State“

Prof. Dr. Fabian Wittreck
Professor for Public Law and Managing Director of the Institute of Public Law and Politics at the University of Münster (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität) |
| 10:30 a.m. | Break |

11:00 a.m.	<p>„Called to freedom – the theological dimension of freedom“</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Eberhard Schockenhoff Priest and Professor for Moral Theology at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität) Vice Chairman of the German Ethics Council</p>
12:15 a.m.	Workshops A – Expound upon the topic of the congress
Starting from 1:15 p.m.	Lunch
2:30 p.m.	<p>„Judicial freedom – bound to the law and yet independent?“</p> <p>Eberhard Stilz President of the Constitutional Tribunal in Baden-Württemberg Former president of the Stuttgart Higher Regional Court</p>
3:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion with Keynote Speakers
4:00 p.m.	Break
4:30 p.m.	Workshops B – Selected professional groups
6:00 p.m.	Evening Mass in St. Eberhard's Cathedral
starting from 7:00 p.m.	Supper
8:15 p.m.	<p>Evening Program – onstage!</p> <p>Carlos Martinez Pantomime Artist with more than 30 years of stage experience</p>
9:30 p.m.	<p>Meeting God</p> <p>Prayer and Worship</p>
parallel	Late Night Café
Sonntag, May 1, 2016	
10:00 a.m.	<p>Worship Service (Stiftskirche)</p> <p>Prelate Ulrich Mack, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Maria Renz, Diocese Rottenburg-Stuttgart</p>
Following	Invitation to Share Experiences
11:45 a.m.	Concluding Panel Discussion on Open Questions and Practical Next Steps (Hospitalhof)
1:00 p.m.	Lunch, afterwards departure

Please register online under www.christ-jurist.de/kongress. Alternatively you can register by letter or by fax (+49 69 173 094 299) using the following form:

Personal Data

First name *: _____
 Last name *: _____
 Title (PhD, Professor...): _____
 Street address *: _____
 City & postal code *: _____
 Country: _____
 Job/Profession: _____
 Company/Organization: _____
 Key area of profession: _____
 Phone/Fax (private): _____
 Phone/Fax (business): _____
 E-mail address*: _____
 Languages*: German English French

* These details are required in order to process your registration.

Services

Included in the conference fee are conference participation as well as all meals (Snack on Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, lunch on Sunday, coffee and cakes)

I prefer vegetarian meals.

Conference fee

Conference fee for one participant

Effective registration until 15-Jan-2016 (Early bird discount):

Standard fee	179,00 €
International guests	139,00 €
Reduced (Students, Apprentices, Job seekers)	99,00 €

Effective registration from 16-Jan-2016 onwards:

Standard fee	209,00 €
International guests	179,00 €
Reduced (Students, Apprentices, Job seekers)	129,00 €

Single-day guests on special request via email to kongress@christ-jurist.de.

Participation should not be limited due to financial reasons. Therefore, in the case of special circumstances, we can offer further reductions and sponsorships on an individual basis. Applicants and sponsors may contact us at kongresspaten@christ-jurist.de.

Bank Details

Bank account holder: Christ und Jurist e.V.
 DKB AG Berlin, Account number 1014112575, Bank code 120 300 00
IBAN: DE03 1203 0000 1014 1125 75, BIC: BYLADEM1001

Payment conditions

Registration is completed upon receipt of payment.

The early bird discount is effective only if registration and payment are received by January 15, 2016. If the participant wishes to cancel the registration before January 15, 2016, the cancellation fee is EUR 25, thereafter 25% and during the last two weeks 75% of the respective fee.

Your registration will be confirmed only by an automatic e-mail.

The conference fee is exempt from VAT in Germany.

Options**Workshops A – About Freedom**

- 1 Freedom in Law – Freedom in the State – Freedom in the Society
- 2 Living in Freedom – Dying in Freedom? Discussing Euthanasia
- 3 Expériences concrètes de liberté lorsque l'on est dans la position de l'accusé (in French)
- 4 Towards Freedom – Free forms in the penal system
- 5 Freedom for the Oppressed: IJM's work for Justice (in English)
- 6 Religious freedom worldwide
- 7 Pastoral care – a practical workshop for Christian lawyers
- 8 Living your faith in the workplace as a Christian lawyer
- 9 Learning freedom – Sharing freedom: How we as a society can cope with the challenges of the refugee crisis.

Workshops B – Freedom in the workplace

- 1 Judiciary
- 2 Advocates, consultants, accountants and law-firm employees
- 3 Enterprises and federations (in-house lawyers)
- 4 Administration and Civil Service
- 5 Freedom in Private Law – Between Private Autonomy and the Obligation to Contract
- 6 „Young Talents“ (law students and junior lawyers)
- 7 Media, Public Relations, Politics
- 8 Living one's Faith: From lawyer's to priest's robe?
- 9 Ways of Achieving Freedom and the Attitude of the Free Man (in English)

Additional information about the individual workshops can be found in appendix I.

Childcare

During the plenary sessions and workshops, childcare is available for children age 3 to 12. If you wish to make use of this offer, please provide the following information for each child separately:

Name of the child: _____

Age of the child: _____

Sex (male/female): _____

Accommodation

You are requested to arrange for your accommodation. To help you in your search, we have reserved a number of rooms for reduced prices in the following hotels (subject to availability):

The [Hotel Wartburg](#) (single room 65,00 €, double room 100,00 € per night – price can increase from 16.03.2016!) is located at Lange Str. 49. The walking distance to the Hospitalhof is approx. 100 m.

The [Hotel Centro](#) (single room 69,00 €, double room 89,00 € per night without breakfast – price can increase from 16.03.2016!) is located at Büchsenstraße 24. The walking distance to the Hospitalhof is approx. 50 m.

The [Motel One](#) (single room 88,50 €, double room 113,00 € per night – price can increase from 30.03.2016!) is located at Lautenschlagerstraße 14. The total walking distance to the Hospitalhof is approx. 850 m. Alternatively, take the S-Bahn (tram with green letter S): the tram stop at the hotel is “Hauptbahnhof” (main station), the stop at the Hospitalhof is “Stadtmitte”. Please use the following form for booking: <http://www.christ-jurist.de/cms/phocadownload/kongress2016/formular%20motel.pdf>.

For all hotel bookings, please use the key word „Christ und Jurist“.

We can also attempt to arrange for **free private accommodation**. Please inquire at uebernachtungsboerse@christ-jurist.de.

Car sharing

I can offer a ride.

I am looking for a ride.

Please insert details below:

**Comments
Suggestions
Contributions
Donations**

Comments, suggestions, offers to contribute in future events, and donations are very welcome. For donations, please feel free to ask for the issuing of a tax receipt. We look forward to meeting you!

I wish to be included in the mailing list to receive regular announcements, invitations, and news from "Christ und Jurist" (mostly in German).

You will receive invitations to national meetings, job offers/searches, mandate inquiries, and other information about Christ & Jurist via Email.

Conference office

At the conference venue, Evangelisches Bildungszentrum Hospitalhof, Büchsenstraße 33, 70174 Stuttgart (for the duration of the congress)

Hosted by

Christ und Jurist e.V. (non-profit, Tax office Frankfurt/Main III)

Executive board:

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Editorial note

The program reflects the present state of affairs and is subject to alterations. Information about the congress is regularly updated on the website www.christ-jurist.de/kongress. Please consult the website for further information. Thank you!

I wish to submit a binding registration to the Christ und Jurist Congress "Freedom" that takes place from April 29th to May 1st, 2016. I confirm that I have carefully read the information above and the terms of participation. The registration comes into operation with receipt of payment to the given bank account. The early bird discount is effective only if registration and payment are received by January 15, 2016.

Place / Date

Signature

Workshops A: About Freedom

1. Freedom in Law – Freedom in the State – Freedom in the Society

Prof. Dr. Fabian Wittreck, Münster

Freedom is one of the central values of our society and one of the fundamental concepts of law. Following the lecture on „Freedom in the Constitutional State”, this workshop will give the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion on the various facets of the concepts of freedom in law, state and society.

2. Living in Freedom – Dying in Freedom? Discussing Euthanasia

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Schockenhoff, Freiburg

What does it mean to die in a humane way? The political and public debate concerning this topic is in full progress. Cases of active euthanasia in Belgium for both children and people suffering from depression caused a stir. In November 2015, the German Parliament passed a new law concerning palliative and hospice care. Which of the positions in the present debate are viable, also from a Christian point of view? The workshop will leave space to discuss ethical, theological, and legal questions regarding euthanasia and palliative care.

3. Expériences concrètes de liberté lorsque l'on est dans la position de l'accusé –

Experiencing freedom when being accused

(French speaking workshop, without translation)

Georgina Dufoix

Georgina Dufoix, ancienne ministre aux affaires sociales et de la Solidarité nationale, mise en cause à l'époque dans l'affaire du sang contaminé, s'est trouvée dans la position de l'accusé dans les médias et face à la justice française. Comment peut-on, face à des critiques personnelles et politiques, vivre et être libre ? Dans cet atelier, Madame Dufoix se penchera sur les aspects de la notion de liberté chrétienne, au regard de son vécu et de sa foi.

As the former French minister of social affairs during the scandal about contaminated units in blood banks, Georgina Dufoix suddenly found herself in the position of the accused, both by the media and the French judiciary. How can one experience freedom in such a situation of personal and political hostility? Based on her own personal history, Ms Dufoix will examine some interesting aspects of the Christian concept of freedom in this workshop.

4. “Towards Freedom” – Free Forms in the Penal System

Tobias Merckle, Seehaus Leonberg

At the Seehaus Leonberg (near Stuttgart) and Seehaus Störmthal (near Leipzig) young inmates are received into families and prepared for a life without crime through school, apprenticeship, sports, community service, and the demonstration of Christian values. Seehaus e.V. also offers a counseling service for victims and the program „Offenders and Victims in Dialogue”, where victims and offenders (not of related cases) meet together in discussion groups.

5. Freedom for the Oppressed: IJM's work for Justice (probably in English)

Dr. Andreas Weiss, Attorney-at-law and Board Chair International Justice Mission Deutschland e.V.

Today, there are an estimated 36 million slaves in the world according to the Global Slavery Index, and 2 million children in the commercial sex trade according to UNICEF. The UN estimates that approximately 4 billion people live outside the protection of law. How can lawyers, prosecutors, and judges help to bring freedom to the oppressed and real change to our world today? This workshop from International Justice Mission (IJM), the world's largest anti-slavery organization, shows the important role of legal professionals and the rule of law.

6. Religious Freedom Worldwide

Dr. Thomas Müller, Open Doors

Freedom is a perennial issue, and currently there is much discussion about it. Yet one freedom is in danger of not being taken note of – religious freedom. Being constitutive for one's personality, it is a freedom that around the globe is being limited most often. In this workshop, we want to explore the meaning of religious freedom and evaluate the current situation.

7. Pastoral Care – a practical workshop for Christian lawyers

Susi & Michael Leitenstorfer

Christian lawyers can be challenged in various ways to help others towards freedom by offering pastoral care: in their profession, in church, or in private settings. Through real life case studies, this workshop will serve to finding helpful ways of dealing with different situations of pastoral care.

8. Living your faith in the workplace: As Christian lawyers in the professional life

Martin Franke, Attorney-at-law and others

Both our Christian faith and our work in the legal professions present us with numerous challenges. How can we successfully combine our faith and our professional life? Christians in various legal professions will testify to how they have experienced God's working in the workplace.

9. Learning freedom – Sharing freedom. How we as a society can cope with the challenges of the refugee crisis

Ulrich Bubeck, Christliches Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands e.V.

When a large number of people migrates, both sides are challenged – the refugees as well as the receiving societies. Not only is the administration and its processes strained, but different views and ideas about culture and civil society clash and cause tension. At the same time, both sides are interested in the success of a joint solution: the refugees desire to build a new life in freedom and security within the western societies, thus offering the possibility to solve the demographically induced problems in the job market and social systems of these societies – if we act with wisdom, a sense for the intercultural dynamics, and being confidently rooted in the fundamental values of our society.

Workshops B: Freedom in the workplace**1–6. Different legal professions**

1. Judiciary
2. Advocates, consultants, accountants and law-firm employees
3. Enterprises and federations (in-house lawyers)
4. Administration and Civil Service
5. „Young Talents“ (law students and junior lawyers)
6. Media, Public Relations, Politics

7. Freedom in Private Law – Between Private Autonomy and the Obligation to Contract

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hanns Prütting, Köln

The workshop endeavors to shed light on the concept of freedom within private law. Discussing pertinent examples of case-law, both the fundamental importance of contractual freedom and its limits will be examined.

8. Living your faith in the workplace – Part 2: From lawyer's to priest's robe?

Pastor Dr. iur. Friedemann Kuttler and others

In this workshop, we will hear from Christian lawyers whose professional life took a particular turn. After having completed their legal education, they took to serving full-time as ministers in the church. In a conversational style, this workshop will offer personal perspectives on profession, calling, and faith.

9. Ways of Achieving Freedom and the Attitude of the Free Man (in English)

Latcho Popov, President of Advocates Europe

In the New Testament, the concept of freedom is often understood as freedom from the slavery of sin. Someone who believes in Jesus is seen as truly free even if persecuted for his faith. In contrast, someone who does not accept that he needs redemption is described as unfree and subordinate to his own egotistic compulsions. In this workshop, relevant passages of the Bible regarding the freedom from sin will be discussed in the context of political systems that did not accept the existence of God, such as Soviet communism.

**Dr. h.c. Frank Otfried July**

Regional Bishop, Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg

Recently, the philosopher Otfried Höffe noted: „Freedom is the greatest possession of human beings, it constitutes their dignity.” This cannot be doubted from a theological, nor from a legal point of view, even within a pluralistic, democratic society, for, according to Christian tradition, the dignity of a human being is given by God.

Freedom is nevertheless not only a constitutive element of being human, resulting in its free will, but also a challenge for a society in which coexistence is a free choice, yet needs to be lived out responsibly. The two venerable humanities – law and theology – approach this challenge of freedom in their own way and with their own respective traditions. Hence it is important to again and again enter into discussion about these individual approaches.

For three days during this year’s congress of „Christ und Jurist“, you are devoting your time to discussing freedom, and therefore a fundamental aspect of Christian existence. In 1520, Martin Luther in the so called „Freiheitsschrift“ (freedom tractate) expounded on how much a Christian is determined by the two poles of servitude and freedom. „A Christian is an independent master over all things and subject to nobody“, and yet „a ministering servant to all, and subject to everyone“. For Luther, Christian freedom belongs to the face-to-face interaction with God and our fellow human beings. Whereas love towards others is the highest commandment for human interaction, the gift of freedom is central in the interaction with God. He is the one who gives dignity and freedom: "It was for freedom that Christ has set us free". (Galatians 5:1).

As law and faith interact, it becomes obvious that both are not about preventing, but enabling freedom. It is a freedom that adequately joins together both autonomy in and responsibility for the world in the context of their relationship with God. Theology deals as much with the limits of freedom of individuals as created beings among equally created beings as it deals with the affirmation that these same individuals were made in God’s image and are therefore to be committed to active responsibility.

Considering the enormous ethical challenges that have surfaced in the last years with regard to the debate about the legal revision of euthanasia, it is hoped that in the future theology and law will increasingly meet as partners in a constructive discourse. I wish all participants at the congress a stimulating and sustained involvement on the topic of freedom, inspiring discussions, and the joyful experience of Christian fellowship.

**Dr. Gebhard Fürst**

Bishop of the diocese Rottenburg-Stuttgart

As bishop of the diocese Rottenburg-Stuttgart I'm sending you my warm regards for this year's congress in Stuttgart!

Following "Justice" and "Truth", the topics of the past congresses, this third congress of „Christ und Jurist" is titled "Freedom". Truth, justice, and freedom – for Anselm of Canterbury, one of the most famous philosophers and theologians of the Early Scholasticism, this trio is a necessary premiss for the knowledge of God. Freedom, justice, and truth are prerequisites for thinking about and imagining God. Anselm's considerations show a special connection to the Gospel of John, in which truth and freedom are expressly tied together: „If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31f.)

According to the Judeo-Christian worldview, freedom is a special expression of the fact that man was made in the image of God. The Apostle Paul had exactly this God-likeness in mind when he wrote in the epistle to the Galatians – considered the „Magna Carta" of Christian freedom among the apostolic letters – „You were called to freedom. The entire law is summed in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13f.). These words strike at the heart of the modern controversy about the term and the exercise of freedom.

Without the awareness of freedom, there is no responsibility, and hence no self-determined action. Freedom is therefore a fundamental value of our society which needs to be protected and preserved. Freedom is a constitutional right. At the beginning of the German Federal Constitution it says: "The freedom of the person is inviolable." (Grundgesetz Art. 2, Sec. 2). To protect, to preserve, and also to tap the full potential of this inviolable freedom is our special duty as people in a society founded on Christian values, on the underlying Christian view of man – acknowledging man as God's creation and as made in the image of God.

I am very glad that the initiative "Christ and Jurist" has chosen the challenging topic of „freedom" for its third congress. For this event I wish you a good congress, fruitful findings, and God's blessing for all organizers and participants!

**Prof. Dr. Gerhard Maier**

Regional bishop (retd.), Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg

Conferences where Christians and Lawyers meet are more than welcome in our current situation. They are a necessity! For what used to belong together at the beginning our European history has been drifting apart in our present day. When the European universities were founded in the 13th century, beginning with Paris and Bologna, theology and legal sciences were connected most closely with each other. Even the main reformers, Luther and Calvin, were both theologians and lawyers at the same time. Therefore it was a rather unfortunate development when especially in Protestantism the Gospel and the law were increasingly seen as opposites.

Today, a different development pushes into the foreground, taking leave from the Christian tradition and only feeling obliged to secular humanism, thus in the end only sanctioning the social consensus. How do Christians and Lawyers deal with this development? The congress in Stuttgart from April 29th to May 1st could make an exciting contribution to this discussion.

**Hartmut Steeb**

General Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance in Germany

We are living in a world that loves freedom, and that is good. Everyone wants to decide for him- or herself on how to live and wants to determine their goals in life. One of the most common words in our time is “myself”, and this is even being used as a synonym for personal freedom. But we should consider that we cannot create ourselves the things that are really crucial in life.

Even though the word „myself“ is booming, and human beings in their hubris even want to decide when their life should end, I am pleading for a sober realism. Nobody among us has taken the most important decisions about life themselves. No one could decide in advance that he or she will come into this world as a human being. No one could decide on when and where, under which circumstances, into which family, and into which social circumstances they were born. We didn't choose our father and mother, nor our siblings. Nobody has put together his or her own genetic makeup. Nobody has imbued themselves with their talents. Therefore the abilities and achievements of a person are only to a little extent because of their own merit. It is essential to debunk the self-adulation of self-determination and self-development and to make it obvious that our “self” is by far not as able as we make it out to be. It is vital to bury the fantastic notion about self-determination that claims said self-determination is necessary for a life worth living. Nobody needs to worry about living too long, for up to now everybody has eventually died. That is dead certain. And if some have the impression that God has forgotten to take them – no worries. Everyone will have their turn. We need not – and must not – help with this!

Since we did not and cannot decide on the key circumstances of our lives by ourselves, it is important not to exaggerate the question of freedom. Our personal life already has a clear framework. Our social life also needs this clear framework. Freedom must not be confused with boundlessness. The individual freedom must continue to end where the exercise of it would limit others in their freedom. For this reason we need clear legal regulations so that a maximum of freedom can be granted, if necessary by restricting others in their freedom.

I am glad that you have chosen the immense topic of freedom for this congress. It is absolutely essential for our society to establish a clear definition of freedom. This is not least a challenge the legal professions need to meet. As you deliberate these issues in my hometown Stuttgart, I wish all of you God's blessing and the courage to discuss fundamental principles.

**Annette Schavan**

Ambassador of Germany to the Holy See

Called to freedom and qualified for responsibility

To be called to freedom is a biblical promise to Christians. If we are asked today what shapes our self-conception as Christians, it is first and foremost our belief in a God who encourages people to freedom and attentively discerns their talents. Therefore, our task as Christians also consists in recognizing and shaping the public sphere as a space of various liberties. Sometimes freedom is limited by the very opportunities it provides. A fundamental attitude of respect enables us to handle freedom appropriately and avoid developments of cultural or social constriction.

Throughout history, freedom has always been provocative; it was and is endangered. According to the book of Acts, the first Christians were called followers of the New Way, and persecuted as such. Until today, people are being oppressed, persecuted, and murdered because of their faith and their desire for religious liberty. In our time, there exists both fear of freedom and confusion of freedom with arbitrariness.

To be called to freedom also means we have to pave the way for freedom again and again. In doing so, we may be encouraged by the words of the Holy Pope John Paul II directed to the Polish trade union Solidarnosc. On the day of his inauguration, he said: "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ. To his saving power open the boundaries of States, economic and political systems!"

For your congress on the significance of freedom for the legal system I wish you inspiring and fruitful encounters and discussions. With best wishes from Rome.

Advisory Board of Christ und Jurist e.V.

Dr. Hubertus Dessloch
Dr. Johannes Friedrich
Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. Lutz Simon (from left)

Freedom draws its legitimacy from responsibility. It is with joy and thankfulness that we experience this wherever freedom proves itself in solidarity, which is urgently needed. Currently we recognize three trends that have the possibility to alter the world we are familiar with: Digitalization without limits, freedom without responsibility, and enormous migration. Today, more than ever, our society is in need of light and orientation that flow from hearts that burn for Christ. Innovative solutions for seemingly unsolvable problems will thus become a reality.

Lawyers are increasingly required to act as mediators within society and as a hinge between society and the state, therefore needing to work in many new areas. As Christian lawyers, we draw from the synthesis of heart and orientational knowledge. We have learned that the liberal state lives by prerequisites which it cannot guarantee itself. This is a sentiment quite unpopular today. But do we want to watch the foundations of freedom being undermined by digitalization and radical powers without intervening? And this in a time when, facing so many people from foreign legal traditions in our country, it is essential to exercise freedom in responsibility right here and now?

As Christian lawyers, we more than ever bear responsibility for maintaining freedom and a sense of responsibility in society. Our home is subject to fateful transformations. What we won't provide, will be lacking. This is the hour of us Christians! Let us confess courageously, and live out our faith! In this way, we can achieve a lot.

With this in mind, we wish the participants of the "Christ und Jurist" Congress 2016 a new sense of the freedom we have been given, and an exercise of it in responsibility.

What is “Christ und Jurist”?

“Christ und Jurist” is an interdenominational network of legal practitioners that brings together about 1000 Christian lawyers and law students who share the intention to live out their faith in their profession. The network was founded in 1997 and since 2011 is supported by a registered association, the trustee of this congress. Members serve in “Christ und Jurist” as volunteers.

On the basis of our Christian faith, we reflect on legal and interdisciplinary issues. This we do in responsibility before God. Hence our conferences always include church services and prayer.

We are intentionally focusing on our common faith and refuse to emphasize the denominational differences in doctrine or practice.

What unites us:

- The Love for Jesus Christ as our resurrected Lord,
- The belief in our salvation through Him,
- The gratefulness for God’s instructions in the Holy Scriptures, which we want to put into practice in our lives
- The trust in God’s guidance through his Holy Spirit.

What is important to us:

- Our professional life is to glorify God, according to the principles of our faith, and meet His ethical standards.
- Faith and profession need to be proved in practice in the service of others.
- We want to establish a network of Christians in legal professions.
- We are supporting each other in sharing experiences, joint search for solutions, and in prayer.

We meet

- For national weekend conferences,
- In regular regional groups,
- For joint projects.

The theme is always the interaction between faith and profession.

Our past conferences focused on (e.g.):

- Law and Justice
- Christian perspectives on criminal defense
- Negotiation instead of litigation
- Mediation
- The influence of value change on the legal system
- Corporate Law – unions of people
- Labour law, profession and calling
- The lawyer as intercessor
- Being a businessman – gaining the lead with values
- Lobbying and legislative procedure
- Dealing with debts, debtors, and guilt
- The trial as culture of debate, orderly dealing, and opportunity for growth
- Christian and Lawyer in Europe
- Islam – Challenge for our legal systems
- Christians and their responsibility for the State
- Truth
- Christian lawyers in a media society

Both the Christian faith and the professional life of lawyers offer challenges in many different aspects. It is easier to search for answers and solutions together than alone. All who are studying or practicing law, or have been practicing a legal profession, are cordially invited to become acquainted with “Christ and Jurist”.