

## Summary

This dissertation, entitled *The implementation of the principle of family welfare in Polish family constitutions* is a doctoral thesis in the field of family law. The main issue stated in this work is a question about the legal structure of Polish family constitutions, together with examining whether they implement – through the mere fact of their existence, as well as the provisions they contain – the principle of protecting family welfare, present in the Polish legal system.

The thesis consists of six chapters. The first one concentrates on specifying the legal definition of family in national, international and supranational (EU) law. The second chapter deals with the principle of family welfare as a fundamental principle in Polish family and custody law. In the third chapter family is presented as a “legal entity” of Polish family constitutions, pointing particularly to doctrine views in this respect, as well as the structure of functioning family constitutions, their legal regime, family members engaged in creating documents of this type as well as authorities and family institutions that were appointed in Polish family constitutions. The fourth chapter of the dissertation includes a relatively detailed description of provisions protecting the family welfare with regard to organizational, personal and property issues, including conclusions from the author's research and analysis, concerning the practical implementation of the legal principle of the protection of family welfare in Polish family constitutions. The results of the analysis indicate clearly that the principle in question is implemented in practical ways in each of the examined documents. This implementation is illustrated very accurately by a phenomenon termed “succession”, which is usually the basis on which family constitutions are founded. The succession of knowledge, both in theory and in practice, aimed at preparing the younger generation to take responsibility for the family and its economic activity; the succession of power – in both institutions, i.e. the family along with the business; and finally the succession of the property of family wealth – each of these stages, from the point of view of family constitutions, is motivated by one particular objective, which is the family welfare. Chapters fifth and sixth indicate the family welfare as a basic value in family business as well as a fundamental component of a family's economic activity. Differences distinctive for family businesses are unique characteristics, which need to be protected, ministered and developed through a family constitution, whereas the possession of such a document is an additional advantage for every economic activity of a family – often with tangible benefits.

The results of the author's research and analysis clearly show, that each of the family constitutions operating in the domestic legal system, implements multifaceted legal principle of the protection of family welfare. Being, from a legal point of view, a binding contract between the members of a nuclear family, it succours not only the process of succession in the family's economic activity and the family itself, but also contributes towards building up the common good, including nationwide prosperity.

The growing interest in this type of documents, that can be observed in our country, gives hope for their dissemination in conjunction with a number of legal changes allowing greater legal efficiency of family constitutions. The variety of content and numerous possibilities offered by family constitutions require, in the author's opinion, further in-depth studies on the phenomenon of their formation and their functioning in the domestic legal system.