

Courts and the media

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Introduction

1./ *Publicity* – detailed information about the events of public interest – secures the control

2./ *Publicity* – personal rights of the people concerned can be injured – keeps losing lawsuits because of the mistakes

COURTS: complex professional language

MEDIA: simplified communication

Courts and the media



Fields of publicity of courts

- 1./ The publicity of the judgments
- 2./ The duties of the spokesperson
- 3./ The publicity of the trials, including the sound and picture recordings
- 4./ The presentation of the tasks, the structure, and the work of the courts to the public



Publicity of judgments

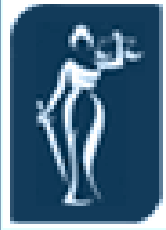
a database containing judgments - published anonymously -
attention to the personal rights

Austria: Every court makes the decision itself about publishing
on the internet

Denmark: case law databases provided by private publishers -
plans for establish a national online case law database

Norway: not anonymous, only available for the media

Portugal: decisions of the appeal courts are published on the
internet - no publication from the district courts



The duties of the spokesperson

avoid reporting merely what the media experience - informs the public about the actions of the court - extremely difficult task - previous experiences in the media - special and detailed regulation

Austria: The Ministry of Justice, regional courts and all district courts have their own spokesperson

Denmark: Press judges – formal network – media training course – communications advisors

Norway: 9 media judges

Portugal: no spokespersons



The publicity of the trials

court proceedings are open to the public - full briefing is viable if the media makes recordings – complicated regulation – permission needs? – fictitious persons at the trial? – two constitutional rights confront each other

Austria: broadcasting of court sessions is not allowed - no general rules about the abuse of cell phone

Denmark: limited provision for the television recording of court cases

Portugal: judge decides from broadcasting - not allow to use mobile phone in courtrooms



The presentation about the courts

public opinion tends to have the misconception - society do not know much about the jurisdictional system – necessary to inform – several ways

Austria: more active in the media: breakfast for reporters – weekly schedule – programs for school

Norway: With Facebook, Twitter share information about news in mediafocused cases - media judge has started his own blog



Thank you for attention!

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