



FBE / OIRP Gdańsk

**V-th International Human Rights Oratory Competition for Young Lawyers
and Law Students**

Gdańsk, Sept. 06-07, 2024 (Poland)

Broadly understood Human Rights are the inalienable right of each of us. Unfortunately, the modern world shows how much we have to fight for them in order to be faithful to fundamental rights.



Does climate change affect human rights? The answer seems obvious. Yes. According to Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized." It is important to remember that human rights are fundamental standards that belong to every human being, resulting from their humanity. Of course, they are the same for everyone, regardless of the color of their skin, religion, political beliefs or gender. Human rights are the bedrock of a democratic civil society. They are individual, inalienable, inherent, universal, fundamental and natural.

There is no doubt that human-induced climate change has a negative impact on the full enjoyment of human rights.

And this fact became the reason for this Competition

On September 06, 2024, I had the honor to welcome, on behalf of the Jury, all Participants and Competitors to the 5th edition of the "FBE International Human Rights Oratory Competition for Young Lawyers and Law Students", a competition in the field of human rights addressed to young lawyers and law students from Europe up to 35 years of age.



On behalf of the Gdańsk Bar Association, the Dean of the Bar, Mrs. Magdalena Witkowska delivered a welcome speech.



Ms Magdalena Witkowska, second from the left

It is obvious how important an issue human rights are in today's world, especially in our times. How much attention each of us must devote to this issue and how much remains to be done.

The Federation of European Bars (FBE) and the Bar Association in Gdańsk (Poland), invited young people to spread these values as part of the Competition. The competition was also an opportunity to practice oratorical skills and meet other students and practitioners.

Many young lawyers and law students responded to the invitation.



After the preliminary eliminations carried out by the Competition Jury, the best from the individual Chambers: Poznań, Cluj, Kraków, Brussels, Katowice, Bilbao, Warsaw, Amsterdam, Westminster & Holborn Law Society and South London Law Society - sent their representatives.

The participants' struggles were assessed by an international jury composed of:

1. **Att. Prof. Sara Chandler**, London
2. **Att. Monique Stengel**, Paris
3. **Att. Magda Krzyżanowska – Mierzewska**, Gdańsk
4. **Att. Fatima Oraibi**, Antwerp
5. **Att. Artur Wierzbicki**, Poznań (Chairman of the Jury), President of the FBE Human Rights Commission

Topic of the first day of the Competition was the same for all participants:

"What is the impact of the legislation and litigation on climate changes"

Each participant's speech had to be an original source of information, they could freely organize their speeches, there was no imposed format. However, the Participant's speech could not exceed 10 minutes.



At the end of the first day of the Competition, the final four were selected: Ms. VICTORINE NAGELS (Brussels Bar), Ms DIANA BIRSAN (the South London Law Society), Mr. RAZVAN MARGINEAN (Cluj Bar) and Ms. LEONIE VAN DER LAAG (Amsterdam Bar).



On the second day, the finalists faced the topic:

**"Artificial Intelligence and New Technologies threaten Human Rights."
YES? or NO ?"**

With a slightly changed formula of presentations (a battle in randomly selected pairs), as a result of the Jury's thorough deliberation and unanimity, the winning four were selected:

1. Ms DIANA BIRSAN (the South London Law Society) – 1st place
2. Ms. LEONIE VAN DER LAAG (Amsterdam Bar) – 2nd place
3. Ms. VICTORINE NAGELS (Brussels Bar) – 3rd place
4. Mr. RAZVAN MARGINEAN (Cluj Bar) – 4th place.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The edition of this permanent European event was an excellent opportunity to practice the oratorical skills of young lawyers and law students and to exchange experiences in this group, as well as to build new relations and friendships..



Ms. DIANA BIRSAN, winning presentation

We would also like to thank Gdańsk Bar and everyone who helped us organize this Competition, kindly to our colleagues and friends, especially Ms. Magdalena Witkowska for inviting us and hosting us.



The next, sixth edition is planned for next year (i.e. 2025) in September.

Artur Wierzbicki, Att. at Law
Chairman of the FBE Human Rights Committee
Chairman of the Jury