



INSTYTUT ALLERHANDA

Allerhand Lecture Series

The Allerhand Institute has the pleasure of inviting you to another seminar entitled the "*Allerhand Lecture Series*" where guest speaker will discuss a current affair that falls under the research interests of the Allerhand Institute - law and economics. After the lecture, there will be a moderated discussion with the speaker.

Prior to each seminar we will disseminate a part of the guest speaker's latest publication and an abstract of the lecture to help you familiarize yourselves with the subject of discussion.

6 December 2011

Prof. Charles Szymanski – *"Spilling Coffee at McDonald's, Class Actions at Wal-Mart, and 'Fire at Will': The American Legal System and its Impact on Business."*

It is our pleasure welcome guest speaker **Prof. Charles Szymanski** – Professor of Law at Vytautas Magnus University (Kaunas, Lithuania) and Adjunct Professor at the Michigan State University College of Law.

We kindly invite you to join us on **6th December 2011** at **17:30** at the Allerhand Institute **Plac Sikorskiego 2/7**, Krakow.

Arkadiusz Radwan, PhD, President of the Allerhand Institute will chair the upcoming seminar, and **Rafał Kos, LL. M.** – Managing Partner at Kubas Kos Gaertner will be the discussant.

Due to the limited space please confirm your participation by e-mail: als@allerhand.pl

Participation in Allerhand Lecture Series is free, however should you be unable to attend an event for which you are registered, you are requested to give 24 hour notice, so that we can notify those on the waiting list.

More information about our guest speaker provided below:



Charles Szymanski

Professor of law and Vice-Dean for International Relations at the Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) in Kaunas, Lithuania. He also serves as an adjunct professor with the Michigan State University College of Law. Professor Szymanski received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1994, where he was awarded the Order of the Coif. He was engaged in the private practice of law in Michigan and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for over 12 years, with a focus on labour law, employee benefits, employment discrimination and alternative dispute resolution, before changing to an academic career in Europe. Notably, Professor Szymanski represented the American Postal Workers Union in a New Jersey case related to the anthrax attacks in the U.S. following September, 2001. His current research areas include international law, disability discrimination law, ADR, and comparative labour law. He is a frequent speaker on a variety of legal topics, having given presentations at conferences in the United States, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Russia.

Abstract

This lecture will focus on three specific aspects of the American legal system: large punitive damage awards in tort cases, the class action procedure where even millions of related claims against one defendant may be consolidated in one case, and the “employment at will” doctrine that provides flexibility to both employers and employees. Each of these aspects has been the subject of heavy criticism. However, collectively they are consistent with a free market economic and regulatory model.

Reading material

We would like to encourage you to familiarize with the following materials, to help you better understand the subject of discussion.

1. [*Foreign Courts Wary of U.S. Punitive Damages* by Adam Liptak](#)
 2. [*Employment at will case*](#)
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Leadership Project

We would like to remind you of two upcoming events that will take place in Allerhand Institute in December. We hope you can join us!

02.12.2011 Małgorzata Steiner - Department of Strategic Analysis in Prime Minister's Office and a great trainer in the field of leadership at United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

09.12.2011 Katarzyna Piskarska, PhD, Director of the European Academy of Diplomacy, fellow of the Fullbright at Harvard University and Associate Scholar in Center for European Policy Analysis in Washington, D.C.

More details available on our website at www.allerhand.pl and also on [Facebook](#).