






PERSONAL INFORMATION



YORDANKA BEKIRSKA

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Highly professional legal background, strong communication skills and very experienced attorney-at-law.

WORK EXPERIENCE

21 Jan 2009–Present

Attorney-at-law / Legal expert

Bekirska & Partners Family Law Office, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Special focus on family law on domestic level and all areas of family law in international and cross border family law matters;
- Litigation before domestic, European, international fora (Bulgarian Institutions, courts and the European Court of Human Rights, CEDAW, etc.);
- Enhancing the family law international and European standards in Bulgaria;
- Conducting trainings for lawyers, judges, prosecutors on European and international family law standards;

3 Feb 2013–Present

Lecturer

Education Lawyers' Center at Supreme Bar Council, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Lecturing on topics related to Family Law in cross-border cases, European standards and international standards;

7 Jan 2014–Present

Chairperson of the Executive Body

BULGARIAN LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Preside the BLHR Foundation in an orderly manner, act as its head and represent it to the third parties, coordinate the ongoing projects, etc;
- Strategic human rights litigation before domestic and international fora (Bulgarian Institutions, courts and the European Court of Human Rights, CEDAW, etc.);
- Advocacy campaigns for the members of vulnerable groups;
- Special focus on anti-discrimination litigation – gender-based discrimination; children's rights; sexual harassment in the workplace; Conducting cases before National Anti-discrimination Commission and the relevant court on discrimination cases, representing individuals of all vulnerable groups;
- Enhancing the human rights international standards in Bulgaria;
- Conducting trainings for lawyers, judges, prosecutors on human rights issues and standards.

27 Jan 2014–30 Mar 2016

Project coordinator

BULGARIAN LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Coordinating the following projects:

"Strengthening the Protection of Human Rights in Bulgaria" (January, 2014 – June, 2015), NGO Program in Bulgaria under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area;

"Strategic litigation for reducing unjustified detention of immigrants and monitoring of related case-law"

(September, 2015 – March, 2016), European Program for Integration and Migration;

19 Sep 2010–Present **Legal professional / Lawyer**

BULGARIAN LAWYERS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- monitoring of the legislation, drafting human rights case-law bulletin – summarizing the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice; writing of legal stands, articles and opinions;
- monitoring and analyzing the situation of human rights in Bulgaria, conducting advocacy campaigns and lobbying for legislative changes, etc.;
- conducting trainings for lawyers, judges, prosecutors on human rights issues and standards; of victims;

1 Dec 2008–Present **Legal expert**

BULGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- conducting strategic litigation before national courts and representation before ECtHR of individuals - especially children, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable groups – protecting the right of life, right to respect for private and family life; prohibition of torture, right of education, right of free expression, etc. ;
- annual monitoring and analysis of human rights in Bulgaria;
- conducting various studies and analysis of the development of the human rights in Bulgaria;

4 Nov 2005–29 Nov 2008 **Lawyer**

BULGARIAN HELSINKI COMMITTEE, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Conducting law-suits including strategic, before national and international institutions to protect the rights of all vulnerable groups;
- Analysis of the Bulgarian case law and its conformity with the international human rights standards;
- Conducting various studies on the situation of human rights in Bulgaria;
- Monitoring of human rights;
- Lobbying for legislative changes and participation in bill drafting working groups;
- Trainer and lecturer on human rights events; National trainer at Anti-Discrimination Seminars for European Commission; Presentations on Anti-Discrimination Law in Bulgaria and Training NGO representatives (the "Anti-Discrimination and Diversity Training Project in Bulgaria");
- Preparation of legal opinions on issues relevant to human rights in Bulgaria;
- Coordinating projects of the organization;

5 Apr 2006–8 Nov 2008 **Junior lawyer**

MENTAL DISABILITY ADVOCACY CENTER, Budapest (Hungary)

Advocacy campaigns, legal consultations of mentally disabled people and children, lodging applications before ECtHR and national courts, case-law researches, monitoring of the conditions at the institutions for people with mental disabilities, etc.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1 Nov 2007–3 Nov 2009 **Legal expert on Women's rights**

International Women's Human Rights Training Institute, Sofia (Bulgaria)

- Women's rights:
 - Domestic violence,
 - Gender-based discrimination,
 - Reproductive rights,

- Trafficking of human beings;
 - Conducting cases before European Court of Human Rights;
 - Conducting cases before UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

1 Oct 2004–30 Apr 2005 **Master in Sociology of Law (Gender studies and Human rights)** Master degree (LL.M.)

International Institute for Sociology of Law, Onati (Spain)

Master thesis (empirical research): "Sexual harassment in the workplace in Bulgaria after the implementation of the Anti-discrimination Act"

1 Oct 1999–30 Oct 2004 **Master of Law** Master of Law

University of Plovdiv "Paisii Hilendarski", Faculty of Law,, Plovdiv (Bulgaria)

Bulgarian civil, criminal and administrative law;
International and European Union Law

15 Sep 1994–24 May 1999 **High school**
National College For Classical Languages And Cultures, Sofia (Bulgaria)
Major: Classical Languages, English;
Main Subjects: Latin, Hellenic, Old-Bulgarian, Bulgarian language and literature, Foreign literature, Culture, Bulgarian history, World history, Anthropology;

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Bulgarian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C1
High school diploma					

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills Excellent communication skills gained through my experience as lawyer, legal expert and lecturer; good team player;

Organisational / managerial skills As a managing partner at "Bekirska and Partners" Family Law Office I have responsibility to run the office and to provide professional services to our clients in a friendly manner. I am developing my skills on a daily basis;

As a project coordinator I have developed my organizational skills and knowledge to administer, analyze and coordinate the activities of the team and work in conformity with the requirements of the donors;

I am currently responsible for the ongoing activities of The Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights Foundation (since 2014);

Job-related skills

- ability to work in a tense atmosphere;

- analytical thinking;
- skills in lobbying for legislative changes and advocacy;
- my daily struggle is to promote international standards for the protection of human rights at the national level with special focus on family law;
- excellent professionalism;

Digital competence

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Independent user	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user	Independent user

Digital competences - Self-assessment grid