



english 
serbian 

History

Judges Association of Serbia was founded on April 7, 1997 in Belgrade

Judges' Association of Serbia is a professional, non government, non profit organization in favor of the establishment of an independent, impartial, professional, efficient and responsible judiciary, through affirmation of law as a profession, advancement of regulations, strengthening of respect, professional ethics and the dignity of judges, with a goal of building a legal state and the rule of law.

JAS was established in 1997, as one of the sections of the Lawyers' Association of Serbia. In 24th February 1997, twenty-four judges made the Initiative Board for Establishment of the Judges Association of Serbia. They prepared a proposal of the association's programmatic principles and rules, and created a Committee to work on the preparation of a founding session. Final founding session was attended by 600 judges.

The most important reason for a certain number of judges to found JAS was to make an institutional form for their attempts to save neutral role of judiciary and judges in the political events related to the elections for local authorities in Serbia in 1996. Founders of JAS wanted to express their negative attitude toward the inappropriate and unprofessional behavior of some of their colleagues, judges and court presidents, who completely obeyed the will of the leading political parties, even breaking the law at the same time. That was the hardest period for judiciary, when its independence was lost.

It culminated when 30 respectable judges were dismissed without any legal reason. There were 13 were members of the JAS' Managing Board among them. At that time, request of JAS for registering was rejected by all responsible authorities, so JAS stopped its work from the reasons mentioned above.

After the democratic changes in 2001, JAS continued its work. Finally, it was registered in 13th July 2001. JAS today has 25 branches, while the Head Office is in Belgrade. It works through 10 Commissions in different fields of law. Number of members increased from starting 600 to current number of more than 1800. That is more than 75% of the total number of judges in Serbia.

JAS organized many seminars, round tables and public debates. JAS publishes the bulletin, 4 times per year, and the Monthly Newsletter.