

Students need a safe space where they can express their views

For educators in the world of law, it is becoming more and more challenging to cope with the way in which the upcoming generation is mirroring them, agree Lenka Gomez Tomčalová, Partner at Z/C/H Legal, Barbora Urbancová, Partner and Head of the Prague office of PETERKA & PARTNERS, and Kateřina Slavíková, Senior Associate at Havel & Partners, in a discussion held by the #PRVNICH100LET project. Communication with the next generation of lawyers was the main topic of their discussion.



All three women are successful lawyers who are aware not only of their own personal values, but also of the values they need to uphold within their firms. "It has always been important to me that I could grow. And that I could start my career in such a way that I could be helpful to our clients," Lenka says, adding that she also needs an open environment. Barbora Urbancová says she needs to be able to rely on her colleagues for her own well-being. And for Kateřina Slavíková, the values that are key to her work are threefold – interesting content, a diverse team, and freedom.

One of the key values in offices, according to them, is also transparency and the ability to speak openly about one's opinions. From partners to students. "A diverse team should include people of different ages, and different opinions. And each of us must not be afraid to speak our minds," says Kateřina. Lenka agrees, and explains to the students in her office that no one works as a separate individual. Everyone contributes to ensuring that the client gets the outcome it wants.

"In terms of expressing an opinion, I want students to be given the space to have their say. With the upcoming generation, it is much more of a challenge for us as educators to come to terms with the way this generation holds a mirror up to us," Lenka says, adding that students are getting a feel for

how they can express their opinions while engaging in debates. "It can also be a big challenge for them to hear that they don't think that way. Everything has its limits," adds Lenka, who also works as a registered mediator and incorporates her skills into feedback sessions.

Barbora has the same perspective. "We need to give the emerging generation a voice and influence as soon as possible. Without this, colleagues cannot be satisfied," she says. According to Kateřina, Generation Z is action-oriented, forms its opinions quickly and also demands more flexibility. "The key is working on oneself, dealing with stress, and finding things to relieve it. It's important not to get overwhelmed in the early years," says Katerina of the upcoming generation.

Is it difficult to balance studying at university and gaining work experience? What can students be stressed about? What makes a good or bad mentor? What are the ideal conditions for parents returning to the legal field? These are the issues that Lenka Gomez Tomčalová, Barbora Urbancová, and Kateřina Slavíková discuss in the second live stream of *Právničky LIVE!*, which you can watch [here](#).