

Abstract

The thesis titled "Plea agreement" addresses the institute of plea bargaining, which represents one of the alternative methods for resolving criminal proceedings, legislatively created by Czech lawmakers relatively recently. This method consists of an exchange where the accused admits to committing the act for which they are prosecuted in return for a lighter sentence than they would face in a standard trial.

The aim of the first part of the thesis is to summarize the historical and legal development of this institute, its functions, and objectives, and subsequently to analyze how this institute operates and how it is legally regulated in current Czech legislation. Attention is given to the various steps associated with plea bargaining, from the agreement between the prosecutor and the accused to court approval and the possible use of appellate remedies. Furthermore, the rights of the victim within the framework of plea bargaining and the potential for further strengthening these rights are examined. A significant part of the thesis is dedicated to exploring the alignment of this institute with the fundamental principles of criminal law, aiming to identify potential risks of inconsistencies that may require adjustments. The interpretative issues related to this institute and recent case law from Czech courts that have substantively addressed plea bargaining are also summarized.

The second part of the thesis focuses on comparing the Czech legal framework for plea bargaining with foreign regulations. Specifically, it compares the Czech approach with those in Slovakia, Germany, and the United States. Based on this comparison and other findings made in the first part of the thesis, possible adjustments and improvements to the plea bargaining institute in the Czech legal environment are summarized and proposed in the conclusion. These include both *de lege ferenda* proposals and additional options for modifying the plea bargaining institute that the author considers worthy of consideration.