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CURRICULUM VITAE

I am providing my Curriculum Vitae in support of my request for Habilitation as Senior Lecturer at the University of Maribor, Faculty of Law.

1. Education

I graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in December 1976 with a B.A. Degree, with Distinction. My primary area of study was Political Science. I then attended Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, MI, where I graduated with a Juris Doctor Degree, cum laude, in December 1980. While at Wayne State, I was awarded the Silver Key Certificate for having demonstrated superior ability in the study of law during the 1979-1980 academic year. I also served on the Wayne Law Review, first as a Junior Associate Editor during the 1978-1979 academic year and then as a Senior Associate Editor during the 1979-1980 academic year.

2. Bar Admissions

In 1981, I successfully passed the Michigan state bar examination. Having decided to relocate to Washington, I sat for and passed the Washington state bar examination in the summer 1984. I was then a member of both the Michigan and Washington state bar associations. For many years, I was a member of the American Bar Association. Over the course of my legal career I also belonged to several local bar associations, such as the Seattle-King County bar association and the Kitsap County bar association. I also was admitted to various federal courts in both Michigan and Washington, as well as to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

3. Work Experience

I worked my way through both High School and undergraduate school by working part-time in a local supermarket. During my second and third years of law school at Wayne State, I worked full-time as law clerk to the Hon. Hilda Gage, at the Oakland County, Michigan, Circuit Court (trial court of first instance) in Pontiac, MI. I worked in Judge Gage's court room assisting with trial and motion activities, and performed various research and writing projects in support of Judge Gage. While working for her I attended law school in the evenings. Upon graduation from Wayne State (1981), I held a one-year internship with Michigan Court of Appeals (court of second instance) Judge Dorothy Comstock Riley. I performed legal research for Judge Riley and assisted in writing her opinions. While performing my

internship I passed the Michigan state bar examination. After my internship was completed, I went to work as an associate attorney for the Southfield, MI law firm of Bushnell, Gage, Doctoroff and Reizen. I worked on general litigation matters, attended court for motions, assisted with trials, and performed related work. After passing the Washington state bar examination, I went to work as an associate attorney for the Seattle, WA law firm of Keller Rohrback, where I performed general litigation work. I became a partner in the early 1990's and was the litigating attorney in a satellite office in Bremerton, Kitsap County, WA. In 1997 I left Keller Rohrback and started my own law firm, Heller Wiegenstein PLLC, which primarily performed insurance defense litigation work. My partner John Wiegenstein and I operated that firm, with the help of some associate attorneys and small staff, for 20 years. I retired at the end of 2016, but the firm still exists and is nearing the end of its 23rd year. I was Washington State counsel for John Crane, one of the defendants in mass asbestos litigation, for 30 years. I also represented many insurance companies including State Farm and the Grange. For many years I also was a member of the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers.

4. Other Activities

While in Michigan, after graduating from the University of Michigan, I was actively involved in the University of Michigan, Dearborn, Alumni Club. While working at Keller Rohrback, I served on the King County Professionalism Committee. The Committee was charged with developing local rules of attorney professional conduct. While at Heller Wiegenstein PLLC, I was an arbitrator under the Washington state Mandatory Arbitration program. I was active in my local church, St. Thomas More, serving on various committees including the safety committee. I also was actively involved in the Knights of Columbus, and among other things, volunteered at the Seattle men's shelter by serving meals. The mission of the Knights was to support both local priests and the larger community.

5. Legal Publications

- Casenote: Criminal Procedure –Wire Interception –The Requirement of Minimization Under Section 2518(5) of Title III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Street Act of 1968. Volume 26, Number 1, pp. 239-262, WAYNE LAW REVIEW, November 1979.
- Obligatory Insurance as a Form of Social Engineering: A Comparison Paper Between the United States, Italy, Aruba and Poland. Thomas Heller, Silvia Rigoldi, Jessica Burgos & Mateusz Sasinowski. Volume 11, Number 1, pp. 57-94, LEXONOMICA, Journal of Law and Economics. University of Maribor Press, June 2019
- An Overview of Medical Malpractice Law in the United States Including Legislative and the Health Care Industry's Responses to Increased Claims. Vol. 10, Number 2, pp. 139-163, MEDICINE, LAW & SOCIETY. University of Maribor Press. October 2017
- An Overview of the Law of Attorney Fees in the United States: The American Rule is not so Simple After All. Volume 10, No. 1, pp. 45-66. LEXONOMICA, Journal of Law and Economics. University of Maribor Press. June 2018

6. Reasoning for Request for Habilitation

I am fortunate that many people gave of their time to help me both in my personal and professional endeavors. Otherwise, I would not have become a member of the great legal profession nor would I be so fortunate as to be retired and living in beautiful Slovenia. I am also exceedingly grateful that the Dean of the Maribor Law Faculty, Dr. Vesna Rijavec, along with the Professors and staff at the Faculty, have warmly welcomed me and integrated me into both the Faculty and larger legal community.

There is a strong need at the Law Faculty for an international presence, and for native English speakers, especially one such as myself with a strong legal background. I have been so fortunate to be able to lend some assistance by, for example, assisting with writing and editing papers; assisting students on the moot court team; giving supervised lectures to the Erasmus students; giving other occasional lectures; and, by otherwise trying to lend a helping hand when asked to. I also have spearheaded a recently-signed Cooperation Agreement between Wayne State University and Maribor University, which will enable joint, bilateral cooperation between the University's as well as student exchanges. This will hopefully enhance the Faculty's international presence, which is a primary goal of Dean Rijavec and the Faculty Senate.

I have been engaged at the Law Faculty in equal measures because I strongly believe it is my ongoing obligation to do so as a member of the legal profession and also because I want to give back to others, if only in a small way, as so many others in earlier years gave to me. Further, it is a labor of love, to use an old adage, to work with fellow colleagues in the law – both Professors and young students who are just finding their ways in the legal world. I still recall how important it was to have mentors, and so I try hard to be a positive mentor to the law students. I do think I have a lot to offer them; just as they still offer me a lot.

Thank you for your consideration of my application. Please feel free to contact either Dean Rijavec or me if you have any questions.

Thomas A. Heller

Maribor – December 2019

