

EVALUATION REVIEW

by

Prof. Dr. Tencho Kolev, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," Faculty of Law,
Member of the Scientific Jury, appointed by the Rector of Plovdiv University "Paisii
Hilendarski"

on the scientific works and contributions of Assoc. Dr. Dimitar Hanev

1. Subject of Review

The subject of this review is the published monographic work: *Legal Justification. Concept and Theory*. Plovdiv, PU "Paisii Hilendarski."

The candidate has submitted a list of publications, along with information, documents, and materials confirming his significant interest in the Theory and Philosophy of Law.

2. Brief Biographical Data

Dimitar Valkov Hanev is an Assistant Professor and Doctor of Law at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski," Faculty of Law. He has previously worked as a legal adviser at the Social Assistance Agency in the town of Parvomay. He is fluent in English and Russian and possesses strong computer skills and knowledge.

3. Relevance of the Topic and Appropriateness of Objectives and Tasks

The habilitation work *Legal Justification. Concept and Theory*, submitted by Dimitar Hanev, fully meets the requirements of relevance and appropriateness in addressing the set objectives.

The issue at hand is particularly relevant given the various perspectives that exist within legal theory, especially in the theory of adjudication.

4. Understanding of the Issues

In his work, the author addresses many of these issues. He systematically focuses on the necessity of terminological distinctions, which aid in the formulation of various definitions, examined in Part One, titled *The Concept of Justification in Law*.

In the second part of his work, Dimitar Hanev integrates legal justification into legal theory. In this context, he provides a philosophical-historical review of fundamental approaches in General Legal Theory.

Notably, the author explores the connections and specificities of legal justification in the context of comparing the theories of Jürgen Habermas and Robert Alexy. Undoubtedly, this analysis enriches Hanev's own perspective on the theory of legal justification.

5. Research Methodology

The methodology follows the author's understanding of the principles of judicial jurisdiction, particularly judicial independence, impartiality, and the free formation of the judge's inner conviction. Additionally, it considers the principle that judicial decisions should be based on truth, requiring them to be well-reasoned.

As part of the research methodology, the author also highlights the role of legal syllogism, chosen by the judge through the distinction between truth and falsehood.

6. Characteristics and Evaluation of the Work

The reviewed work is preceded by an *Introduction*, in which the author presents his personal reasoning for writing it. Of note is his stance on the place of legal justification within General Legal Theory. Part One contains various terminological distinctions and conceptual definitions, fully aligning with the applied methodology, which is detailed in a separate section. Part Two focuses on a more specific examination of legal justification within the context of legal theory.

I am particularly impressed by the concluding section of the work, titled *Appendix*, where legal justification is analyzed as a function of the judiciary's activity.

7. Contributions and Significance of the Work for Science and Practice

The choice of topic and its development in Dimitar Hanev's work contribute both to legal theory and judicial practice. The connection between justification and concepts such as logic, argumentation, and interpretation aligns with my own academic interests. I am proud to find in the author a successor to the research presented in my book *Truth, Justification, and Justice*, published in 2011. In this regard, I identify several achievements in the field of justification theory.

In summary, I conclude that the work is both relevant and significant, and fully sufficient for the academic position of *Associate Professor*. Additionally, Hanev's publications further support this argument.

Based on the findings in this review, I recommend that the Honorable Scientific Jury support the appointment of Dr. Dimitar Hanev to the position of *Associate Professor* at Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski."

Sofia, March 26, 2025

Prof. Dr. Tencho Kolev