

## SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

### entitled “The right to privacy”

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This dissertation is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of the right to privacy. The starting point of my dissertation was the assumption that people have always felt the need for privacy. Initially, privacy was strongly connected with the feeling of shame, which in turn was determined by religious beliefs. As societies developed, the issues of understanding privacy have evolved due to the increasing number of intruders, as well as the emergence of new technologies enabling attacks on privacy in a form unknown before and the dissemination of information about an individual on a unprecedented scale. The idea of the formation of the right to privacy began with the publication of the article by S. Warren and L. Brandeis *The Right to Privacy* where the concept of privacy as a right to be left alone was presented.

Since 1890, when the said article was published, the problem of the right to privacy and privacy itself has been the subject of interest not only to lawyers, but also to representatives of other scientific disciplines, e.g. philosophers, sociologists. The protection of the private sphere of life has been guaranteed by many acts of the national law and acts of international law. The issues related to ensuring an adequate level of protection for an individual still give rise to many dilemmas nowadays. This results from the fact that the concept of the right to privacy is a very broad one, and its extent coincides with the extent of other rights and freedoms of an individual. Moreover, this right is not an absolute right and is balanced with other values, such as public security, rights and freedoms of other entities. No universal definition of the right to privacy has been formulated, either.

The purpose of this doctoral dissertation is to present the problems of the right to privacy in a historical context, and the contribution of the jurisprudence, in particular of the European and international courts, to the formation of this right. The dissertation also presents the right to privacy in correlation with the security of an individual.

Several research methods were used during the research, in particular: the historical method (especially in Chapters I and II) as well as the historical-and-legal method (in Chapters III - VII), the theoretical and legal method (mostly in Chapter II), the comparative legal method (in Chapters III - VII), the dogmatic-legal method (in Chapters II - VII).

The structure of the dissertation has been determined by the undertaken research problem and the adopted methodological assumptions. The dissertation comprises an introduction, seven chapters and a conclusion. Chapter I presents: the genesis of the right to privacy, the history of this right and its evolution since ancient times. Chapter II discusses the concepts of the right to privacy. An attempt has also been made to present the scope of the concept of privacy. Chapter III deals with privacy in the universal system of human rights protection. Chapter IV discusses the right to privacy in the European system of human rights protection. Chapter V, in turn, refers to the right to privacy in non-European systems of human rights protection. Chapter VI presents issues related to the protection of privacy in the Polish law. The last chapter is devoted to the correlation of the right to privacy with the security of an individual.