



CROATIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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Luka Misetic and Tomislav Kuzmanovic Receive the Croatian American Bar Association's 2012 Vinodol Code Award



The Croatian American Bar Association is pleased to announce that **Luka S. Misetic** and **Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic** are the joint recipients of the 2012 Vinodol Code Award in recognition of their distinguished legal careers and outstanding contributions to the Croatian-American community.

Mr. Misetic and Mr. Kuzmanovic represented General Ante Gotovina and General Mladen Markač before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia's (ICTY's) Appeals Chamber, where, on November 16, 2012, the Appeals Chamber reversed Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač's convictions for crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war and entered verdicts of acquittal.

The actions for which Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač were charged occurred during the 1995 "Operation Storm" military offensive in Croatia. The Trial Chamber found Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač guilty of committing crimes against humanity and violations of the laws or customs of war from July to September 1995 by participating in a joint criminal enterprise to permanently and forcibly remove the Serb civilian population from Croatia's Krajina region. Gen. Gotovina was sentenced to 24 years of imprisonment, and Gen. Markač was sentenced to 18 years of imprisonment.

The Appeals Chamber found that ICTY's Trial Chamber I erred in concluding that: (1) all artillery impact sites located more than 200 meters from a target deemed legitimate served as evidence of unlawful attacks against towns in the Krajina region; and (2) artillery attacks ordered

by Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač were unlawful. The Appeals Chamber also declined to enter convictions against Gen. Gotovina and Gen. Markač on the basis of alternate modes of liability.

Luka Misetic represents clients in state, federal and international litigation, including commercial, civil, white-collar criminal and international criminal cases. In business litigation, Mr. Misetic represents corporations and partnerships, as well as their directors, officers and partners in breach of contract and fiduciary duty claims, regulatory matters, trade secrets claims, fraud and negligence suits, and a variety of other claims.

Tomislav Kuzmanovic practices in the area of litigation, with an emphasis on commercial litigation, construction liability, premises liability, product liability, transportation law, toxic torts, complex litigation, and international and human rights law.

The Croatian American Bar Association is honored to present Luka Misetic and Tomislav Kuzmanovic with the 2012 Vinodol Code Award. We wish Mr. Misetic and Mr. Kuzmanovic continued success in their respective careers.



About the Croatian American Bar Association (CABA)

The CABA is an association of Croatian-American lawyers and Croatian lawyers from around the world. For more information, please visit www.CroatianAmericanBar.com. The CABA established the Vinodol Code Award to recognize persons of Croatian descent who have excelled in the practice of law and/or made an outstanding contribution to the law or legal scholarship. The award is named after the Vinodol Code (Vinodolski Zakon) written in 1288—the oldest legal text in Croatian and written in Glagolitic letters.