



## CROATIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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May 10, 2013

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



From left to right: Josko Paro, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to the United States of America, Luka Misetic, 2012 Vinodol Code Award Honoree, Mauro Viskovic, President of Croatian American Bar Association, Sanja Kutnjak Ivkovich, Ph.D., S.J.D., Chair of Vinodol Code Award Nominations Committee, Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic, 2012 Vinodol Code Award Honoree, Jelena Grcic Polic, Ph.D., Consul General of Croatia.



At an event hosted by the Chicago Consul General of the Republic of Croatia on May 10, 2013, the Croatian American Bar Association presented the 2012 Vinodol Code Award to each of **Luka S. Misetic** and **Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic**, as the joint recipients, 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 S. 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. His practice also includes representation of individuals accused of violations of international humanitarian law. Mr. Misetic received international attention as lead defense counsel for a Bosnian Croat Anto Furundzija before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (The ICTY). Mr. Misetic was the youngest attorney ever to defend a case before an international criminal tribunal. The case was featured in an article appearing in the New York Times. Mr. Misetic also successfully represented General Ante Gotovina, indicted by the ICTY for leading a military operation in 1995 known as Operation Storm. Mr. Misetic is a lifelong member of Chicago's Croatian community; as a child, he attended a Croatian school "Kardinal Stepinac" at St. Jerome's Church, was a member of the folklore group "Zrinski Frankopan" for fifteen years, and was the president of the Croatian Youth organization in Chicago for four years. He was the Executive Director of the Croatian American Association in Washington, D.C. in 1992-93, when he lobbied Congress and the White House for U.S. assistance to Croatia during the Homeland War. Together with Tomislav Kuzmanovic, he travelled to Croatia to act as an interpreter for a U.S. delegation monitoring the first democratic elections in Croatia in 1990.

Tomislav Z. Kuzmanovic is a trial lawyer who handles a wide variety of business and commercial litigation. He handles a wide variety of business and commercial litigation. He has tried to verdict cases in state, federal and international fora. He has handled cases involving complex litigation, employment/noncompete litigation, transportation law, toxic torts, construction, hospitality, security product and premises liability, international and human rights law and foreign/domestic investigations. He is a Judicial Court Commissioner for Milwaukee County. In 1991, he received the Milwaukee Young Lawyers Association Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Community. In 1992, he was recognized by the City Council of the Croatian City of Slavonski Brod for his contributions to its defense. He was awarded the Order of the Croatian "Pleter" by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in 1996. From 1994 to 2002, he was a board member and Vice President of the Croatian American Association. From 2007 through 2012, he successfully defended Croatian General Mladen Markac before the ICTY.

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](http://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.