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Dissertation abstract entitled  
**Proof of *prima facie* in Polish civil trial**

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The subject of the dissertation is a comprehensive analysis of the issue of proof prima facie on the grounds of Polish civil procedural law. The aim of the dissertation is to take a stance on the concepts presented in the doctrine and jurisprudence and to present one's own view on the legal nature of the title issue. The dissertation attempts to clarify the relationship between prima facie evidence and the principle of free assessment of evidence and the burden of proof. The study also includes a consideration of the relationship and differences between prima facie evidence and other mechanisms of the law of evidence with which it is or could potentially be equated. The previous doctrinal arguments are expanded to include the questions of contestability and subsidiarity in the application of the issue at hand. In order to make the practical aspect of the publication more visible, the impact of prima facie evidence on the course of a civil trial and, in particular, the actions of the court and the parties in evidence proceedings is also addressed. The dissertation consists of nine chapters, preceded by the introduction and followed by conclusions

Chapter one deals with the concept of 'evidence'. It describes the historical evolution of this term and the various suppositions in which it is used. The chapter closed by setting out the substantive definition of 'evidence', which formed the starting point for explaining later in the work the legal nature of 'evidence' referred to as 'prima facie'.

Chapters from two to five set out the key issues in the law of evidence that are inherent in the subject matter of the work. The necessity to make some introductory remarks arose from the close relationship between prima facie evidence and other institutions of the law of evidence, which do not have a legal definition and are sometimes perceived differently in the theory and practice of applying the law. These excerpts also indicate the convention adopted, through the prism of which further theses in the following sections of the thesis are posited.

The sixth chapter includes a historical analysis of prima facie evidence on domestic grounds and a comparative analysis with prima facie evidence under the German and common law legal systems. The above-mentioned jurisdictions have been chosen for comparison, as only in them is the doctrine of the prototype of domestic prima facie evidence recognised.

The seventh chapter describes the concepts of prima facie evidence functioning in the Polish doctrine and the objections raised against them.

The eighth chapter presents an overview of the domestic case law dealing with the discussed subject matter, including a breakdown into individual concepts and factual grounds for the dispute.

The last chapter of the thesis is the culmination of the dissertation. It presents the author's view on the issue of prima facie evidence and refers to the existing doctrinal work and the objections raised against particular concepts. It also includes a comparison with the other evidentiary mechanisms described in the previous chapters of the dissertation and explains the relationship between prima facie evidence and the free assessment of evidence and the burden of proof. Consideration of its contestability and subsidiarity is also undertaken here.

**Keywords:**

civil procedure, proof, burden of proof, presumption, probability, prima facie, res ipsa loquitur