



# Canopy of Prayer

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## Dear praying friends in Europe –

It is no secret that the almighty God is righteous. Equally so, it is obvious that we humans – His creation – more often than not struggle to live up to His standards of justice. However, we are advised to seek justice tirelessly. Amos, seeing outrageous oppression and injustice, urges us to **“hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts”** (Amos 5,15). To him, the pursuit of law and justice in everyday life is the proper response to God’s covenant with His people. Similarly, Psalm 11:7 reminds us that **“the Lord is righteous, he loves justice; the upright will see his face.”** I am thankful for such encouragement and I would like to encourage you to pray for those who work with the law, be it lawmakers, judges, prosecutors or advocates.



Dr. Felix Böllmann

## European Christians in the legal profession

The Council of Europe’s (CoE) European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), in force since 1953, is the leading international human rights treaty. It is binding on 47 CoE member states and intended to safeguard the rights of their combined population of over 800 million people. As the CoE member states have enacted thousands of laws, governing the lives of their citizens, these laws (or their application) may be in conflict with the ECHR. In such cases, individuals may as a last resort file an application with the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, seeking justice for themselves.

The legal process – from lawmaking to the protection of individual rights, both at the domestic as well as the international level – involves a great number of legal professionals. Many of them are Christians. What does it mean to be a Christian in law? Nothing different from being a Christian anywhere else: we are called to seek justice and glorify God in everything we do. And so, first and foremost, Christians in the legal profession must seek to be excellent in whatever they do.

What does it take to be an excellent lawyer? Certainly a bright and open mind, extensive training in law and legal methodology, and, last but not least, experience in identifying the crucial core of any complex case. But apart from these “cognitive” tools and abilities, it also takes the right “heart” to truly be of service to those in need of legal aid and support. For a Christian, a servant heart is where Jesus has authority.

There are a number of Christian legal associations in many

countries across the world and even internationally, founded to gather and encourage Christian legal professionals to seek God and glorify him through their work.

A conference under the title of “50 Nations 1 Fellowship”, due to take place from 4–7 October 2018 in Berlin, seeks to bring together Christians of all denominations working in the legal profession in all European countries, Israel and the USA. As of today, participants from 22 countries have already signed up. We will use this gathering of lawyers to support one another in prayer, but most importantly, to stand united in Christ before God and listen for what is his calling for the legal profession in Europe (pls. see [www.50nations1fellowship.org](http://www.50nations1fellowship.org) for details).

### Let us pray for

- those in the legal profession in your town, country and in Europe – Christian or not; for God to be given room in lawyers’ hearts, in order for legal services to be a true service to the people for justice and peace;
- those in need of justice;
- the conference in Berlin Oct. 4-7, 2018, for participants from all 50 countries we invited (specifically from The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Portugal where we have not yet been able to make contact); for safety, funding and for unity in the Holy Spirit.

### Please also pray for

- a mentality of unity in the EU, faced with challenges from nationalist parties and member states.
- the Brexit negotiations in the light of the UK government’s proposed plan, and for stability in the government after 2 ministerial resignations.