

**The Activity of Vespasian Erbiceanu as a Technical Adviser
for the Justice Department of Bessarabia (1918)**
(Abstract)

Sorin RADU

Keywords: Bessarabia, legislative unification, nationalization of justice, justice reform, Justice Department of Bessarabia.

Vespasian Erbiceanu was an erudite magistrate from Iași. He will play an important role in the reorganization of justice and legislative unification of this province with Romania. At the end of March 1918 he was named by the government led by Alexandru Marghiloman as a technical adviser for the Minister of Justice, besides the other governing bodies in the united province. The mission of the magistrate from Iasi was to research on how the legislation from Bessarabia worked and to help with the decisions of the magistracy from Chișinău concerning the reorganization in a national manner of the legislation from this province. The implication of Erbiceanu in the organization of justice in Bessarabia will override the attributions given to him by the ministry, his activity being appreciated by magistrates and politicians from Bessarabia, as well as the Romanian governments. The appointment of Vespasian Erbiceanu as a technical adviser, then as President of the Appellate Court of Chisinau was not done at random, it was based on his remarkable juridical abilities, on the detailed knowledge of the Russian legislation and last but not least on his excellent mastery of the Russian language, a very important criteria in Bessarabia in those years. Vespasian Erbiceanu will be a technical adviser until 14 October 1918, later on being named as President of the Appellate Court of Chișinău.

In the present study we will analyze Erbiceanu's activity as a technical adviser. Our enterprise is based on the exploitation of archived documents of the National Archives of the Republic of Moldavia, on Vespasian Erbiceanu publicist work as well as on the exploitation of the existent historiography. The conclusion of this study is that Vespasian Erbiceanu played a major role in the organization of the justice in Bessarabia, which was based on the Romanian one, preparing the process of legislative unification of this province with Romania.