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PRIZE GAMES UNDER JUDICIAL SCRUTINY: THE CLOUDED FORTUNE OF POTENTIAL WINNERS

Prize games have always been an attractive way to obtain rewards, precisely because of their simple concept, which is predominantly based on luck and persistence, through adherence to straightforward rules, with the aim of winning valuable prizes. The organization of prize games itself is subject to legal norms defined in the special Law on Games of Chance and Entertainment Games, which outlines the framework of the rules of the game, with the possibility for their expansion and modification by the organizer of the game.

Each organizer is obliged to duly announce the organization of the prize game and obtain the necessary authorization, and thereafter to ensure its regular conduct, as well as to fulfill the promise of awarding the prize to the fortunate winner. Although it is assumed that both the organizer and each participant will comply with the rules of the game, this is not always the case; therefore, the outcomes of some prize games end in judicial proceedings.

Within the scope of this paper, the relevant provisions of the special law governing prize games as a type of games of chance will first be presented, and subsequently they will be correlated with practical cases initiated by lawsuits filed by individuals who consider themselves to be winners of prize games, but whose right to the prize has been disputed, and who seek, with the assistance of the court, to obtain what they believe to be a duly earned reward.