

## **“The Rhetoric of Legal Texts in Papyri from Augustan Age to Late Antiquity”**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The subject of the present doctoral thesis is the examination of the rhetoric of the legal texts in papyri from the Augustan age to Late Antiquity. In particular, given the fact that legal texts combine legal and rhetorical elements in order to accomplish specific objectives, the dissertation will analyse the rhetorical elements of private legal documents themselves as well as the way in which legal and rhetorical elements are combined. Indicative examples of the categories of private documents to be examined are contractual agreements originating in the free will of the contracting parties, that is contracts of marriage, divorce, apprenticeship, compromises, settlements of dispute, loans and deeds of surety. Furthermore, legal texts derived from the free will of one party alone, e.g. wills, *donationes mortis causa*, repudiations and orders for payment, will be examined. Hence, the research aims at answering the following questions:

1. What is the relation between law and rhetoric in this period and why rhetoric was important in drawing up legal texts?
2. How legal and rhetorical elements are combined in the legal texts of private documents?
3. Which are the specific objectives of using rhetorical elements in composing legal texts?

The originality of the present doctoral thesis lies in the questions it poses. The absence of research on the rhetoric of private legal documents in papyri constitutes a major research gap in Juristic Papyrology, as there is no scholarly work exclusively dedicated to this subject. The present research is of substantial importance for juristic papyrologists, because it contributes to the deeper understanding of the nature of the private legal document in papyri.