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**Judging Territorial Disputes in Roman Dalmatia (Ist-IInd century) :**

**A Legal and Historical Study of Judicial Boundary Stones**

Roman cities were characterised both by their institutions and by their boundaries. According to Roman surveyors, a boundary stone (*terminus*) was usually placed after a dispute between neighbours (Frontinus, I, 4). Although we know that this was not always the case, numerous landmarks bear witness to the legal disputes that took place between communities in the Roman Empire. Of all the western provinces, Dalmatia has provided us with the greatest number of trial records. The frequency of conflicts between the communities of Liburnia in the first and early second centuries gives us a unique documentation that tells us about the nature of the legal proceedings that took place. Who was qualified to settle territorial disputes? Under what law? What was the outcome? Most of these questions can be answered thanks to the territorial boundaries of Dalmatia.

These boundary stones shed light on the legal rights of cities in the Roman Empire, regardless of their status (*coloniae, municipes, ciuitates peregrinae*). By comparing legal discourses on the collective rights of communities with empirical practices, we can understand how Roman authorities established legal rights for cities and how these communities used them for their own benefit.