



JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORMS IN THE CONTEXT OF STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22722261>

In recent years, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, judicial and legal reforms in the country have assumed a systemic and strategic dimension, emerging as a pivotal component of the "Uzbekistan – 2030" Development Strategy aimed at establishing a just, rule of law based, and socially oriented state. Within this framework, the judiciary is conceptualized not merely as a mechanism for dispute resolution, but as a fundamental guarantor of human rights and freedoms, the rule of law, public trust, and sustainable national development.

Within the framework of implementing the strategic goals of "Uzbekistan – 2030" in the judicial and legal sphere, more than 70 normative legal acts were adopted between 2016 and 2025, establishing a cohesive legal architecture for the reforms. These acts are aimed at realizing the Strategy's priorities, including strengthening the independence of the judiciary, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of justice, expanding access to judicial protection for citizens and entrepreneurs, humanizing law enforcement practices, and implementing digital solutions.

Pursuant to the execution of the "Uzbekistan – 2030" Strategy, the judicial system is designated as a priority development sector, a fact reflected in the consistent modernization of the regulatory framework and the integration of digital tools that facilitate electronic interaction among trial participants. Such initiatives are aimed at streamlining procedures, reducing administrative overhead, broadening access to justice for citizens and business entities, and enhancing the transparency of judicial services.

Particular significance has been attached to measures aimed at strengthening judicial control, advancing administrative and constitutional justice, modernizing judicial training, and fostering the digital transformation of courts. Collectively, these reforms have facilitated a transition toward a human-centric model of justice based on the rule of law and long-term national development goals, aligning with the Head of State's strategic vision for establishing a modern and efficient rule-of-law state.

A cornerstone initiative that launched systemic reforms within the judicial and legal sphere was the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued on October 21 2016 PD-4850. This landmark legislative act was titled "On measures to further reform the judicial and legal system, strengthening guarantees of reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens." It fundamentally defined the priority directions of state policy toward ensuring the genuine independence of the judiciary and the substantive protection of individual rights. Of particular importance for the national legal framework was the introduction of specific measures for the humanization of criminal proceedings which had immediate practical significance for citizens. Reducing the detention period for individuals suspected of committing crimes from 72 to 48 hours served as a primary instrument in the implementation of the habeas

corpus principle. This specific change was strategically designed to prevent the unjustified deprivation of liberty without a direct judicial decision while aligning national practice with international human rights standards. In tandem with these shifts the maximum durations for preliminary investigations and the application of preventive measures notably detention in custody and house arrest were significantly shortened. Specifically the Decree reduced the maximum period for preliminary investigation as well as the terms for custody and house arrest from 1 year to 7 months. Such a reduction was aimed at mitigating the risks associated with protracted criminal proceedings and preventing undue pressure on trial participants during the investigation phase. Substantial weight was also given to the transfer of authority to the courts for authorizing sensitive investigative actions including the seizure of mail and telegraphic transmissions and the exhumation of bodies. This transfer reinforced judicial oversight regarding state interference in the private lives of citizens and ensured that such measures are only undertaken under strict legal supervision. Furthermore the Decree abolished the outdated practice of remanding criminal cases for additional investigation which had historically allowed for procedural delays. By terminating this practice the state strengthened the principle of the court procedural autonomy and increased the accountability of preliminary investigation bodies for the quality of their evidentiary work. Collectively these comprehensive measures facilitated the practical expansion of procedural guarantees and successfully reduced the repressiveness of the law enforcement apparatus. Ultimately these reforms fostered enhanced public confidence in the justice system and marked a vital step toward the formation of a human centric judiciary that prioritizes individual dignity.

A landmark legislative development that redefined the landscape of the Uzbek legal system was Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PD-4966 dated February 21 2017. This seminal regulatory act initiated a systemic restructuring of the judicial legal framework and facilitated a decisive transition toward genuine independence and efficiency within the realm of justice. Central to this structural transformation was the establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan which functions as an autonomous body dedicated to upholding the constitutional principle of judicial independence. By eradicating the influence of the executive branch the Decree abolished the former Higher Qualification Commission under the President. This move was crucial for reinforcing the guarantees of judicial inviolability and ensuring that appointments and disciplinary practices remain entirely free from external administrative pressure.

Furthermore the composition of the Council as ratified in the Constitution and the Law on the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan includes both permanent judges and representatives from state and public institutions. This strategic alignment ensures a sophisticated balance between professional legal expertise and public interest in judicial governance. By transferring personnel disciplinary and organizational matters to this specialized body the state successfully removed these functions from the sphere of direct administrative control thereby safeguarding the individual autonomy of every judge within the system. Of particular significance were the provisions that established the material medical and logistical status for the Chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council equivalent to that of the Chairman of the Supreme Court. Such substantive social guarantees are not merely administrative details but are essential institutional safeguards that protect the leadership of the judicial community from economic or social vulnerability.

In its final assessment the implementation of this regulatory act consolidated the institutional independence of the judiciary and fostered a resilient model of judicial self governance. This reform directly improved the objectivity of personnel decisions and enhanced the overall quality of justice. Ultimately these changes have bolstered public confidence in the courts as independent and impartial pillars of state authority which are now better equipped to serve as the ultimate guarantors of the rule of law. A pivotal measure was the merger of the Supreme Court and the Supreme Economic Court into a single unified highest judicial body, which ensured consistent judicial practice and the standardization of law enforcement across civil, criminal, administrative, and economic cases. Furthermore, judicial bodies specializing in administrative disputes were established, thereby broadening citizens' access to justice within the realm of public law relations. The optimization of court staffing levels and the introduction of judicial assistants allowed for a more rational distribution of the workload and enhanced the quality of case adjudication. Taken together, these measures bolstered trust in the justice system, expanded access to a fair trial, and reinforced judicial independence, ultimately enhancing the protection of citizens' rights and legitimate interests.

A pivotal advancement in the structural fortification of the judiciary involved the introduction of a comprehensive phased appointment system for judges. This modernized framework established a tiered progression encompassing an initial 5 year term followed by a subsequent 10 year extension and culminating in a final appointment without a specific limit on the term of office. The implementation of this multi stage model allows the state to conduct a rigorous and objective evaluation of judicial performance and professional suitability during the early phases of a career. By establishing clear milestones for tenure the system ensures that only those who demonstrate high ethical standards and professional competence transition to the subsequent stages of service. Concurrently the prospect of indefinite tenure serves as a fundamental safeguard for individual autonomy ensuring that experienced judges are insulated from external pressures or political cycles in the long term perspective. Adopting such a stable career trajectory aligns the national legal system with international best practices and universal standards of judicial permanence which are essential for the impartial administration of justice. Providing judges with security of tenure effectively removes the economic and career related vulnerabilities that could otherwise be exploited to influence judicial outcomes. Ultimately this approach fosters a professional judicial corps where the stability of office becomes the bedrock of institutional integrity and public trust in the state legal apparatus.

During the developmental phase of judicial legal reforms the strategic priority of the state pivoted from basic institutional structuring toward the comprehensive bolstering of public trust and the enhancement of substantive transparency within the realm of justice. This shift underpinned the fundamental objectives of Decree PD-5482 dated July 13 2018 which served as a transformative instrument for the modernization of the legal system. For the first time within the national normative framework this legislative act introduced a compulsory requirement for the systematic publication of judicial decisions on the official website of the Supreme Court. Such a measure was designed to grant citizens unhindered access to judicial precedents thereby eliminating the opaqueness that historically characterized the decision making process and fostering a more predictable legal environment. In parallel with the digitalization of court records the practice of providing immediate oral explanations regarding the substance and legal rationale of a judgment was integrated into formal judicial proceedings.

Upon the pronouncement of a verdict judges are now mandated to clarify the reasoning and statutory basis of the decision to all trial participants. This reform enables parties to fully comprehend the court logic which has directly resulted in a measurable decrease in unfounded appeals and has improved the overall culture of legal literacy. To foster an enduring and constructive dialogue between the judiciary and civil society the Decree legislatively mandated quarterly briefings by regional court chairpersons and their deputies. These public reports alongside the release of periodic case law reviews ensure the continuous accountability of judicial operations and align the system with international democratic standards. A significant hallmark of this Decree was its dedicated focus on resolving systemic issues regarding the financial and social welfare of the judicial corps. Specifically remuneration increments for specialized working conditions were increased to 50 percent while incentive payments were aligned with the high levels established for senior justice department officials. Furthermore the act made landmark provisions for the mandatory life and health insurance of judges which serves as a critical buffer against external risks. These measures were strategically designed to safeguard judicial independence by mitigating personnel attrition and neutralizing the economic drivers of extraneous influence or corruption. In its practical dimension the implementation of Decree PD-5482 fostered a qualitatively higher level of transparency in judicial functions and enhanced the overall quality of adjudication. By prioritizing the human centric nature of the courts the state has successfully solidified public trust in the judiciary as an accessible and fair institution of state authority. Ultimately these reforms have transitioned the court system from a closed administrative entity into a modern public service oriented toward the protection of individual rights and the rule of law in the long term perspective.

Building extensively upon the foundations of the judicial legal progress initiated in previous years, Decree PD-6034 dated July 24 2020 introduced a new wave of organizational and procedural measures. This legislative act was strategically intended to enhance the overall effectiveness of justice while simultaneously eliminating identified systemic deficiencies that had historically hindered the efficiency of court operations. By ratifying new staffing and organizational models for the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as military and administrative courts, the state facilitated a more robust optimization of the broader judicial network. This strategic redistribution of resources ensured a balanced distribution of workloads across all levels of the judiciary, which has positively and measurably impacted the pace and quality of case adjudication for the general public. A particularly transformative element of this reform involved the establishment of precise jurisdictional boundaries for inter district and district or city courts. Previously, ambiguities regarding the assignment of civil and economic cases often led to unnecessary procedural delays and frequent case transfers between different court levels. By resolving these jurisdictional overlaps for the first time in the nation's legal history, the state has significantly accelerated the issuance of final judicial decisions. This clarity serves as a vital safeguard for both individual citizens and business entities, providing them with a predictable and stable legal environment where their disputes are handled by the correct authority without administrative confusion. In parallel with these structural changes, the regulatory instrument incorporated advanced proposals for the reform of appellate and cassation proceedings. This transition fostered a more structured and adversarial process which reinforced the fundamental guarantee of a fair trial and ensured that higher courts act as reliable filters for legal errors. Furthermore, the Decree introduced a vital

procedural safeguard by granting judges the formal right to appeal decisions made by judicial qualification boards. By allowing judges to challenge evaluations regarding their professional qualifications or disciplinary matters, the state has strengthened the individual independence of the bench and ensured that personnel management remains transparent and objective. One of the most significant institutional breakthroughs included in this act was the creation of a dedicated Judicial Panel for Investment Disputes and Competition Cases within the Supreme Court. By providing a specialized high level mechanism for resolving complex economic disagreements, the Republic of Uzbekistan has bolstered the protection of rights for international investors and domestic business operators. This specialization is a critical indicator of the state commitment to improving the national investment climate and ensuring that commercial disputes are settled by experts with deep knowledge of market competition and international trade law. Collectively, these comprehensive measures have successfully removed bureaucratic hurdles and transformed the judiciary into a more agile and professional institution that commands high public trust.

The systemic evolution of digital justice mechanisms was formally codified in the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 3, 2020, PR-4818, which was enacted to eliminate institutional and technological barriers hindering access to judicial protection for citizens and business entities. This regulatory instrument sought to facilitate a transition from the fragmented implementation of information technologies toward the creation of a unified, integrated digital infrastructure for the judiciary, thereby ensuring the efficiency, transparency, and predictability of legal proceedings. Specifically, the Resolution ratified the Digitalization Program for Judicial Operations for 2020–2023, which mandated the introduction of remote court filings, online participation in hearings via videoconferencing, the automated assignment of cases among judges, the publication of judicial decisions on the Internet, and the electronic transmission of documents. A substantial practical outcome was the implementation of audio recording for judicial hearings, which enhanced the procedural safeguards for all parties and precluded any distortion of the proceedings' content. Concurrently, an automated system for the distribution of cases was implemented across appellate and cassation instances, with the express purpose of eliminating discretionary human interference and strengthening the foundational principles of judicial independence and impartiality. For citizens and entrepreneurs, a particularly significant innovation consisted in the introduction of free SMS notifications concerning the scheduling and progress of court hearings, the establishment of unrestricted online access to judicial decisions, and the provision of interactive electronic services through specialized terminals installed within court facilities. Collectively, these measures substantially reduced the time and financial resources traditionally associated with judicial proceedings and enhanced procedural convenience for court users.

Furthermore, the Resolution approved a comprehensive Roadmap aimed at the phased integration of judicial information systems with the databases of twenty-eight state agencies. This mechanism enabled courts to obtain necessary information, including data on income levels, social status, and property ownership, through electronic interagency exchange, thereby relieving citizens and business entities of the obligation to submit repetitive documentary evidence.

In its practical implementation, this set of reforms has resulted in the formation of a qualitatively new model of interaction between individuals and the judiciary. Within this framework, judicial protection is delivered in an efficient, transparent, and technologically facilitated manner, free from excessive procedural formalism. As a consequence, public confidence in the judiciary has been markedly strengthened, and the institutional foundations of the rule of law have been further consolidated.

To address systemic issues regarding the pro forma nature of judicial enforcement and its low actual implementation rate, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PD-6118, dated November 24, 2020, was enacted to fundamentally enhance the efficacy of executing judicial and administrative acts. This legislative instrument sought to ensure the substantive restoration of the infringed rights of citizens and entrepreneurs by transitioning from the formalistic pronouncement of judicial decisions to their mandatory and timely execution. Under this Decree, an institutional reorganization of the Bureau of Compulsory Enforcement under the Prosecutor General's Office was undertaken, cementing the principles of strict centralization and the personal accountability of the Bureau's leadership for enforcement outcomes, while simultaneously imposing an explicit ban on any unlawful interference in execution proceedings. A concrete practical result was the establishment of Republican and regional councils for judicial enforcement efficiency, which enabled the systematic identification of non-compliance causes, the swift removal of bureaucratic obstacles, and the intensification of interagency cooperation.

Furthermore, the launch of a Unified Information System for Alimony has ensured payment transparency and oversight, thereby bolstering the protection of minors' rights. In tandem, financial and procedural burdens on citizens were mitigated through the integration of voluntary compliance mechanisms, digitalized settlements, electronic property auctions, and the reduction of excessive coercive measures. Ultimately, the adoption of this Decree transformed the enforcement of judicial decisions into a potent mechanism for the tangible protection of rights, thereby reinforcing public confidence in the judiciary and elevating the authority of justice as a cornerstone of social equity.

A fundamental milestone in the institutional reinforcement of judicial independence was the radical restructuring of the judiciary financing system implemented through Decree PD-6134 dated 13 January 2021. The primary objective of this legislative instrument was to eliminate the judicial system reliance on extra budgetary funding sources and to align the material support mechanisms for judges with international standards. By shifting the financial burden away from fluctuating internal funds the state has ensured that the administration of justice remains insulated from the financial performance of the courts themselves.

Specifically it was established that effective from 2021 salaries and all compulsory payments for judges and administrative staff are to be fully financed by the State Budget. This comprehensive coverage encompasses the Constitutional Court the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme Court ensuring a high level of financial security for the entire judicial hierarchy. Previously more than 70 percent of expenditures were sustained by the Judicial Development Fund which created a degree of financial uncertainty. The transition to the consolidated State Budget has successfully removed these risks and provided a predictable and stable environment for judicial operations. Concurrently a unified salary scale for judges and judicial employees was ratified to ensure transparency and predictability across all levels of the

judiciary. This standardized system applies to everyone from inter district courts to the Supreme Court eliminating internal disparities and reinforcing the dignity of the judicial profession. Transitioning to this budget based financing model facilitated the creation of a resilient material and technical infrastructure while also ensuring long term personnel stability. By providing competitive and guaranteed remuneration the state has effectively removed the economic prerequisites for exerting external pressure on the judiciary. In its practical dimension these financial reforms have transformed the social status of judges and strengthened the institutional integrity of the court system. The elimination of extra budgetary dependence signifies a qualitative shift toward a model of justice where the rule of law is supported by a solid and transparent economic foundation. Ultimately these measures have mitigated the risks of personnel attrition and fostered a professional environment where the independence of the bench is protected by the full weight of the national budget.

Far from being merely a social incentive or a standard administrative bonus, the threefold augmentation of judicial remuneration serves as a robust legal safeguard for the entire legal system. This substantial increase in salary is fundamentally oriented toward the practical implementation of the internationally recognized principle regarding the material independence of judges. The core objective of such a significant financial shift is to ensure that members of the judiciary remain entirely insulated from both external pressures and internal economic vulnerabilities. Within the framework of international law, the provision of adequate and guaranteed financial resources is viewed as a prerequisite for the impartial administration of justice. By prioritizing high levels of material support, the state effectively creates a protective barrier that prevents corruption and neutralizes any potential for financial influence over judicial decisions. Furthermore this policy aligns the national system with universal standards such as those established by international legal charters which state that the remuneration of judges must be commensurate with the high level of their responsibility. Providing a salary that reflects the prestige and complexity of the judicial office ensures that the bench remains occupied by the most qualified legal professionals. Ultimately the tripling of judicial salaries is a strategic investment in the institutional integrity of the state legal apparatus, ensuring that the rule of law is upheld by professionals who are financially secure and institutionally autonomous in the long term perspective.

The adoption of the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 29 January 2022 PR-107 represented a strategic shift in the national legal landscape. This legislative instrument was specifically designed to transform administrative courts into a tangible and effective mechanism for safeguarding the rights of citizens and business entities during their complex interactions with state authorities. The primary objective was to eliminate the traditionally formalistic approach to adjudicating public law disputes. By doing so the state transitioned toward a modern model of active judicial protection where the court itself serves as the ultimate guarantor for the full restoration of infringed rights rather than acting as a passive referee. At the core of this transition is the principle of the active role of the court which fundamentally redefines the nature of administrative proceedings. This principle mandates that administrative courts must independently gather and request evidence to ensure a comprehensive and objective investigation of case circumstances. This proactive stance is crucial for balancing the inherent power asymmetry between a private individual and a state body. By allowing judges to seek out the truth ex officio the reform significantly alleviates the

procedural burden on citizens and entrepreneurs who often lack the administrative resources to obtain internal government evidence when contesting unlawful decisions. A substantial innovation within this regulatory framework involved granting applicants the right to seek financial damages concurrently with a request to annul an unlawful act. This one stop shop approach enables the comprehensive restoration of violated rights within a single proceeding. By eliminating the necessity of approaching multiple judicial venues for different aspects of the same dispute the reform promotes judicial economy and reduces the temporal and financial costs of litigation. To ensure that these judicial acts are not merely symbolic the framework codified the imposition of judicial fines on state officials for failure to execute court decisions. These penalties include escalated fines for repeated non compliance and a strict one month deadline for mandatory execution which ensures that the state remains accountable to the judiciary. Furthermore the Resolution introduced sophisticated mechanisms for the reconciliation of parties in cases arising from public law relations. This expansion of opportunities for pre trial and out of court settlement fosters a more constructive dialogue between the state and its citizens. Of fundamental importance were the provisions prohibiting the refusal to accept a case based purely on jurisdictional grounds. If an application is misdirected the court is now mandated to transfer the case to the competent authority itself which effectively eliminated the procedural deadlocks that previously frustrated many applicants. In its practical dimension the implementation of Resolution PR-107 has strengthened the role of administrative courts as genuine defenders of the people. By enhancing the accountability of state authorities and ensuring the legality of their actions these reforms have fostered enduring public confidence in the judiciary as an effective instrument for rights protection.

During the recent phase of judicial transformation the strategic focus shifted toward the practical optimization of court activities to address the pressing issue of institutional congestion. This initiative was formally established through the adoption of Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 16 January 2023 PD-12. A primary objective of this legislative instrument was to ensure the rational redistribution of the procedural workload and the implementation of advanced digital mechanisms for interaction between the courts and other state entities. By prioritizing the efficient utilization of state resources within the realm of justice the state sought to enhance the overall speed and reliability of the adjudicative process. Specifically the Decree provided for the creation and phased rollout of the Prosecutor Participation in Courts information system. This innovation enables the seamless electronic participation of specialized prosecutors in court sessions and ensures their full integration into judicial procedural activities. Such a digital shift has significantly reduced the time costs associated with traditional paper based communication and improved the quality of the state procedural representation in the courtroom. In tandem with these digital advancements the full integration of the information systems belonging to the Supreme Court and the General Prosecutor Office was finalized. This integration resulted in the total digitalization of document flow between these two critical institutions which effectively accelerated case processing and eliminated the unnecessary duplication of procedural steps. A significant institutional shift involved the mandate to transfer the adjudication of certain categories of civil economic and administrative cases to administrative bodies. This process of de judicialization along with the expanded use of conciliation procedures and mediation was designed to reduce judicial

backlogs and ensure the swifter restoration of violated rights for the public. By moving less complex disputes out of the formal court system the state has allowed judges to focus their expertise on high level and high stakes litigation. Moreover the Decree optimized the internal organizational structure of the Supreme Court by refining personnel numbers and redistributing managerial functions. This structural leanings have enhanced the overall governance of the judicial system and improved the effectiveness of internal coordination. Ultimately the collective aim of these measures was to ensure a more efficient accessible and economically rational form of justice for every citizen. By removing redundant procedural hurdles and minimizing delays the implementation of Decree PD-12 has solidified societal trust in the judiciary as a modern and effective institution of state authority. These reforms demonstrate a commitment to the rule of law where the quality of justice is not hindered by administrative bottlenecks but is instead supported by a streamlined and technologically advanced infrastructure. In the long term perspective these optimizations provide the foundation for a sustainable judicial system that can adapt to the growing legal needs of a developing society.

The subsequent stage in deepening judicial reforms involved the institutional strengthening of judicial oversight during the pre-trial phase of criminal proceedings, implemented by Decree PD-89 dated June 10, 2024, which aimed to further reinforce the guarantees for protecting individual rights and freedoms within operational-search and investigative activities. A fundamental objective of this instrument was to eliminate the imbalance between the powers of investigative bodies and judicial safeguards, while ensuring substantive rather than formal judicial control over the restriction of constitutional individual rights during the pre-trial stage. For the first time within the national legal system, the institution of the investigating judge was introduced in district and city criminal courts, tasked with the authority to authorize the most sensitive procedural decisions that directly impact the right to liberty and personal inviolability. In this capacity, the investigating judge was granted the exclusive right to adjudicate motions concerning detention in custody and house arrest, the extension of detention periods, the conduct of searches, wiretapping of telephone conversations, the seizure of property, exhumation, the seizure of mail and telegraphic transmissions, as well as the extension of detention up to 48 hours. Concurrently, it was established that the review of sanctions issued by an investigating judge is permitted only in the appellate instance, thereby precluding arbitrary interference and ensuring the stability of judicial rulings. A significant innovation involved empowering investigating judges with the jurisdiction to preside over administrative offense cases, which bolstered the judicial protection of citizens within these categories of cases as well. Furthermore, the practical execution of the Decree was ensured through the formation of a dedicated staffing allocation for investigating judges and the instruction to the Supreme Judicial Council to staff these positions with highly qualified personnel. Consequently, following the adoption of Decree PD-89, judicial oversight was elevated to a qualitatively new level, leading to a reduction in the risks of unjustified restrictions on individual rights, the strengthening of the principles of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms, and an increase in public trust in the court as a key guarantor of human rights and freedoms at all stages of criminal justice.

Representing one of the most significant and qualitatively new stages of judicial-legal reform, the adoption of Decree PD-140, dated August 21, 2025, was aimed at a fundamental

expansion of access to justice through the integration of artificial intelligence technologies and the completion of the judicial system's digital transformation. The overarching goal of this legislative instrument was to transition from fragmented digitalization toward the establishment of a comprehensive "Digital Court" model centered on citizen convenience, the acceleration of legal proceedings, and the minimization of human factors in the execution of technical and procedural operations. To be precise, the Decree mandated the phased implementation of full electronic case management, the elimination of paper-based documentation, and the introduction of electronic filing for applications, the automated calculation of court costs, and the seamless transmission of enforcement documents. Notably, for the first time at the regulatory level, the use of artificial intelligence was codified for predicting potential litigation outcomes prior to filing, producing real-time transcripts of court sessions, and generating draft judicial acts, thereby substantially reducing time expenditures for judges and trial participants. A major innovation involved granting citizens and business entities the capability for remote participation in hearings, electronic access to case files, and the retrieval of copies of judicial acts without physical attendance at court premises, which significantly enhanced the substantive accessibility of justice. For the purpose of institutional support for this digital transformation, the Department of Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence was established under the Supreme Court, accompanied by the ratification of the Judicial Digitalization Program for 2025–2027, which envisions the launch of a virtual legal consultant, platforms for analyzing normative legal acts, and the expansion of interactive judicial services. Alongside these measures, the Decree outlined provisions for optimizing the structure of economic courts, modernizing court facilities based on the "Digital Court" concept, and strengthening the social protections for judges and administrative staff. In its final analysis, the practical implementation of these provisions is directed toward fostering a modern, technologically advanced, and human-centric judicial system in which citizens obtain rapid, clear, and predictable access to justice, while judicial bodies are provided with effective tools for high-quality and impartial adjudication.

At the current stage of systemic judicial and legal reforms, a paramount priority has been assigned to the fundamental renewal of approaches toward forming a professional judicial corps, as implemented by Decree PD-141 dated August 21, 2025. The objective of this instrument was to eliminate the disparity between legal education and the practice of justice administration, while simultaneously establishing a resilient system for judicial training grounded in international standards of independence, professionalism, and ethics. Within the framework of the Decree, the Higher School of Judges was transformed into the Academy of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan, attaining the status of a specialized state educational and research institution under the Supreme Judicial Council. Specifically, a regulation was introduced stipulating that the training of candidates for judicial positions is conducted through 6-month professional retraining courses on a competitive basis, involving mandatory assessments of professional suitability, psychological resilience, foreign language proficiency, and an impeccable reputation. For the first time, a dual education model based on the "theory – practice – imitation" principle was implemented, encompassing "virtual court" sessions, the direct participation of trainees in the activities of courts and law enforcement agencies, and instruction on the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in judicial operations. Concurrently, a mandatory and differentiated procedure for the regular

professional development of sitting judges and court administrative staff was established. A significant institutional decision involved granting the Academy autonomous powers to design curricula, engage foreign experts, and organize international internships, thereby ensuring the integration of the national judicial training system into the global educational space. The practical aim of these measures was to form a judicial corps possessing not only profound knowledge but also resilient professional skills, an anti-corruption culture, and modern legal thinking, which directly enhances the quality of justice, the predictability of judicial rulings, and public trust in the judiciary as a pivotal institution for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

Serving as a vital stage in the institutional consolidation of the judiciary, Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PD-227, dated November 24, 2025, was enacted to enhance the efficiency and transparency of the judicial community's governing bodies while further strengthening the guarantees of judicial independence. This instrument codified the priority directions of the reforms, including the integration of international standards of judicial independence, the refinement of procedures for forming the judicial corps, and the enhancement of transparency in personnel decisions. Furthermore, the Decree mandated the implementation of the principle of judicial tenure, encompassing an initial 5-year appointment followed by an indefinite term, alongside the improvement of competitive selection for court leadership through open calls for specific vacancies. A fundamental element of this shift involved expanding transparency, manifested in the new practice of publishing information regarding vacant positions and all stages of the judicial candidate selection process on the official website. Specific emphasis was placed on the digitalization of the Supreme Judicial Council's operations, including the integration of information systems, the adoption of digital technologies in decision-making, and the utilization of artificial intelligence tools to evaluate judicial performance and analyze candidates for the bench. Collectively, these measures are oriented toward the formation of a more transparent and institutionally protected model of judicial governance, thereby increasing public trust and the resilience of guarantees for the independence of the judiciary.

Another stage in the advancement of judicial and legal reforms involved the comprehensive enhancement of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan operations, implemented by Decree PD-253 dated December 18, 2025, which aimed at increasing the effectiveness of constitutional oversight and integrating modern digital technologies. This act sought to expand real access to constitutional justice for citizens and legal entities, eliminate redundant procedural barriers, and bolster the role of the Constitutional Court in ensuring the supremacy of the Constitution. In particular, the Decree established priority areas for reform, providing for the simplification of the petition review process, the introduction of mechanisms for redirecting citizen complaints to entities authorized to appeal to the Constitutional Court, and the establishment of a requirement for reasoned notification to applicants in cases where a matter is not submitted for constitutional review. A noteworthy legal innovation was the determination that the Constitutional Court recognition of a law, which was applied in a specific case and found to be inconsistent with the Constitution, serves as a basis for the re-examination of judicial acts, thereby directly reinforcing the protection of constitutional rights. At the same time, a phased plan for the complete digitalization of the Constitutional Court activities for 2026–2027 was ratified, encompassing electronic

notification of participants, the conduct of hearings via videoconferencing, the audio recording of court sessions, and the automated generation of transcripts. Provisions were also made for the launch of an experimental information system "E-KSUD," which provides online tracking of petition progress, live broadcasts of judicial hearings, and the creation of an accessible environment for persons with disabilities. To facilitate institutional support for digital transformation, a single integrator was appointed, and mechanisms for budgetary and grant financing of digital projects were approved. Furthermore, the Decree resolved organizational and social issues concerning the Constitutional Court activities, including the expansion of staffing allocations, the modernization of the remuneration system, and the provision of a dedicated specialized building for the court. Ultimately, the practical execution of these measures is directed toward fostering a transparent, accessible, and technologically modern constitutional justice system in which citizens obtain an effective tool for protecting their constitutional rights, while the Constitutional Court is equipped with potent mechanisms to influence the strengthening of legality and legal stability in the state.

In conclusion, the judicial and legal reforms implemented in the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years clearly demonstrate a consistent and far sighted state policy aimed at upholding the rule of law, ensuring the reliable protection of human rights and freedoms, and forming a fair judicial system.

With the guidance of the esteemed President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the judicial power has been elevated to the rank of key priorities for state development and has acquired a resilient institutional legal and personnel foundation.

An essential result of the reforms is the substantive expansion of guarantees for individual rights and freedoms. Specifically, the reduction of detention periods, the intensification of judicial oversight at the pretrial stage, the implementation of the investigating judge institution, and the transfer of power to courts for the authorization of the most sensitive procedural actions have secured the actual protection of the right to liberty and personal inviolability. Through these transformations, the principle of the rule of law has been transitioned from a declarative plane into a practical everyday reality for citizens.

An equally significant achievement pertains to the institutional consolidation of judicial independence. The establishment and advancement of the Supreme Judicial Council, the restructuring of systems for selection, evaluation, and disciplinary accountability of judges, the provision of stable budget financing for judicial bodies, and the strengthening of social guarantees for the judicial corps have formed resilient legal and organizational barriers against external pressure. Flowing from these changes, the judiciary has acquired substantive mechanisms for autonomy, which has directly influenced the quality and impartiality of rendered judicial decisions.

Special attention is deserved by the enhancement of judicial act enforcement efficiency, through which justice has ceased to be confined to the pronouncement of formal decisions. The reorganization of the compulsory enforcement system, the integration of digital mechanisms for the oversight of alimony obligations, and the intensification of personal accountability for officials have ensured the restoration of violated rights for citizens at the execution stage, representing a key indicator of trust in the court.

One notable consequence of the reforms has been the formation of open and accessible justice centered on human needs. The broadening of administrative court powers, the

introduction of an active judicial role in public law disputes, and the development of conciliation procedures and mediation have enabled citizens and entrepreneurs to effectively protect their rights in relations with state bodies. In parallel the digitalization of judicial functions, the implementation of electronic legal proceedings, remote participation in hearings, and the automated distribution of cases have substantially reduced the time and financial costs when approaching the court. Aiming to enhance the accessibility of justice the use of conciliation procedures and mediation was expanded, allowing for the resolution of disputes without resorting to a full judicial hearing and reducing the workload on the courts. Submitting applications to the court has become possible in electronic form, which has allowed for a substantial reduction in the time and financial expenditures of citizens when exercising the right to judicial protection.

The concluding phase of the reforms was marked by the modernization of the judicial personnel training system and the adoption of cutting edge technologies, including elements of artificial intelligence, which ensured the transition to a professional, technologically equipped and future oriented model of justice. Significantly the transformation of the Academy of Justice, the implementation of a dual training model, and the systematic professional development of judges have established a solid foundation for the sustainable development of the judicial system in the long term.

A decisive component of the final reform stage was the modernization of the judicial personnel training system and the integration of advanced technologies, including elements of artificial intelligence, which facilitated the transition toward a professional, technologically equipped and future oriented model of justice. In a similar vein the transformation of the Academy of Justice, the introduction of a dual training model and the systematic professional development of judges have established a robust foundation for the sustainable advancement of the judicial system over the long term.

In its final synthesis the complex and consistent implementation of judicial legal transformations in the Republic of Uzbekistan has fostered a modern judicial system that adheres to high standards of independence openness efficiency and the unconditional priority of human rights and freedoms. By extension the implemented reforms have not only ensured the sustainable growth of public trust in justice but have also established a solid institutional foundation for the further strengthening of legality the enhancement of investment attractiveness and the provision of long term legal stability for the state.