



CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN THE MODERNIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the process of modernization of the judicial and legal system in Uzbekistan from a historical and legal perspective. The study evaluates reforms aimed at strengthening judicial independence, ensuring citizens' right to judicial protection, digitalizing judicial services, and enhancing the transparency of justice based on official statistical data. Furthermore, it summarizes the practical outcomes of recent transformations in the judicial system using official indicators for 2025.

The independence of the judiciary, the effective protection of human rights and freedoms, and the practical efficiency of the administration of justice are among the fundamental criteria for building a state governed by the rule of law. Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has implemented a series of gradual reforms aimed at improving the institutional and legal foundations of its judicial system. In particular, the period following 2016 marked a new stage in the modernization of the judicial and legal system. Strengthening judicial independence and transparency, expanding citizens' access to judicial protection, and introducing modern information and communication technologies became the principal directions of these reforms. [1]

The modernization of the judicial and legal system is not limited to updating the legal and regulatory framework. Its actual effectiveness is reflected in measurable indicators such as the number of court applications, the volume of cases adjudicated, the use of electronic judicial services, automated case allocation, and electronic document management. Therefore, alongside an analysis of legal reforms, this thesis places particular emphasis on examining official statistical data. [2]

Presidential Decree No. PF-4850, issued on 21 October 2016, marked a significant turning point in the reform of Uzbekistan's judicial and legal system. The Decree identified ensuring genuine judicial independence, providing reliable protection of citizens' rights and freedoms, and improving access to fair justice as key priorities of state policy. [3]

Presidential Resolution No. PQ – 3250 of 30 August 2017 strengthened the legal and institutional framework for the large-scale introduction of modern information and communication technologies into judicial activities. Subsequently, Presidential Resolution No. PQ-3846 of 13 July 2018 continued these reforms by introducing additional measures aimed

at fundamentally improving court operations and increasing the effectiveness of the administration of justice. [4][5]

These legal acts established the necessary foundation for the development of electronic document exchange, automated case distribution, videoconferencing, electronic applications, and interactive judicial services within the court system. Consequently, the modernization of Uzbekistan's judicial and legal system has evolved from organizational reforms toward a comprehensive model of digital governance and public service delivery.

At the Presidential meeting held on 27 February 2025, key indicators reflecting the current state of Uzbekistan's judicial system were presented. According to the official data, more than 3 million cases and legal matters were considered by the courts in 2024. In addition, 14 judicial services, including electronic submission of court applications, online case tracking, and access to electronic copies of court documents, have been fully digitalized. [6]

Table 1. Key Indicators of Judicial System Modernization Based on the 2024 Results and Official Data Presented on 27 February 2025 [1]

o.	Indicator	Value	Official Source
1	Cases and legal matters considered by the courts in 2024	More than 3 million	President.uz, 27 February 2025
2	Digitalized judicial services	14 services	President.uz, 27 February 2025
3	Court cases processed through information systems	Nearly 17 million	President.uz, 27 February 2025
4	Cases automatically allocated without human intervention	15.5 million	President.uz, 27 February 2025
5	Budget savings achieved through electronic internal document management	UZS 638 million	President.uz, 27 February 2025

These indicators demonstrate that the modernization of Uzbekistan's judicial and legal system has evolved from a policy initiative into a practical reality. In particular, the processing of nearly 17 million court cases through digital information systems and the automatic allocation of 15.5 million cases without human intervention clearly illustrate the large-scale implementation of digital technologies in judicial proceedings. [6]

Since 1 November 2024, the internal document management system of the courts has been fully converted to an electronic format. As noted during the Presidential meeting, this transition resulted in budget savings amounting to UZS 638 million within a relatively short period [6]. These figures indicate that digitalization contributes not only to improving administrative efficiency but also to enhancing the economic effectiveness of judicial administration.

The official statistical portal of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan regularly publishes annual and semi-annual statistical data on criminal, civil, and economic

cases. The portal provides separate statistical reports for 2025, 2024, and previous years, making it an important source of open data for monitoring the outcomes of judicial and legal reforms through objective statistical indicators [7].

At the current stage of judicial modernization, expanding digital services remains a priority alongside the integration of information systems, the application of artificial intelligence technologies, the enhancement of information security, and the further simplification of judicial procedures for citizens. During the 2025 Presidential meeting, additional priorities were identified, including the implementation of the “Digital Court” concept, the establishment of an Information Technology Center under the Supreme Court, and the development of electronic data exchange between the judiciary and business entities. [6]

No.	Direction	Implementation Mechanism	Expected / Achieved Outcome
1	Digitalization of Judicial Services	Electronic submission of applications, online case tracking, and electronic copies of court documents	14 judicial services have been digitalized. [6]
2	Automated Case Allocation	Electronic case allocation without human intervention	15.5 million cases have been automatically allocated. [6]
3	Electronic Case Management	Processing court cases through integrated information systems	Nearly 17 million cases have been processed through information systems. [6]

Note:

[6] Official data from the Presidential meeting of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **27 February 2025**.

[7] Official Statistics Portal of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Available at: <https://stat.sud.uz/>

In conclusion, the modernization of Uzbekistan’s judicial and legal system has significantly contributed to improving the effectiveness of the administration of justice, ensuring the reliable protection of citizens’ rights and freedoms, and strengthening judicial independence. The reforms implemented in recent years have elevated the quality of justice by introducing modern principles of judicial governance, expanding the use of digital technologies, and improving information exchange among state institutions.

Looking ahead, the further development of the judicial system will require the legally regulated application of artificial intelligence technologies, the improvement of mechanisms for handling electronic evidence, the enhancement of information security, and the expansion of citizen-oriented digital judicial services. These priorities will contribute to increasing the

transparency and openness of the judiciary while further strengthening public confidence in the judicial system.

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