

International Experience in Combating Corruption in Civil Courts and Uzbekistan's Legislation

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Abstract: This article analyzes international experience in combating corruption in civil courts and the legislation of Uzbekistan. The article examines the causes of corruption in the judicial system, its impact on society, as well as international standards and methods for combating this negative phenomenon. The anti-corruption legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, its development dynamics, and proposals for effectively combating corruption in civil courts are presented. The article's findings provide recommendations on important legislative and institutional reforms necessary to combat corruption.

Keywords: Corruption, civil courts, international experience, Uzbekistan legislation, anti-corruption measures, judicial reforms, legal mechanisms, transparency, openness.

Introduction: Corruption is a global problem that seriously hinders socio-economic development in all countries, especially in developing states. In particular, corruption in the judicial system leads to the loss of trust in justice, slows down economic growth, and exacerbates social inequality. According to the United Nations, the global economy loses more than \$2.6 trillion annually due to corruption, which accounts for 5% of global GDP (UN, 2023).

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan prioritized the fight against corruption as a key area of state policy. Within the framework of the 2017–2021 Action Strategy, comprehensive measures were implemented to reform the judicial and legal system and combat corruption. Under the New Uzbekistan Strategy for 2021–2026, these efforts were further intensified, leading to the adoption of a new edition of the "Law on Combating Corruption" in 2021. The objective of this article is to study international experience in combating corruption in civil courts and analyze Uzbekistan's legislation to identify effective legal mechanisms.

METHODOLOGY

The following methods were used in this study:

Comparative legal analysis – A comparative study of the experience of countries such as Singapore, South

Korea, and Denmark, which have achieved high results in combating corruption, and the legislation of Uzbekistan. Statistical analysis – Analysis of corruption cases in civil courts based on reports from Transparency International, the UN, and other international organizations, as well as statistical data from the Supreme Court and the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan. Normative-legal analysis – Study and analysis of Uzbekistan's anti-corruption legislation and international legal documents. Systematic approach – Considering the judicial system as a holistic entity in the fight against corruption.

RESULTS

1. International experience in combating corruption in civil courts

1.1. The experience of Singapore

Singapore is one of the most successful countries in combating corruption. In the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Singapore ranked 5th globally with a score of 83 (Transparency International, 2023). The country's key achievements include:

Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) – Established in 1952 as an independent body reporting directly to the Prime Minister.

The Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) – Imposes strict

penalties for all forms of corruption.

High judicial salaries – In 2022, the average monthly salary of Supreme Court judges in Singapore was \$26,000, reducing the risk of corruption. Transparency of court proceedings – Civil case decisions are published online and are accessible to the public. A distinctive feature of Singapore's approach is its zero-tolerance policy towards corruption. If a judge is found guilty of corruption, they are not only dismissed but also face criminal prosecution.

1.2. The experience of South Korea:

South Korea has achieved significant success in the fight against corruption, ranking 32nd in the CPI with a score of 63 in 2023 (Transparency International, 2023). The country has implemented effective mechanisms to combat corruption in civil courts, such as:

The Whistleblower Protection Act (2011) – Protects individuals who report corruption cases. Digitization of court proceedings – The "e-litigation" system was introduced in 2010, ensuring transparency in civil cases. Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) – Established in 2008, it has the authority to receive and investigate corruption complaints. Between 2018 and 2022, the number of corruption-related complaints in civil courts decreased by 17%, demonstrating the effectiveness of the measures taken (ACRC, 2022).

1.3. The experience of Denmark:

Denmark ranked 1st in the 2023 CPI with a score of 90 (Transparency International, 2023). The key factors contributing to Denmark's success in fighting corruption include:

Transparency in the selection and appointment of judges – Candidates are selected by a Qualification Commission, minimizing subjective factors. Adequate judicial remuneration – Judges in Denmark receive 4-5 times the average salary in the country. Judicial decisions registry – All civil case decisions are stored in special electronic registries and are publicly available. The Open Government Partnership program – Aims to enhance transparency and openness in the judicial system.

2. Anti-corruption legislation and practices in Uzbekistan

2.1. Uzbekistan's legal framework against corruption:

Uzbekistan has adopted several key legal documents to combat corruption:

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Combating Corruption" (2017, revised in 2021) – Defines the main principles and methods of fighting corruption. Presidential Decree No. PF-6034 (2020) – Introduces

mechanisms to prevent corruption in the judiciary. Presidential Decree No. PF-6257 (2021) – Establishes new institutions to combat corruption. The State Program for Combating Corruption (2021-2025) – Sets long-term strategies for fighting corruption.

2.2. Institutional mechanisms to combat corruption in Uzbekistan's civil courts

Uzbekistan has introduced several institutional mechanisms aimed at fighting corruption in civil courts:

The Supreme Judicial Council – Established in 2017 to ensure transparency in the selection and appointment of judges.

The Anti-Corruption Agency – Founded in 2020 with the authority to identify and prevent corruption in the judiciary.

Judicial Inspection – Monitors judges' activities and enforces ethical standards.

The "E-Sud" electronic system – Enhances transparency in civil court proceedings.

2.3. Corruption in Uzbekistan's civil courts:

According to the Prosecutor General's Office of Uzbekistan, the number of corruption-related offenses in civil courts decreased by 23% between 2020 and 2022. In 2022, 12 criminal cases were initiated against civil court judges for corruption, representing a 33% decrease compared to 2020 (when 18 cases were reported) (Prosecutor General's Office, 2023). According to Transparency International, Uzbekistan's CPI score improved from 22 in 2017 to 33 in 2023, indicating the effectiveness of ongoing reforms in combating corruption (Transparency International, 2023).

3. Recommendations for improving anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan's civil courts based on international experience

3.1. Improving legal mechanisms Based on the study of international experience, the following legislative improvements are proposed for Uzbekistan:

- Adopting a Whistleblower Protection Law – Implementing mechanisms to protect individuals who report corruption, following the example of South Korea.

- Amending the Civil Procedure Code – Strengthening regulations to ensure transparency in judicial proceedings.

- Revising the Anti-Corruption Law – Clearly defining mechanisms for combating corruption in the civil court system.

3.2. Enhancing institutional mechanisms:

To strengthen institutional mechanisms against

corruption in Uzbekistan's civil courts, the following measures are recommended:

- Improving the selection and appointment process for judges – Implementing a transparent selection mechanism, similar to Denmark's model.
- Reforming the judicial ethics code – Developing clear behavioral standards for judges based on international best practices.
- Increasing judicial salaries – Raising judges' wages significantly, following the example of Singapore.
- Further development of the "E-Sud" system – Digitizing all stages of civil court proceedings.

3.3. Improving judicial practices:

To enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts in civil courts, the following practical steps should be taken:

- Developing specialized anti-corruption programs for civil courts based on the experiences of Singapore and South Korea.
- Regular anti-corruption training for judges to improve their knowledge and skills.
- Strengthening cooperation with civil society organizations to enable public monitoring of court proceedings.
- Enhancing transparency and openness in civil case hearings by publishing court session records.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of international experience and the study of Uzbekistan's legislation have identified the most effective mechanisms for combating corruption. The experiences of Singapore, South Korea, and Denmark demonstrate that the most effective approaches to fighting corruption in civil courts are as follows:

1. Improving the financial security of judges. As seen in Singapore, judges with higher salaries are less prone to corruption. Although judges' salaries in Uzbekistan increased 2.5 times between 2017 and 2022, this figure still does not fully meet international standards.
2. Ensuring transparency in the selection and appointment of judges. Denmark's experience shows that selecting judges through an open competition process reduces corruption risks. Although the Supreme Judicial Council has been established in Uzbekistan, the selection process is still not sufficiently transparent.
3. Digitization of judicial processes. South Korea's "e-litigation" system has significantly reduced corruption risks. In Uzbekistan, the "E-Sud" system has

been introduced, but it has not yet covered all civil cases.

4. Whistleblower protection mechanisms. In South Korea, such a law protects individuals who report corruption cases. In Uzbekistan, these mechanisms are still underdeveloped.

Although Uzbekistan has made significant progress in combating corruption, there is still a need to further improve legislation and practices based on international experience.

CONCLUSION

Based on the study of international experience and the analysis of Uzbekistan's legislation, the following conclusions have been reached:

1. A comprehensive approach is necessary to combat corruption in civil courts, which should include legal, institutional, and practical measures.
2. The experiences of Singapore, South Korea, and Denmark demonstrate that achieving high results in the fight against corruption is possible.
3. While significant reforms have been implemented in Uzbekistan's fight against corruption, further improvements are needed in the mechanisms for combating corruption in civil courts.
4. The most effective methods for combating corruption in civil courts include: Improving the financial security of judges; Ensuring the transparency of judicial processes; Digitizing the judicial system; Implementing whistleblower protection mechanisms.
5. Strengthening cooperation with civil society institutions and the media is a key factor in the fight against corruption in civil courts.

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