

law enforcement activities, including the laws which contents should be absorbed first, by the ideas of social justice, freedom, equality and so on. One manifestation of the rule of law is that the law is not limited to legislation as one of its forms, but also includes other social reg-

ulators, such as moral norms, traditions, customs, etc., which are legitimized by the society and historically conditioned. All these elements are combined by the quality that meets the ideology of justice, the idea of law, which largely is reflected in the Constitution of Ukraine.

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CHURCH AND STATE RELATIONS: THEORETICAL ASPECT OF THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION IN UKRAINE

In light of the existing religious diversity in Ukraine, the critical elements to building a democratic rule of law state would be research and theoretical developments in the field of church and state relations which would respect the interests of all believers of any faith, with a view to ensuring practical and comprehensive protection of rights to freedom of conscience and religion. With this end in view, a lawyer, as a civil servant working in the area of governmental regulation of religious organizations, should have objective knowledge of existing religious diversity in Ukraine. The author is of opinion that it is important to build on the good initiatives in this direction available in our country and to help improve this education, focusing on the objectivity and quality of information on the confessions represented in Ukraine. It is essential that along with earning law degree, civil servants exercising control in the religious sphere, learn the basics of religious

studies relying on impartial and objective material produced by religious scholars. The author believes that in Ukraine legal studies and religious studies will soon naturally unite into one interdisciplinary science called "legal religious studies." This interdisciplinary field has already been tested in Russian universities. According to A.V. Pchelintsev, one of the developers of this scientific field, legal religious studies is necessary due to increased need to provide scientific foundation for the State policy related to enjoyment of freedom of conscience and religion and relations between the State and religious communities. The new approach combining best practices in the field of legal studies and religious studies is replacing the approach whereby in Soviet times lawyers addressed these issues mainly from the perspective of "scientific atheism," without any deep and critical understanding of complex processes of religious practice.