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INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN LEGAL REFORMS

The problem of independence of the judiciary is one of the most difficult in the administration of justice. Justice has one objective, one goal – to be guided in its activities by the principles of supremacy of law, legitimacy, fairness, objectivity, protecting the rights and freedoms of man and citizen.

The article aims to study the general principles of judicial independence in Ukraine in the context of current legal reforms.

The issue of judicial independence remains relevant in independent Ukraine. This issue was considered in the Article 11 of the Law of Ukraine “On Status of Judges” which was adopted on December 15, 1992. In this article independence of judiciary is provided through:

- established procedure of their appointment (election), termination of powers and dismissal;
- special procedure for assigning military ranks to judges of military courts;
- lawful procedure of administration of justice;
- secret of judgment adoption and the prohibition of its disclosure;
- prohibition of interference in the ad-

ministration of justice at threat of legal responsibility;

- responsibility for contempt of court or a judge;
- right of a judge to retire;
- inviolability of judges;
- creation of the necessary organizational, technical and informational conditions for courts’ activities, material and social security of judges according to their status;
- special order of funding of courts;
- a system of judicial self-government.

The next step in ensuring judicial independence was the adoption in 1996 of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Reform in 2002 also stipulated further development of the law governing the status of judges. The functioning of judicial self-government is one of the guarantees of the independence of justice. Judicial self-government should involve only those persons who are directly involved in the judicial activity.

Thus, we can say that the independence of judges is one of the foundations of a democratic and civilized society and guarantee of reliable protection of social values determined by the Constitution of Ukraine and the rule of law in the state.