



HIGH
QUALIFICATION
COMMISSION
OF JUDGES
OF UKRAINE

2025



REPORT

ANNUAL ACTIVITY



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Foreword by the Chair of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine: A Year in Review



This year, the report on the work of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine has been prepared in a **new format** and with an updated approach to the presentation of information. These changes are intended to enhance the transparency of the Commission's activities and to ensure that its public reporting is accessible both to legal professionals and to the wider public in Ukraine. The report gives particular attention to one of the key priorities of State policy in the field of justice, namely addressing personnel shortages through the development of a highly professional judiciary that meets the highest standards of integrity.

It is regrettable to realise that 2025 has been yet another year of full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine and a continuation of the war that has been ongoing since 2014. It was yet another year during which Ukraine's state institutions ensured the fulfilment of their constitutional functions amidst extraordinary pressure, risk and uncertainty. Courts, bodies of judicial (self-)governance, as well as civil servants across the country, worked not in abstract "difficult circumstances", but in conditions that were often not only unpredictable, but also emotionally draining and even physically dangerous.

In these circumstances, the work of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine, as a collegial body of judicial governance responsible for the selection and qualification assessment of judges, assumes special importance.

The Commission's tasks extend beyond purely administrative functions. It has an institutional and **strategic mission**, which consists of building an ethical and professional judiciary, overcoming the staffing crisis in the justice system, ensuring fair and transparent procedures for judicial careers, developing new practices for engaging with the public and international partners, and strengthening the Commission's institutional capacity, namely through the modernisation of procedures and the digitalisation of internal processes.

The key indicators presented in the report are not merely statistical data. They reflect the scale of the responsibility entrusted to the Commission and the intensity of the work carried out over the year.

Throughout the reporting period, the Commission operated under increased pressure, whilst ensuring the **continuity of key procedures** relating to judicial careers.

Competitive and selection procedures were announced for over 2,400 judicial positions, and the number of applications submitted by candidates amounted to almost 10,000. This demonstrates the continued attractiveness of the judicial profession and the readiness of the legal community to contribute to restoring the human resources capacity of the judiciary. The Commission ensured a full cycle of procedures, *i.e.* from organising exams and examination sessions to conducting interviews, meetings and delivering decisions. As part of these processes, tens of thousands of examination sessions, hundreds of interviews and meetings were held, and thousands of decisions on judicial careers were made. Particular attention was paid to formulating recommendations on the appointment of judges to courts at various levels, in particular the appellate instance, as well as to procedures for confirming the suitability of judges for their posts.

At the same time, 2025 was not only a year of heavy workload for the Commission, but also a year of significant **qualitative changes in its activities**.

First and foremost, at the beginning of the year, the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine approved new Regulation on the Procedure and Methodology of Qualification Assessment, Indicators of Compliance with the Qualification Assessment Criteria and Means of their Establishment. The adoption of this act marked an important step in improving competitive procedures. These regulations are aimed at enhancing the objectivity of qualification assessment, increasing the transparency of competitive procedures, standardising approaches to determining results, and ensuring clear and predictable rules for all participants. Among its key innovations are the updating of the judge's job description, the introduction of a presumption that candidates meet the criteria of integrity and professional ethics, the introduction of clear and predictable rules for their assessment, and the establishment of a single standard of compliance – no less than 75% of the maximum possible score for each assessment criterion.

The Commission has developed its own comprehensive and integrated database of test and practical assignments for use in competitive selection procedures and qualification assessments. This comprises a systematically developed body of materials covering tests on the history of Ukrainian statehood, general knowledge in the field of law and relevant specialisations, as well as practical assignments and materials for assessing cognitive abilities. The Commission has taken a significant step towards modernising the examinations – they have been fully converted to digital format. In effect, for the first time, the Commission has acquired the real institutional capacity to independently manage the full cycle of preparing the substantive content of competitions and qualification procedures. Whereas such autonomy was previously limited, the Commission now has its own comprehensive toolkit for organising transparent, professional and standardised assessments of candidates and judges.

In addition, the Commission has ensured the implementation of all measures provided for in the State Anti-Corruption Programme for 2023–2025.

It is also worth noting the launch of the Commission's **digitalisation of work processes**, which is being implemented in partnership with the expert community and international partners. Work in this area represents a significant achievement in terms of introducing practical digital solutions into judicial career procedures. This is not only a requirement of the times, but also a necessary condition for increasing confidence in the results of competitions and selections for judicial posts, as well as ensuring maximum transparency in the relevant procedures. In particular, this involves:

- the creation of a secure environment for the development of examination papers, ensuring complete confidentiality of their content;
- introducing the unified judicial career cabinet to support all procedures for the selection and appointment of judges, the formation and maintenance of the dossiers, the submission of declarations of integrity and family ties, as well as the conduct of assessments, including regular ones;
- establishment of a module for collecting information on judges and candidates for judicial office, which will enable the automation of special checks and analysis of data from state registers and databases;
- developing a portal for the registration of judicial posts to automate the processing of information on posts, judges and candidates;
- launching a new website for the Commission, which will ensure greater transparency and accessibility of information regarding its activities and performance.

The Commission's achievements in fulfilling Ukraine's **international obligations** deserve special mention, particularly within the framework of the Plan for the Ukraine Facility and the commitments set out in the process of Ukraine's accession to the EU. The achievement of the Plan's key indicators has confirmed the Commission's ability to deliver results that are significant not only for the judicial system but also for the country's macro-financial stability. The Commission ensured the fulfilment of the specified indicators, in particular regarding the filling of 20% of vacancies in the courts and the completion of the qualification assessment for 50% of judges to ensure they meet the requirements of their posts. These achievements are a prerequisite for the transfer of €388 million to the State Budget of Ukraine.

As part of fulfilling Ukraine's commitments regarding European integration, the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine has adopted clear rules for the regular assessment and self-assessment of judges, refined internal regulatory acts in line with the Unified Indicators for Assessing Integrity and Professional Ethics of Judges, and took measures to strengthen the institutional capacity of the Public Integrity Council, particularly regarding access to judges' dossiers. At the same time, work continued on improving the quality of the Commission's decisions, particularly regarding their proper reasoning. The publication of regular digests of the Commission's decisions has been introduced, and the conduct and promotion of competitive procedures for the High Anti-Corruption Court, its Appeals Chamber, the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal have been ensured. In addition, the issue of admitting candidates to participate in the selection process for local court judges has been regulated.

It is equally important to recognise that the Commission's effectiveness is also determined by its achievements in **cooperation with the civil society sector and international partners**. Without their support, the implementation of complex institutional decisions would be considerably slower. Such cooperation is not about "external assistance" as a formality, but first and foremost about the quality of the process: professional expertise, an independent perspective, and the ability to identify risks in good time and propose practical solutions. This is precisely the role played by our partners: the European Union's "Pravo-JUSTICE" Project, the European Union Anti-Corruption Initiative in Ukraine (EUACI), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), and the civil society organisation "Agency for Legislative Initiatives". Next year, we look forward to maintaining and further strengthening this trust and support. Furthermore, the Commission is determined not only to deepen cooperation with existing partners but also to expand its international presence, consistently advocating the results and approaches of its work in professional international forums with the aim of consolidating a broader coalition of support for institutional change in Ukraine.

Finally, the work of any public authority would be impossible without the professional, dedicated and daily efforts of the people who ensure its smooth running. That is why I would like to express my special gratitude to the **employees of the Secretariat of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine**. Their work involves not only the organisational support of competitive procedures, but also forms the foundation for the consistent, coordinated and high-quality work of the Commission as a whole. This work is not always visible from the outside, yet its results are evident at every stage of the Commission's activities.

The Chairman of the
Commission



Andrii PASICHNYK

CONTENTS

About the Commission

1. Status of staffing of judicial positions in local courts

2. Status of filling judicial positions in appellate courts

3. Status of filling judicial positions in high specialised courts and the Supreme Court

4. International activity

5. Other powers



ABOUT THE COMMISSION

The High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine is a permanent State collegial body of judicial governance operating within Ukraine's justice system. The Commission consists of sixteen members, eight of whom are appointed from among judges or retired judges. The organisational forms of activity of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine include sessions of the Commission in plenary, as well as sessions of its chambers and panels. Administrative support is provided by the Commission's Secretariat.

The main powers of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine include:

- maintaining records of the number of judicial positions in courts, including vacant positions;
- conducting the selection and competitive selection of candidates for appointment to the position of judge, including organising special background checks on them in accordance with the law and administering the qualification exam;
- submitting to the High Council of Justice a recommendation regarding the appointment of a candidate to the position of judge;
- submitting recommendations to the High Council of Justice regarding the transfer of judges in accordance with the law, except for transfers as a disciplinary measure;
- conducting qualification assessments of judges and candidates for judicial office;
- organising regular assessments of judges;
- secondment of judges to other courts;
- ensuring the maintenance of judges' dossiers and dossiers of candidates for judicial office;
- within the scope of its competence take part in international cooperation, including the establishment of ties with foreign establishments, institutions and organisations, projects of international technical assistance, act as a beneficiary and recipient of international technical aid, principal administrator of international aid from foreign states, banks and international financial organisations.

In 2025, 442 sessions were held, of which:

- 110 were plenary;
- 3 were special joint meetings of the Commission and the PCIE;
- 128 were meetings in chamber;
- 201 were meetings in panel.

The Commission adopted 2,538 decisions, of which:

- on the selection and appointment of judges – 1,158;
- on the transfer (secondment) of judges – 251;
- verification of declarations of family ties and integrity of judges (candidates for judicial office) – 45;
- the qualification assessment of judges – 117;
- the conduct of competitions for the appointment of judges to high specialised courts – 69;
- the conduct of competitions for the appointment of judges to courts of appeal – 675;
- general matters – 223.

COMPOSITION OF THE HIGH QUALIFICATION COMMISSION OF JUDGES OF UKRAINE



Andrii Pasichnyk, Chairman of the Commission – Head of the First Chamber

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023.

Elected Chairman of the Commission on 07.08.2024, and re-elected to this post on 06.08.2025. Attorney, Candidate of Law Sciences (PhD in Law), Associate Professor.

In 2020–2023, Andrii Pasichnyk headed the Department of Full Inspections of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention.

Oleh Koliush, Deputy Chairman of the Commission – Head of the Second Chamber

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023. Elected Deputy Chairman of the Commission on 06.08.2025. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he worked as a legal adviser and practised as a self-employed solicitor. Since 2012, he has been administering justice in the Leninskyi District Court of Luhansk city and the Avtozavodskyi District Court of Kremenchuk Town, Poltava Oblast. Since May 2019, he has been a judge of the High Anti-Corruption Court. He holds a scientific degree as a Candidate of Law Sciences (PhD in Law).



Serhii Chumak, Secretary of the First Chamber

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023. On 06.06.2023, he was elected Secretary of the Commission's Chamber. He was re-elected to this post on 06.08.2025. In 1997–2004, he worked in various positions in the prosecution offices. From September 2004 to November 2010, he was a judge of the Zhovtnevyi District Court of Mariupol City. Since November 2010, he has been a judge of the Administrative Court of Appeal.

In 2014–2015 – member of the Council of Judges of Ukraine.

Ruslan Melnyk, Secretary of the Second Chamber

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023. On 06.06.2023, he was elected Secretary of the Commission's Chamber. He was re-elected to this post on 06.08.2025. In 2016-2023, he worked at the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, where he headed the Corruption Prevention Unit. Candidate of Law Sciences (PhD in Law), Associate Professor, author of over forty academic papers in the field of law.



Mykhailo Bohonis, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023.

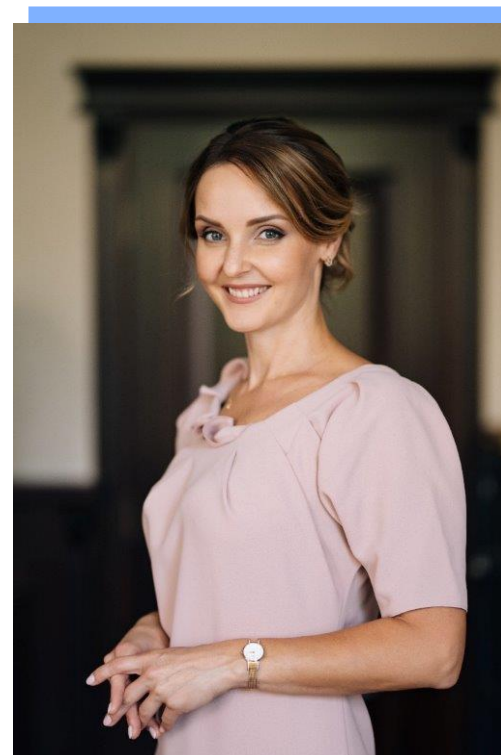
He worked as a legal adviser in the private sector, as well as in various civil service positions.

In 2012, appointed as a judge of the Vinnytsia Circuit Administrative Court.

Liudmyla Volkova, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023.

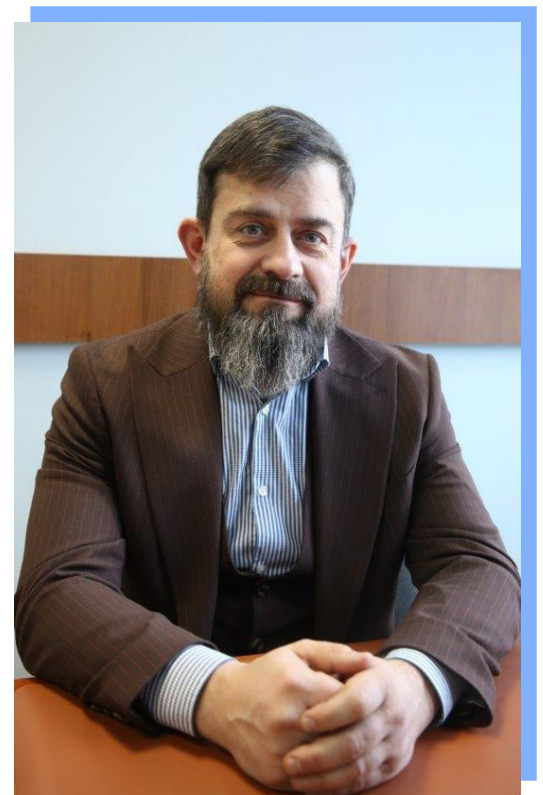
She worked at an enterprise of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, in the territorial unit of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine in Kharkiv Oblast, held the positions of judge's assistant and judge in the Kharkiv Circuit Administrative Court (2009–2018). In 2015–2018, she was a member of the Council of Judges of Ukraine. She has work experience in international law companies and worked as an attorney.





Vitalii Gatseliuk, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023. He holds a scientific degree of a Candidate of Law Sciences (PhD in Law) (2005), and an academic title of Senior Researcher in the specialty 081 “Law” (2022), an author of more than one hundred scientific works in the field of law. Honored Lawyer of Ukraine (2015). He has extensive experience as a program manager in the field of legal reforms, good governance and democratisation at the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (2014-2023).



Yaroslav Dukh, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023. For over 17 years, he worked in the Prosecutor’s Office of Kyiv City, and the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, for almost 4 years – as a detective of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. Since February 2020, he has headed units of the National Agency on Corruption Prevention. In 2015–2016 and February 2022–December 2023, he served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine.



Roman Kydysiuk, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023. He has spent over 20 years working in the field of the judiciary and the judicial system. He previously worked at the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. Since 2012, he has been a judge at the Commercial Court of Lviv Oblast.

Nadiia Kobetska, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023.
Professor at Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University. Doctor of Law Sciences and author more than two hundred scientific and educational works in the field of law.
She has held the positions of Head of Department and Vice-Rector of the University.



Ihor Kushnir, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 12.08.2025.
He began his career in the Prosecutor's Office of Chernihiv Oblast.
In 2004, he was appointed as a judge of the Commercial Court of Chernihiv Oblast.
From 17.11.2017 to 15.09.2020 – judge of the Supreme Court in the Commercial Court of Cassation. He is currently a retired judge.

Volodymyr Luhanskyi, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023 from among retired judges. Prior to his appointment as a member of the Commission, he served in a military unit in the Donetsk sector and received departmental and state awards. Since 1991, he has worked as an investigator and prosecutor in the Luhansk Oblast Prosecutor's Office. In 2008-2020, he administered justice in Leninskyi District Court of Luhansk City and the Sievierodonetskyi Town Court of Luhansk Oblast. He is currently a retired judge.





Oleksii Omelian, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023. Deputy Chairman of the Commission (2024–2025).

Prior to his appointment as a member of the Commission, he did military service in the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, worked as a judge assistant in the Supreme Court of Ukraine and as a Disciplinary Inspector of the Commission. In 2012 appointed as a judge of the Commercial Court of Zhytomyr Oblast.

Roman Sabodash, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023. Attorney, Candidate of Law Sciences (PhD in Law), Associate Professor. He teaches courses in civil law, corporate law and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Department of Civil Law).



Ruslan Sydorovych, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission on 01.06.2023. Deputy Chairman of the Commission (2023–2024). Since 1998 he has been a practicing attorney. In 2008 he held the position of Acting Chief of Staff of the Sviatoshynskiy District State Administration of the City of Kyiv. In 2014–2019 he was a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine of the VIII convocation, a member of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Legal Policy and Justice, and the Chairman of the Sub-committee on the implementation of judgements of the European Court of Human Rights.

Halyna Shevchuk, member of the Commission

Appointed as a member of the Commission from among judges on 01.06.2023. Since 1993, she administered justice in the court of the first instance. From 2002 to February 2024, she worked as a judge of the Ternopil Oblast Court of Appeals. Currently, she is a retired judge.



The First Chamber

Andrii Pasichnyk (Head of the Chamber)

Serhii Chumak (Secretary of the Chamber)

Yaroslav Dukh

Roman Kydysiuk

Oleksii Omelian

Ihor Kushnir

Roman Sabodash

Ruslan Sydorovych



The Second Chamber

Oleh Koliush (Head of the Chamber)

Ruslan Melnyk (Secretary of the Chamber)

Mykhailo Bohonis

Liudmyla Volkova

Vitalii Gatseliuk

Nadiia Kobetska

Volodymyr Luhanskyi

Halyna Shevchuk



PANELS OF THE HIGH QUALIFICATION COMMISSION OF JUDGES OF UKRAINE

Panel No. 1

Mykhailo Bohonis
Nadiia Kobetska
Halyna Shevchuk



Panel No. 2

Liudmyla Volkova
Roman Kydysiuk
Ruslan Sydorovych



Panel No. 3

Andrii Pasichnyk
Roman Sabodash
Serhii Chumak

Panel No. 4

Vitalii Gatseliuk
Oleh Koliush
Ruslan Melnyk



Panel No. 5

Yaroslav Dukh
Ihor Kushnir
Volodymyr Luhanskyi
Oleksii Omelian





Acting Head of the Secretariat

Taras Neshyk

Deputy Head of the Secretariat CDTO

Pavlo Kulyk





[Inspectors Service](#)

[Department of
Judicial Career](#)

Director – Oleh
Rybchuk





Department of
Documentary Support

Head – Maryna
Kryvoshap

Department for
Preparation and Holding
of the Meetings of the
Commission

Head – Svitlana
Nesterenko



Department of Financial and Economic Management

Head – Olha Hohulia



Legal Department

Head – Natalia Kidina



Department of Information Technologies

Head – Valerii Korobka

International Cooperation Department

Head – Yuliia Reminska





Division of Publishing and
Literary Editing

Head – Olena Dronhovska



Division for Human
Recourses

Head – Maryna Malyk

Division of Economic Management and Logistics

Head – Oleksandr Ivanin



Sector for Information Support and Communication of the Secretariat
Head – Roman Korchuk

Sector of Access to Public Information, Reception and Appeals of Citizens

Head – Valeriia Ovdienko





Sector for Planning and Organisational Work of the Secretariat

Head – Nataliia Serovetnyk

Sector of Contractual Relations and Procurement Coordination

Head – Olha Kulesh



Sector for Prevention and Detection of Corruption

Acting Head of the Sector – Inna Piddubna

PUBLIC INTEGRITY COUNCIL

The Public Integrity Council (PIC) is an independent civic body which, since 2016, pursuant to Article 87 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges”, has been assisting the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) in the assessment of sitting judges and the selection of candidates for judicial positions.

The Public Integrity Council (PIC) consists of twenty members who are elected for a term of two years.

The Public Integrity Council (PIC), *inter alia*:

- collects, verifies and analyses information concerning a judge (a candidate for a judicial position);
- provides the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) with information concerning a judge (a candidate for a judicial position);
- where relevant grounds exist, provides the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) with an opinion on the non-compliance of a judge (a candidate for a judicial position) with the criteria of professional ethics and integrity, which is appended to the candidate’s file or to the judge’s dossier;
- delegates an authorised representative to participate in a meeting of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) concerning the qualification assessment of a judge (a candidate for a judicial position).

On 04.08.2025, civil society organisations held a general meeting and elected a new composition of the Public Integrity Council (PIC). Twenty representatives of civil society were elected to the fourth composition of the PIC and assumed their powers on 15.08.2025. The mandate of one member was terminated early. Accordingly, as of the end of 2025, the fourth composition of the PIC consists of 19 members.



Joint strategic session of the members of the HQCJ and the Public Integrity Council (PIC) (third composition) — 31.01.2025

Joint strategic session of members of the HQCJ and the Public Integrity Council (PIC) (fourth composition) — 12.12.2025



COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLIC INTEGRITY COUNCIL (PIC)



Oleh Baturin

(NGO “Institute of legislative ideas”, NGO “Centre of Information on Human Rights”)
Investigative journalist of the Crimean Center for Investigative Journalism in Kherson region.



Anastasiia Borema

(NGO “Civic Platform New Country”,
NGO “DEJURE Foundation”)
Communications Manager Bihus.Info.



Orest Bumba

(All-Ukrainian NGO “Ukrainian Bar Association”)
Attorney-at-law, Adviser at Armada Law Firm LLC.



Olha Veretilnyk

(NGO “Transparency International Ukraine”)
Attorney-at-law, member and co-coordinator of the
third composition of the Public Integrity Council (PIC).



Yaroslava Volvach

(NGO “Civic Platform New Country”,
NGO “Centre for Economic Strategy”)
Head of the Investigations Department at hromadske.



Mariia Horban

(NGO “Centre for Economic Strategy”,
NGO “Anti-Corruption Action Center”)
Journalist at NGL.media.



Eleonora Yemets

(NGO “DEJURE Foundation”)
Lawyer, Head of the White Collar Crime and Business Security Practice at ADER
HABER Law Firm, Secretary to the Chair of the International Law Committee of the
Ukrainian National Bar Association (UNBA).

Anton Zelinskyi

(NGO “Institute of Legislative Ideas”,
NGO “DEJURE Foundation”)

Lawyer, member of the third composition of the Public Integrity Council (PIC), Advocacy Manager at NGO “DEJURE Foundation”.



Svitlana Ilnytska

(All-Ukrainian NGO “Ukrainian Bar Association”)

Attorney-at-law, mediator, partner at LI Partners Law Firm, Member of the Board of the Lviv Mediation Center, member of the All-Ukrainian NGO “Ukrainian Bar Association”, alumna of the “Advocate of the Future” programme, member of the third composition of the Public Integrity Council (PIC).

Mariia Krasnenko

NGO “Media Initiative for Human Rights”,
NGO “Human Rights Information Centre”)

Human rights defender, national expert of
Council of Europe projects in Ukraine.



Serhii Kryvonos

(NGO “SICH Human Rights Group”, NGO “DEJURE Foundation”)

Monitoring and Risk Assessment Specialist, Compliance System, NGO “SICH Human Rights Group”; volunteer.

Kateryna Lykhohliad

(NGO “DEJURE Foundation”),
NGO “Centre of Information on Human Rights”)
Editor-in-Chief of Ukrainian Witness.



Oksana Mykhalevych

(NGO “Media Initiative for Human Rights”, NGO “Centre of Information on Human Rights”), Attorney-at-law, representative of victims in the Maidan cases, member of the “Advocates Advisory Group”.

Yaroslav Nahalka

(NGO “SICH Human Rights Group”,
NGO “DEJURE Foundation”) attorney-at-law.





Yuliia Oleshchenko

(NGO “Civic Platform “New Country””,
NGO “CHESNO Movement”) analyst at NGO “CHESNO Movement”.

Artem Panchenko

(NGO “Institute of Legislative Ideas”, NGO “Centre for Economic Strateg
Legal Analyst at NGO “Institute of Legislative Ideas”.



Liliia Sekelyk

(NGO “Civic Platform ‘New Country’”,
NGO “SICH Human Rights Group”)

Managing Partner at Sekelyk & Partners Law Firm, Chair of the Charitable
Organisation “February People Charitable Foundation”.



Dmytro Tuzov

(NGO “Institute of Legislative Ideas”, NGO “Anti-Corruption Action Center”)
Journalist, host at Radio NV.



Serhii Fesenko

(NGO “DEJURE Foundation”)

Attorney-at-law, Managing Partner at AB “Yurhazenerho”, Chair of the
Supervisory Board of the Charitable Organisation “Union of Kharkiv Volunteers
Charitable Foundation”.



PUBLIC COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS

The Public Council of International Experts (PCIE) is established by the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) to assist it in the preparation of decisions on the appointment of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC). The PCIE is an auxiliary body of the HQCJ composed of six international legal experts. The term of office of the members of the Council is 18 months. The PCIE ensures that candidates for positions of HACC judges meet the criteria of integrity, knowledge and practical skills.

Members of the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE) are appointed from among persons who possess an impeccable business reputation, high professional and moral qualities, and public credibility, and who have at least five years of experience in other countries in procedural supervision, the prosecution of cases in court, or the administration of justice in cases related to corruption.

Powers of the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE):

- collects, verifies and analyses information concerning candidates for positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC);
- provides the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) with information concerning candidates for positions of HACC judges;
- participates in special joint meetings in cases provided for by the Law of Ukraine “On the High Anti-Corruption Court”;
- takes measures to protect personal data and information with restricted access that has become known to the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE) and its members in connection with the exercise of their powers.

Members of the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE):



Norman Aas

Prosecutor General of Estonia (2005–2014), lawyer, held various positions in the Prosecutor’s Office and the Ministry of Justice of Estonia.

Robert Hein Broekhuijsen

Special Prosecutor in the Serious Fraud Division of the Public Prosecution Service of the Netherlands (2005–2012), attorney-at-law.



John J. O’Sullivan

Retired judge from the United States, served as Head of the Criminal Division of the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida.

Mary K. Butler

Head of the International Unit of the Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS) of the United States Department of Justice; served as an anti-corruption prosecutor.



Jessica Lott Thompson

Minister of Justice of Canada (2017–2019), federal criminal prosecutor (2008–2014), lawyer.

Gabrielė Juodkaitė-Granskienė

Director of the Lithuanian Forensic Science Centre (2004–2017), judge of the Supreme Court of Lithuania.



EXPERT COUNCIL

For the purpose of assisting the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) in determining whether candidates for positions of judges of the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal meet the criteria of integrity and professional competence for the purposes of qualification assessment, an Expert Council is established and operates.

The Expert Council, *inter alia*, analyses information concerning candidates, may conduct interviews with them, and may provide an opinion on the non-compliance of a candidate with the criteria of integrity and/or professional competence.

On 15.09.2025, at a meeting of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ), six members of the Expert Council were elected. Accordingly, a new institution has been established in Ukraine, which is an auxiliary and advisory body of the Commission.

Members of the Expert Council:

- *three persons nominated by the Council of Judges of Ukraine:*



Olena Hanechko

Judge of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal, previously worked as legal counsel in the private sector, as well as in civil service positions.

Yevhen Synelnykov

Judge of the Civil Cassation Court within the Supreme Court, member of the Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of the Bar of Cherkasy Region (2012–2017).



Valeriia Chorna

Judge of the Appeals Chamber of the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC), previously held various positions in the prosecution authorities, including Prosecutor of a Department of the Directorate for Public Prosecution of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Prosecutor's Office (2001–2008).

- *three persons nominated by international (foreign) organisations:*

Robert Hein Broekhuijsen

Special Prosecutor in the Serious Fraud Division of the Public Prosecution Service of the Netherlands (2005–2012), attorney-at-law.



Jessica Lott Thompson

Minister of Justice of Canada (2017–2019), federal prosecutor in Canada (2008–2014), lawyer.

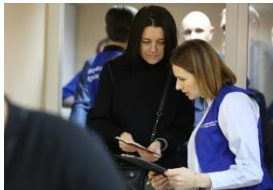
Sigita Rudėnaite

Judge from Lithuania, Chair of the Judicial Council of Lithuania (2020–2024), has worked at various levels of the judicial system, including the Utena District Court, the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania, the Vilnius Regional Court, and the Vilnius District Administrative Court.



EVENTS OF THE YEAR

From **08.01** to **17.01**, a cognitive ability test was conducted as part of the competition for positions in the courts of appeal. A total of 1,120 out of 1,588 candidates advanced to the next stage.

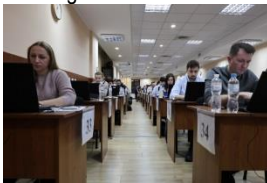


On **13.01**, amendments were introduced to the Procedure for Access to the Judicial Dossier (Candidate's Dossier). The procedure for access of members of the Public Integrity Council (PIC) and the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE) to the dossier was improved.



On **22.01**, a new Regulation on the Procedure and Methodology of Qualification Assessment, including the indicators of compliance, was approved.

On **12.03**, the results of 210 practical assignments completed by 105 participants in the competition for positions in the administrative courts of appeal were approved. A total of 67 candidates advanced to the next stage.



On **19.03**, the results of 196 practical assignments completed by 98 participants in the competition for positions in the commercial courts of appeal were approved. A total of 83 candidates advanced to the next stage.



On **31.03**, the Commission recommended that the High Council of Justice appoint two winners of the competition to the positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC): Tetiana Lytvynko and Olena Chernova.

On **01.05**, the submission of applications and documents for the selection to local courts was completed. In total, 9,339 persons submitted documents for selection and transfer to local courts: 8,744 candidates and 595 judges.



On **06.05**, interviews with candidates in the competition for positions in the administrative courts of appeal commenced, and on **20.05**, in the commercial courts of appeal.



On **12.05**, a qualification exam was scheduled for candidates for the position of a judge of a local court and for judges who expressed their intention to be transferred to another local court; the sequence of its stages and the means for determining them were also established.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

In partnership with the Ukrainian Bar Association (UBA), five regional sessions were held with potential candidates in the selection to local courts: Lviv (**06.02**), Dnipro (**08.02**), Kharkiv (**11.02**), Odesa (**21.02**), and Kyiv (**28.02**).

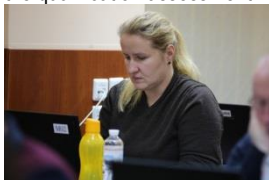


On **17.02**, a special joint meeting of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine (HQCJ) and the Public Council of International Experts (PCIE) was held regarding the compliance of candidates for positions of HACC judges with the established criteria.

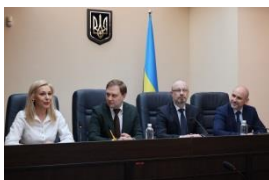


From **03.02** to **27.02**, Stage III of the qualification exam – completion of a practical assignment – was conducted as part of the competition for positions in the courts of appeal.

On **17.04**, the overall results of the qualification exam of participants in the competition for positions in the courts of appeal of general jurisdiction were approved. A total of 1,828 practical papers were assessed, and 706 candidates were admitted to the second stage of the qualification assessment.



On **24.04**, an open Q&A session was held for potential candidates in the competition for positions at the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC) and its Appeals Chamber. Members of the Commission answered 40 questions.



On **03.06**, a competition was announced to fill 23 vacant positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC): 10 positions of judges of the Appeals Chamber of the HACC and 13 positions of judges of the HACC as a court of first instance.



On **11.06**, amendments were made to the Regulation on the Procedure for Taking the Qualification Examination and the Methodology for Evaluating Candidates.



Admission of applicants in the selection for the position of a judge of a local court has been completed. A total of 8,446 applicants were admitted to the qualification exam.

On **02.07**, the submission of documents was announced for candidates for judicial positions in the Dnipro, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Kharkiv Courts of Appeal.



On **04.07**, the programmes for the stages of the examination and the taxonomic specifications of the anonymous testing within the qualification assessment of candidates for judicial positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court and its Appeals Chamber were approved.



From **15 – 24.07**, Stage I of the qualification exam in the selection process for local courts was conducted - testing of knowledge of the history of Ukrainian statehood. A total of 8,432 candidates were admitted; 7,939 took the exam; 7,239 advanced to Stage II.

From **09 – 17.09**, Stage III of the qualification exam in the selection process for local courts was conducted, consisting of cognitive abilities testing.

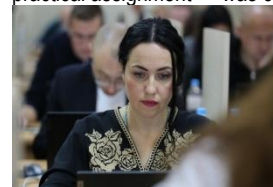


On **29.09**, the Commission approved the Regulation on the Regular Assessment of Judges, developed in implementation of Article 90 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges," as envisaged in paragraph 1.3 of the Rule of Law Roadmap.



On **29.09**, the competitions for the Zhytomyr and Sumy Courts of Appeal were completed. It was recommended to appoint 14 candidates to the Zhytomyr Court of Appeal and 19 candidates to the Sumy Court of Appeal.

On **12.11 and 14.11**, for 85 candidates in the competition to the High Anti-Corruption Court and its Appeals Chamber, the final stage of the qualification exam – the practical assignment – was conducted.



On **26.11**, the ranking of candidates was approved and 10 winners of the competition for vacant judicial positions at the Zakarpattia Court of Appeal were determined.



The High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine is introducing the practice of publicly presenting regular digests to enhance the transparency of its activities. The introduction of these digests forms part of the implementation of the Rule of Law Roadmap.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

On **06.08**, the acceptance of applications for 23 positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court was completed. A total of 205 candidates applied to participate in the competition.

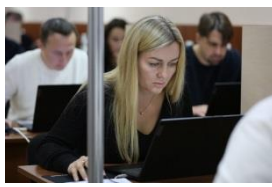


From **05 – 26.08**, the second stage of the qualification exam in the selection for local courts was conducted, consisting of testing general legal knowledge and knowledge of the court's specialisation.

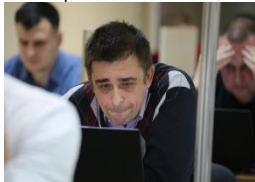


On **15.08**, the first-ever open competition in Ukraine for positions in appellate administrative and commercial courts was completed.

Three tests were conducted in the competition to the High Anti-Corruption Court and its Appeals Chamber: on the history of Ukrainian statehood (01.10), general legal knowledge and knowledge of the relevant court (13.10), and cognitive abilities (27.10).



From **07 – 31.10**, the final stage of the qualification exam in the selection for local courts was conducted, consisting of a practical assignment in the relevant court specialisation for 3,049 candidates.



On **23.10**, a project on the digitalisation of the judicial system of Ukraine and the Constitutional Court of Ukraine was launched with the participation of the Legislative Initiatives Laboratory and the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. On **29.10**, a competition was announced for 27 positions in newly established specialised administrative courts: 17 in the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and 10 in the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal.

Recommendations for appointment were issued to the winners of competitions to appellate courts: 10 persons to the Zakarpattia Court of Appeal (08.12); 22 persons to the Chernihiv Court of Appeal (22.12); and 16 persons to the Zaporizhzhia Court of Appeal (22.12).



On **22.12**, the results of the practical assignment in the competition to the High Anti-Corruption Court and its Appeals Chamber were approved. A total of 73 candidates successfully passed the fourth stage of the exam.

On **23.12**, the submission of applications by persons wishing to participate in the competitions to the newly established specialised administrative courts was completed. A total of 356 applications were submitted: 225 for the competition to the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and 131 for the competition to the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal.

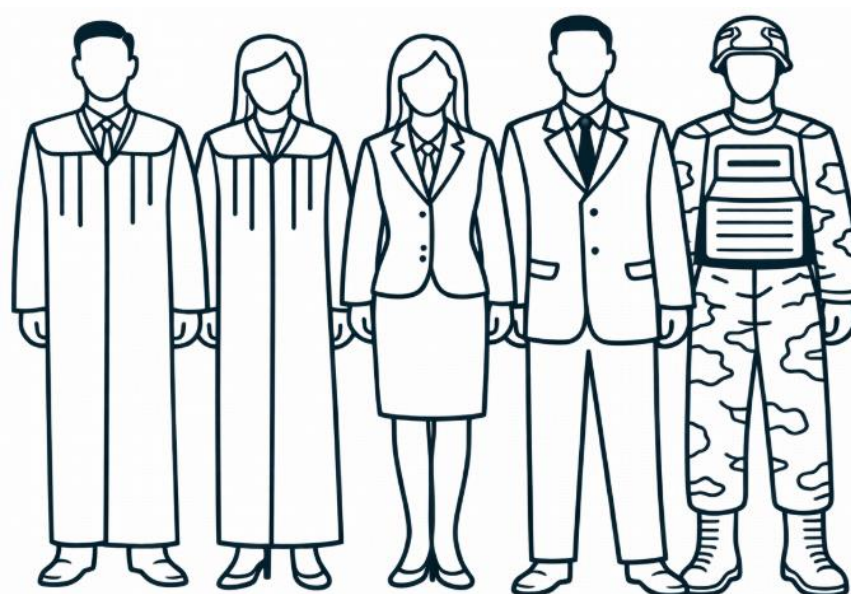
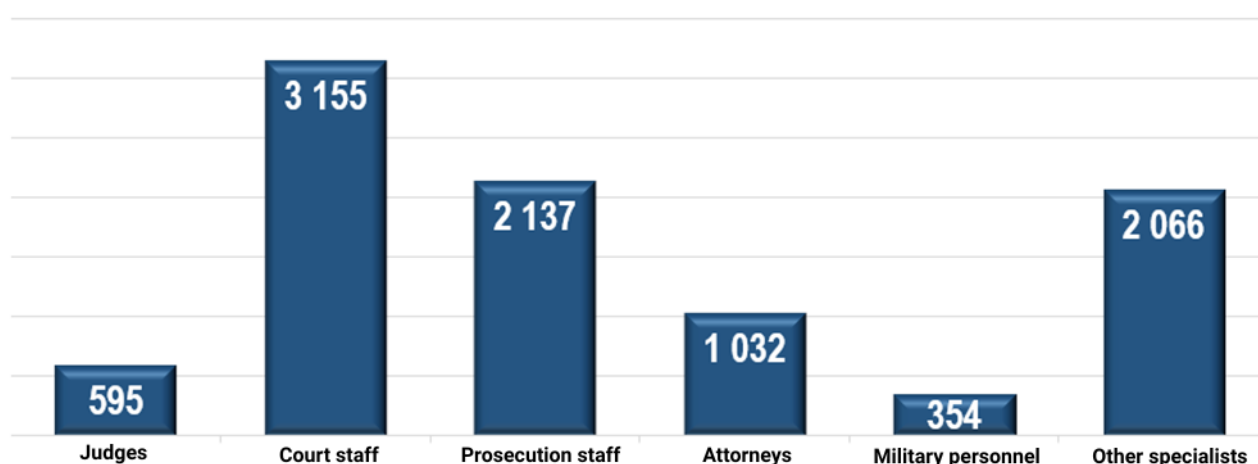
1. STATUS OF STAFFING OF JUDICIAL POSITIONS IN LOCAL COURTS

As of 01.01.2025, the number of vacant judicial positions in local courts of Ukraine that remain operational (whose territorial jurisdiction has not been reassigned) was 1,212, including:

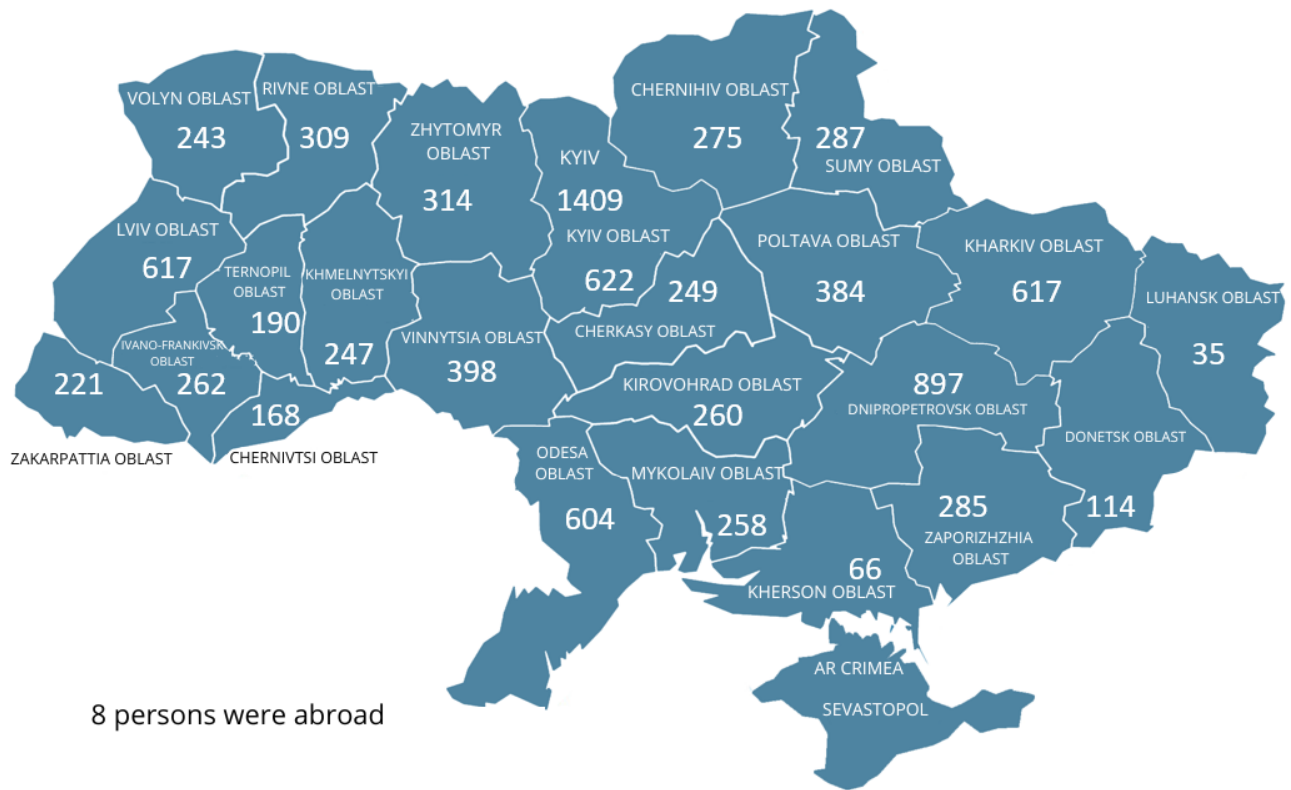
- 939 in local general courts;
- 136 in local commercial courts;
- and 137 in local administrative courts.

The Commission continued the selection for local court judge positions and the acceptance of applications from judges seeking transfer to another local court (announced by Commission decisions of 11.12.2024). The projected number of vacancies covered by the selection is 1,800.

In total, 9,339 persons applied in the selection and transfer procedures to local courts, including 8,744 candidates and 595 judges.



By regional indicator of the person's location at the time of application submission, candidates for judicial positions and judges were distributed as follows:



The distribution of candidates by chosen specialisations for the qualification exam is as follows:

8,708 - general;

2,938 - commercial;

3,428 - administrative.

Including:

214 candidates opted to take exams simultaneously in administrative and commercial specialisations;

1,328 - administrative and general;

867 - commercial and general;

1,664 - administrative, commercial and general.

The gender distribution is balanced: women account for 52% of applicants, and men for 48%.

Following the review of submitted materials, the Commission decided to admit 8,432 persons to participate in the selection (qualification exam), including 7,870 candidates and 562 judges:



*18 judges of administrative courts;
14 judges of commercial courts;
530 judges of general courts;*



*2,980 court staff members;
2,004 prosecution service staff;
868 lawyers;
280 military personnel;
1,738 representatives of other professions.*

A total of 859 persons were not admitted to the qualification exam; the applications of 31 persons were left without consideration, and the participation of 17 persons was terminated.

The profile of a candidate for the position of judge or a judge admitted to the qualification exam, based on the most numerous criterion, is as follows:

A judge who expressed a wish to be transferred to another court



- female,
- 40–49 years old,
- court of general jurisdiction,
- judicial experience of up to 5 years,
- Donetsk Oblast.

Candidate for the position of judge



- female,
- 30–39 years old,
- court of general jurisdiction,
- experience in court administration,
- Kyiv.

The first stage of the exam

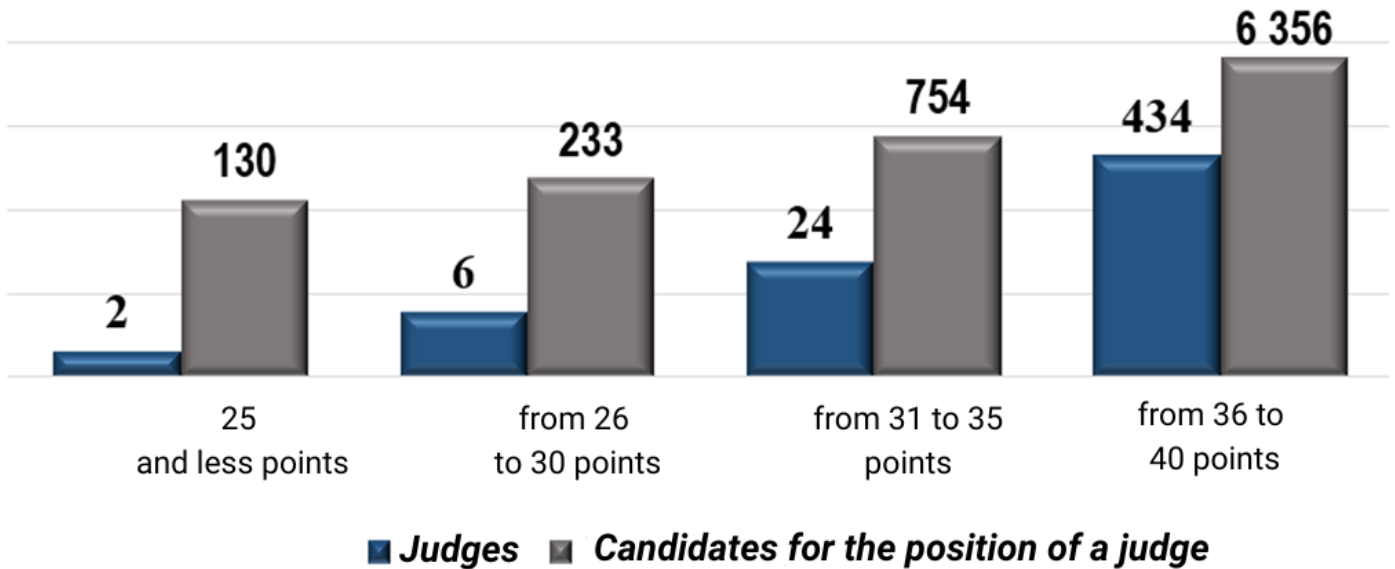
Test on the history of Ukrainian statehood

	Candidates admitted to the first stage	Did not attend	Did not pass	Passed	Admitted to the second stage	
	judges of administrative courts	18 100%	4 22,22%	0 0,00%	14 77,78%	14 77,78%
	judges of commercial courts	14 100%	5 35,71%	0 0,00%	9 64,29%	7 50,00%
	judges of general courts	530 100%	87 16,42%	2 0,38%	441 83,21%	433 81,70%
	court administrative staff	2 980 100%	62 2,08%	45 1,51%	2 873 96,41%	2 687 90,17%
	staff of the prosecutor's office	2 004 100%	171 8,53%	13 0,65%	1 820 90,82%	1 717 85,68%
	attorneys	868 100%	59 6,80%	24 2,76%	785 90,44%	710 81,80%
	military personnel	280 100%	10 3,57%	10 3,57%	260 92,86%	230 82,14%
	representatives of other professions	1 738 100%	95 5,47%	38 2,19%	1 605 92,35%	1 441 82,91%

Testing of knowledge on the history of Ukrainian statehood was conducted for the first time within the procedure for filling judicial positions and is mandatory in subsequent procedures. For the first time in the selection for local court judges, candidates and judges seeking transfer to another court took the exam simultaneously, under equal conditions and without any status-based advantages.

The introduction of this testing marked an important step in developing a transparent and objective system of access to the judicial profession. This innovation highlights the commitment to raising professional standards and strengthening trust in the judiciary.

Performance indicators based on the results of the first stage (minimum passing test score is 26 points):



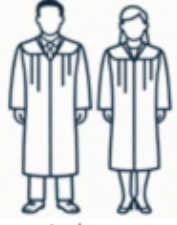
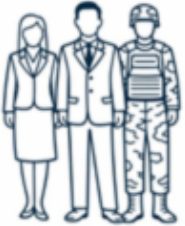
Pursuant to the Commission's Decision No. 105/zp-25 of 12 May 2025, candidates who achieved at least the minimum passing score in the test on the history of Ukrainian statehood were admitted to the second stage of the qualification exam, namely the test of general knowledge in the field of law and court specialisation, in a number not exceeding 7,200. Where two or more candidates for the position of judge obtained the same lowest passing score, all such candidates were admitted to the subsequent stage.

Based on the results of the first stage of the qualification exam, the Commission admitted 7,239 persons to the second stage, all of whom scored 34 points or more.



Second stage of the exam

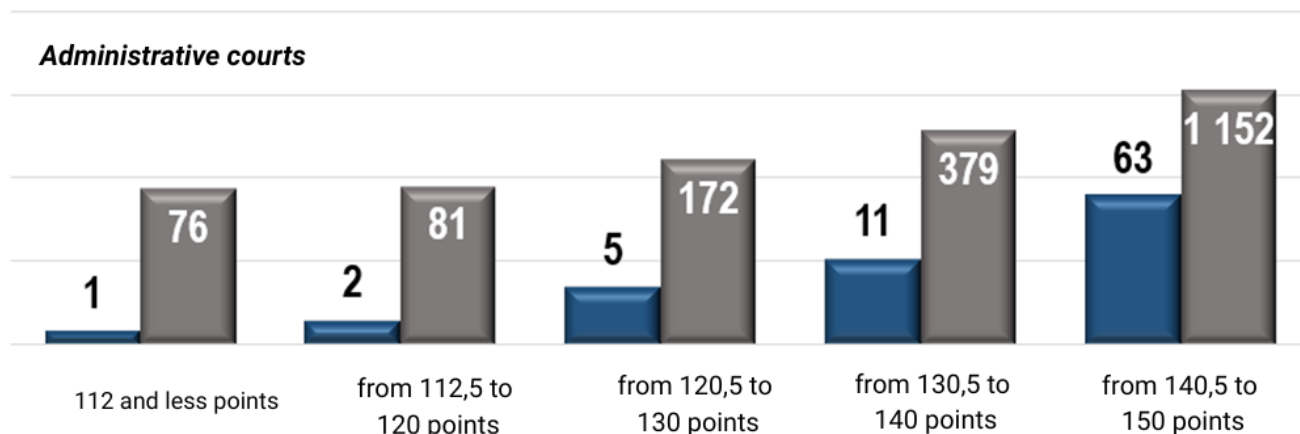
Testing of general knowledge in the field of law and court specialisation

Specialisation	Admitted in total to the second stage	Failed to appear	Did not pass	Passed	Admitted to the third stage	
 judges	administrative courts	121	39	1	81	33
		100%	32,23%	0,83%	66,94%	27,27%
	commercial courts	118	35	0	83	54
		100%	29,66%	0,00%	70,34%	45,76%
 candidates	administrative courts	402	26	2	374	326
		100%	6,47%	0,50%	93,03%	81,09%
	administrative courts	2 511	651	76	1 784	571
		100%	25,93%	3,03%	71,05%	22,74%
commercial courts	2 119	800	39	1 280	697	
		100%	37,75%	1,84%	60,41%	32,89%
general courts	6 352	253	73	6 026	4 163	
		100%	3,98%	1,15%	94,87%	65,54%

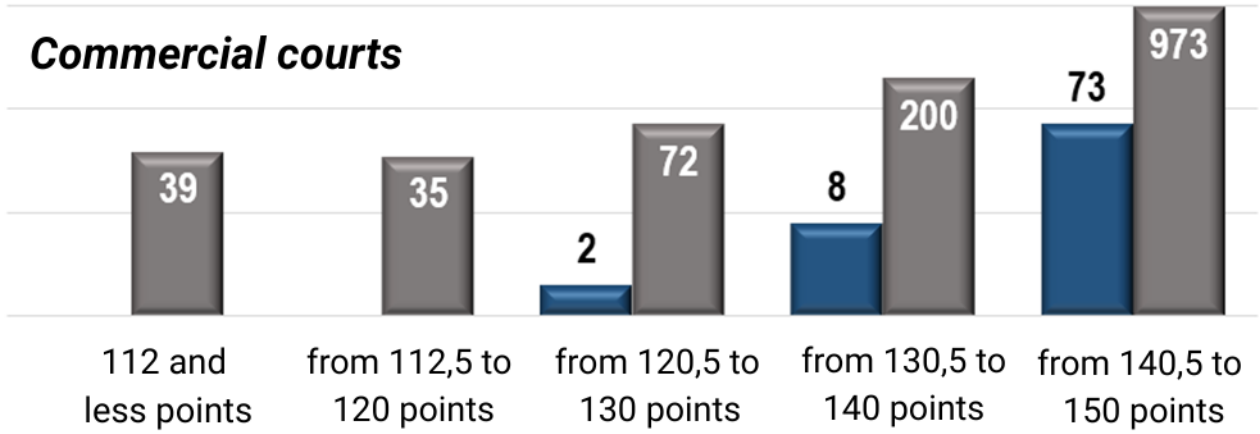
Based on the results of the testing of general knowledge in the field of law and knowledge in the relevant court specialisation, participants who scored at least 75% of the maximum possible score were admitted to the third stage of the qualification exam – cognitive abilities testing. The number of such participants did not exceed 600 candidates for administrative courts, 600 candidates for commercial courts, and 4,200 candidates for the general courts. In the event that two or more candidates for the position of judge obtained the same lowest passing score, all such candidates were admitted to the next stage.

Thus, the Commission admitted to the third stage of the qualification exam 604 candidates for the positions of judges in local administrative courts, as well as judges who expressed their intention to be transferred to another local administrative court; 751 candidates for commercial courts; and 4,489 candidates for general courts. The passing scores required for admission to the next stage of the qualification exam were as follows: 142.5 for the general courts, 147 for commercial courts, and 148.5 for administrative courts.

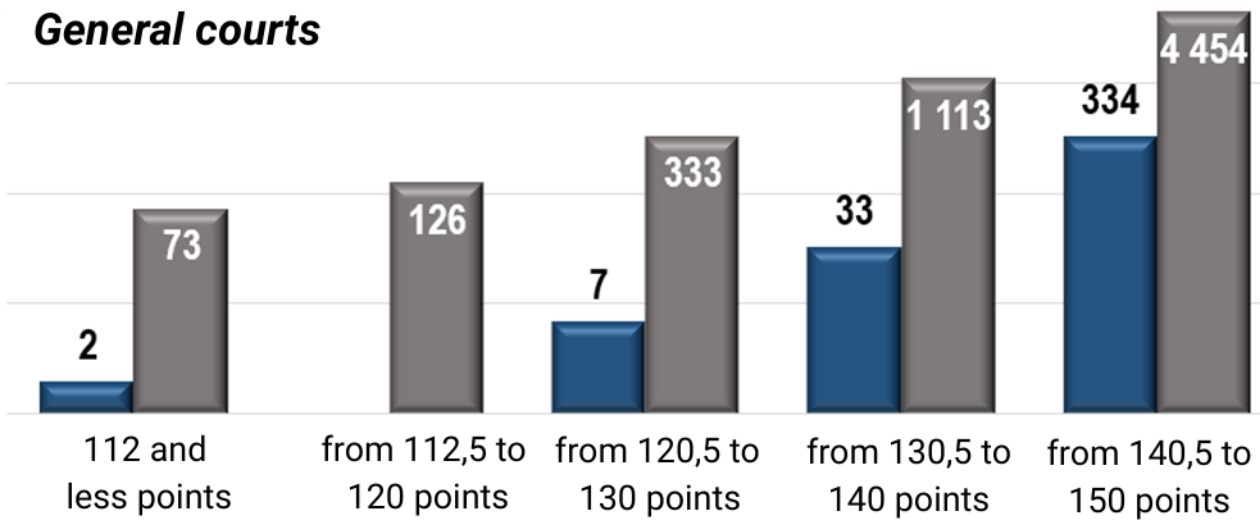
Performance indicators based on the results of the second stage testing (minimum passing score – 112.5):



Commercial courts





General courts



■ Judges ■ Candidates for the position of a judge



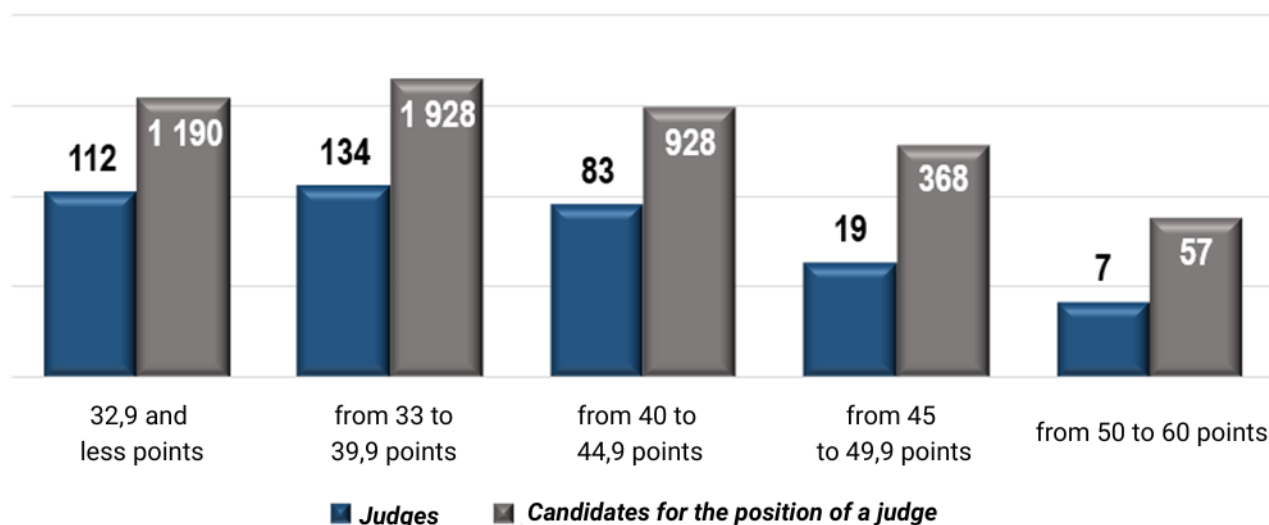
Third stage of the exam
Cognitive abilities testing

Specialisation	Admitted in total to the third stage	Failed to appear	Didn't pass	Passed	Admitted to the fourth stage	
 judges	administrative courts	33 100%	0 0,00%	8 24,24%	25 75,76%	21 63,64%
	commercial courts	54 100%	1 1,85%	20 37,04%	33 61,11%	22 40,74%
	general courts	326 100%	3 0,92%	99 30,37%	224 68,71%	191 58,59%
 candidates	administrative courts	571 100%	2 0,35%	119 20,84%	450 78,81%	379 66,37%
	commercial courts	697 100%	1 0,14%	127 18,22%	569 81,64%	389 55,81%
	general courts	4 163 100%	11 0,26%	1 109 26,64%	3 043 73,10%	2 660 63,90%

Based on the results of the cognitive abilities testing, participants who scored at least 55% of the maximum possible score were admitted to the fourth stage of the qualification exam – the completion of a practical assignment in the relevant court specialisation. The number of such participants did not exceed 2,800 candidates for the positions of judges in local general courts and judges who expressed their intention to be transferred to such courts, 400 candidates for local administrative courts, and 400 candidates for local commercial courts. In the event that two or more candidates for the position of judge obtained the same lowest passing score, all such candidates were admitted to the next stage.

A total of 3,049 participants who obtained the following scores in the test were admitted to the stage of completion of the practical assignments: 34.69 points for general specialisation, 35.58 points for administrative specialisation, and 37.79 points for commercial specialisation.

Performance indicators based on the results of the third stage testing (minimum passing score — 33 points):

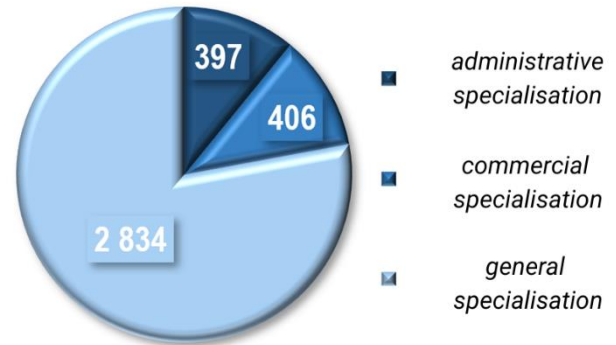


Fourth stage of the exam

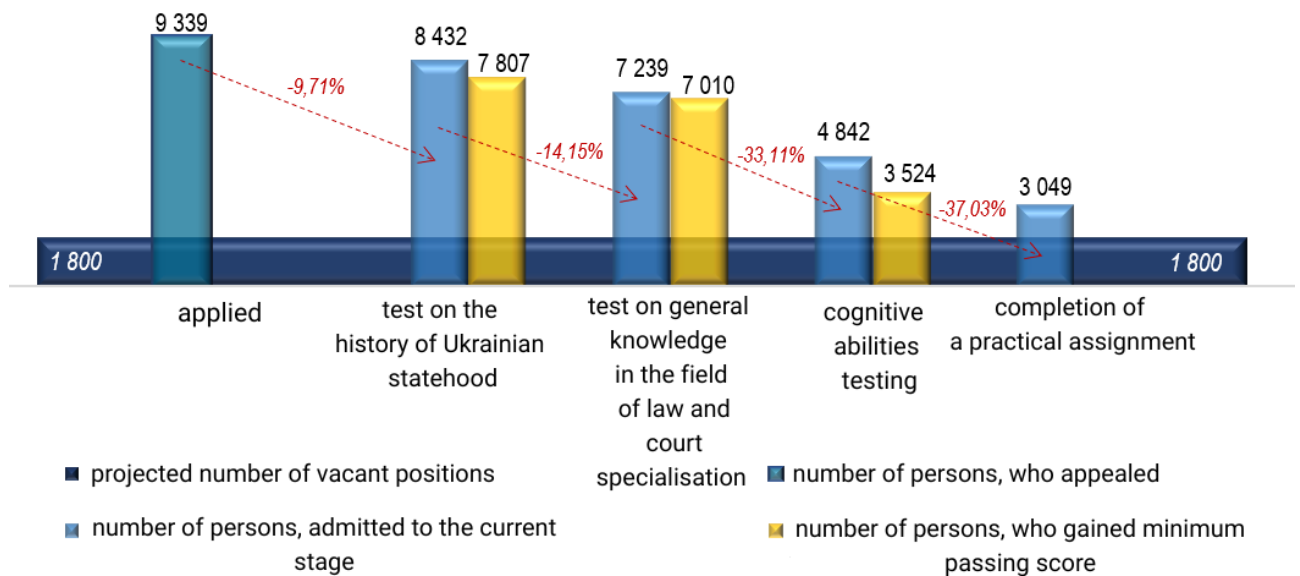
Practical assignment in the relevant court specialisation.

A total of 3,637 practical assignments have been completed by candidates for the position of judge in local courts and by judges who have expressed their intention to be transferred to a local court, all of whom were admitted to the fourth stage of the qualification exam.

The assessment of the practical assignments is ongoing.



General Statistics on the Qualification Exam Results



Within the selection process announced on 11.12.2024, more than 9,000 candidates applied to the Commission for the first time. Such a large number is due to not only the prolonged pause in the procedure for selecting judges of local courts, but also to the growing interest of legal professionals in administering justice in Ukraine. Despite the increased complexity of the qualification exam preceding judicial appointment, highly qualified specialists demonstrate trust in the openness and transparency of the judicial selection and appointment process.

A significant factor contributing to the increase in the number of applications was the digitalisation of the document submission process, which, for the first time in respect of local courts, was conducted electronically before the Commission.

Another innovation of the selection process is that candidates aspiring to become judges and sitting judges seeking transfer to another court now undergo the selection procedures together.

The introduction of new mechanisms for the submission and processing of documents, as well as for conducting selection and competition procedures, is intended to ensure the maximum filling of judicial vacancies in the shortest possible time, simplify access to justice, strengthen the institutional capacity of the judicial system, and, as a result, increase overall public trust in the judiciary.

The Commission has submitted to the High Council of Justice recommendations for the appointment of three candidates to the position of judge of a local court (based on the results of the competition announced by the Commission's decision of 14.09.2023).

As of 31.12.2025, the number of vacant judicial positions in local courts of Ukraine that have not ceased operations (and whose territorial jurisdiction has not been reassigned to another court) amounted to 1,400, including:

- in local general courts – 1,070;
- in local commercial courts – 166;
- in local administrative courts – 164.



2. STATUS OF FILLING JUDICIAL POSITIONS IN APPELLATE COURTS

As of 01.01.2025, the number of vacant judicial positions in the appellate courts of Ukraine that have not ceased operations (and whose territorial jurisdiction has not been reassigned to another court) amounted to 749, including:

- in appellate general courts – 536;
- in appellate commercial courts – 104;
- in appellate administrative courts – 109.



In order to fill vacant judicial positions, the Commission conducted a competition for appellate courts in 2025 (announced on 14.09.2023), the procedure of which continued from the second stage of the qualification exam – testing of cognitive abilities.

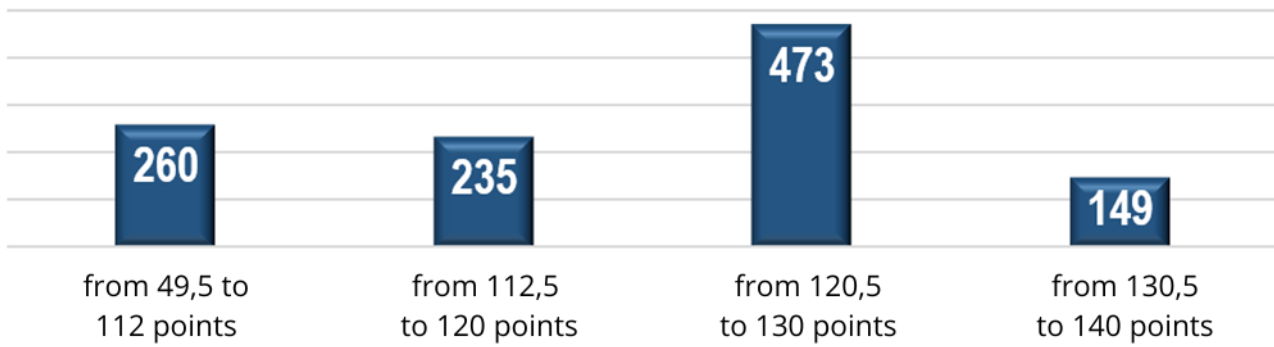
A total of 1,588 candidates continued their participation in the competition.

Results of this stage:

Specialisation	Passed	Did not pass	Failed to appear	TOTAL
administrative	105	26	1	132
	79,5%	19,7%	0,8%	100%
commercial	98	35	1	134
	73,1%	26,1%	0,7%	100%
criminal	507	192	4	703
	72,1%	27,3%	0,6%	100%
civil	410	205	4	619
	66,2%	33,1%	0,6%	100%
TOTAL	1 120	458	10	1 588
	70,5%	28,8%	0,6%	100%

A total of 1,120 candidates were admitted to the third stage of the qualification exam, of whom 1,118 appeared to complete the practical assignment. The number of candidates who successfully completed the practical assignment was 857, each scoring the minimum passing score of 112.5 or higher.

Performance indicators based on the practical assignments completion:



**1 person refused to complete practical assignment*

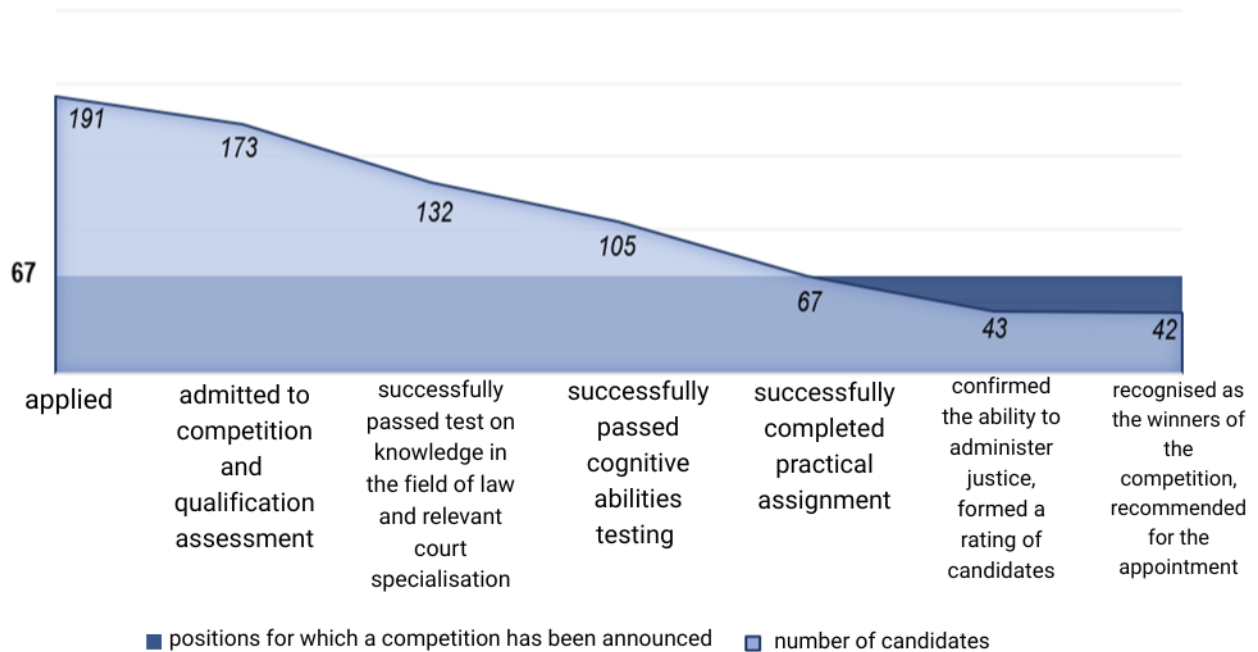


Starting from May 2025, the Commission conducted special background checks, reviewed candidates' dossiers, and held interviews with candidates for positions of judges of appellate administrative and commercial courts.

By August 2025, the interviews with candidates had been completed, the ranking had been approved, the winners of the competition had been determined, and the High Council of Justice had been recommended to appoint

42 candidates to positions of judges of appellate administrative courts and 55 candidates to positions of judges of commercial courts.

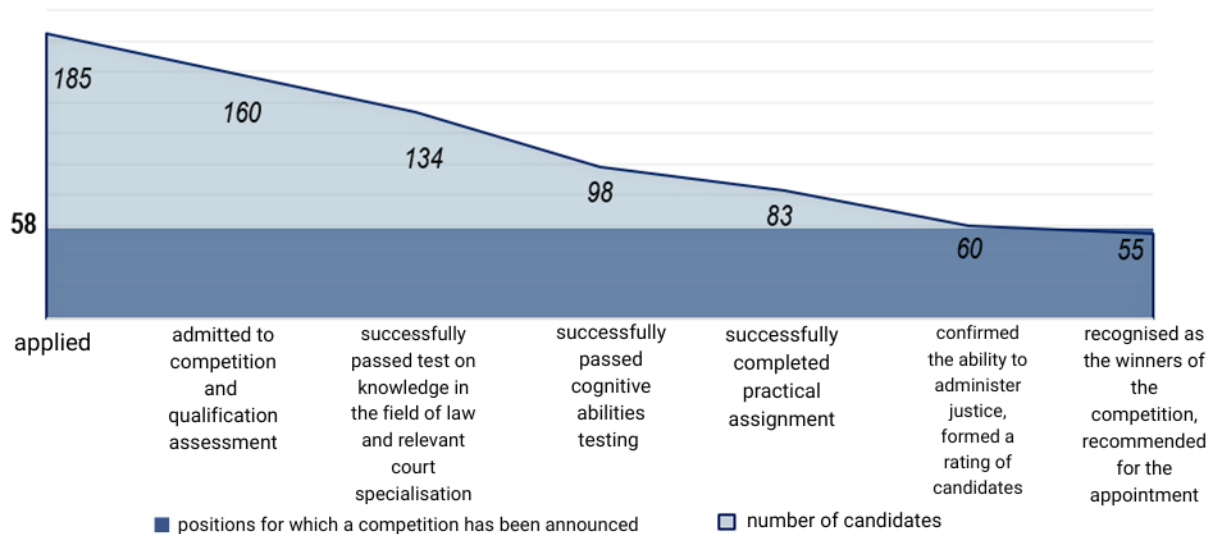
General statistics of the competition for filling 67 vacant positions of judges of appellate administrative courts



Regarding 42 winners of the competition, the Commission submitted recommendations to the High Council of Justice for their appointment to positions of administrative courts judges, as follows:

- 1 – to the First Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 4 – to the Second Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 1 – to the Third Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 7 – to the Fifth Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 11 – to the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 8 – to the Seventh Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 10 – to the Eighth Administrative Court of Appeal.

General statistics of the competition for filling 58 vacant positions of judges of appellate commercial courts



The Commission submitted 55 recommendations to the High Council of Justice regarding the appointment of competition winners to positions as judges of commercial courts, as follows:

- 18 – to the Central Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 15 – to the Northern Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 10 – to the Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 4 – to the South-Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 4 – to the North-Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 4 – to the Eastern Commercial Court of Appeal.

The Procedure for Conducting the First Stage of the Competition for Filling Vacant Positions of Judges of Appellate General Courts, approved by the Commission, defines the following groups of judges:

the first group of 5 courts:

- 14 vacant judicial positions at the Zhytomyr Court of Appeal;
- 10 – at the Zakarpattia Court of Appeal;
- 16 – at the Zaporizhzhia Court of Appeal;
- 21 – at the Sumy Court of Appeal;
- 22 – at the Chernihiv Court of Appeal;

the second group of 6 courts:

- 23 vacant judicial positions at the Dnipro Court of Appeal;
- 45 – at the Kyiv Court of Appeal;
- 28 – at the Lviv Court of Appeal;
- 21 – at the Mykolaiv Court of Appeal;
- 23 – at the Odesa Court of Appeal;
- 47 – at the Kharkiv Court of Appeal.

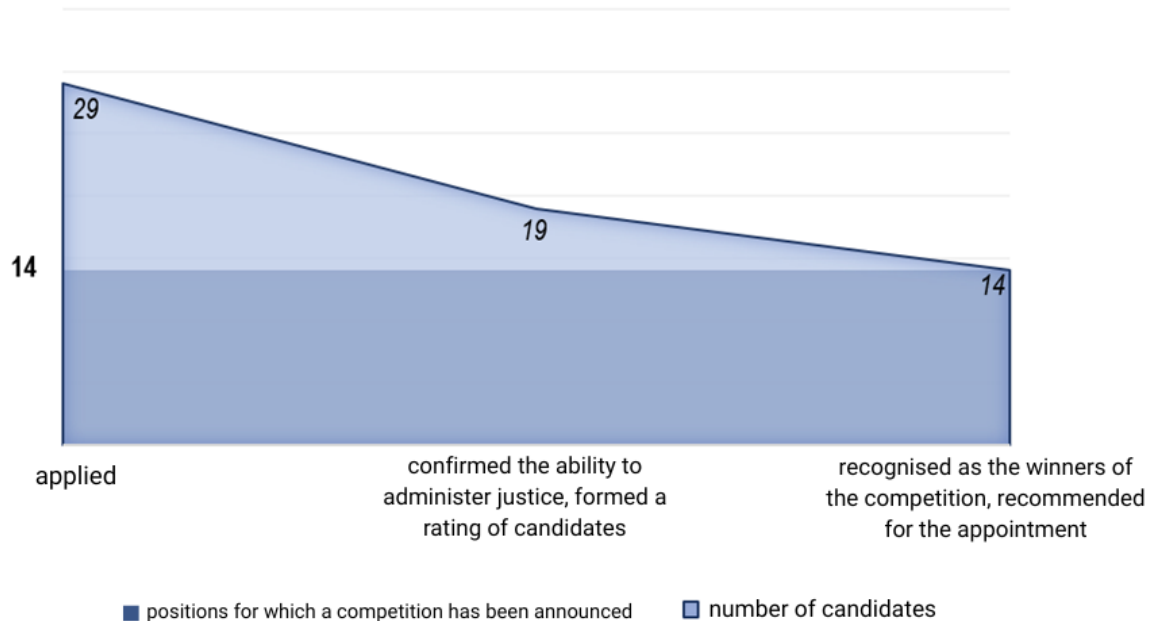
A total of 159 applications were submitted to the Commission by candidates expressing their intention to compete for judicial positions in the courts of the first group, and 326 applications in the courts of the second group.

Interviews for the general appellate courts commenced in July 2025.

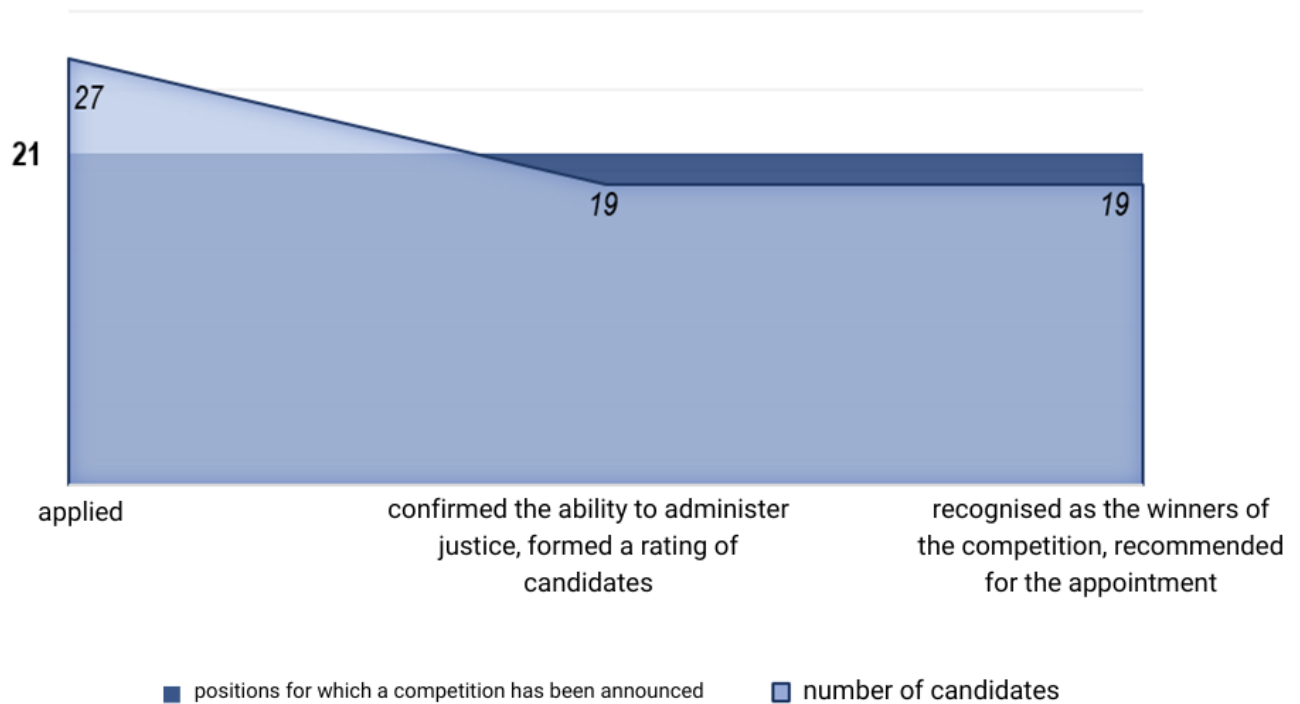
As of 31.12.2025, the Commission had completed the interviews, formed the ranking of candidates, and recommended to the High Council of Justice the appointment of 81 candidates to positions of appellate courts judges, including:

- 14 – to the Zhytomyr Court of Appeal;
- 19 – to the Sumy Court of Appeal;
- 10 – to the Zakarpattia Court of Appeal;
- 16 – to the Zaporizhzhia Court of Appeal;
- 22 – to the Chernihiv Court of Appeal.

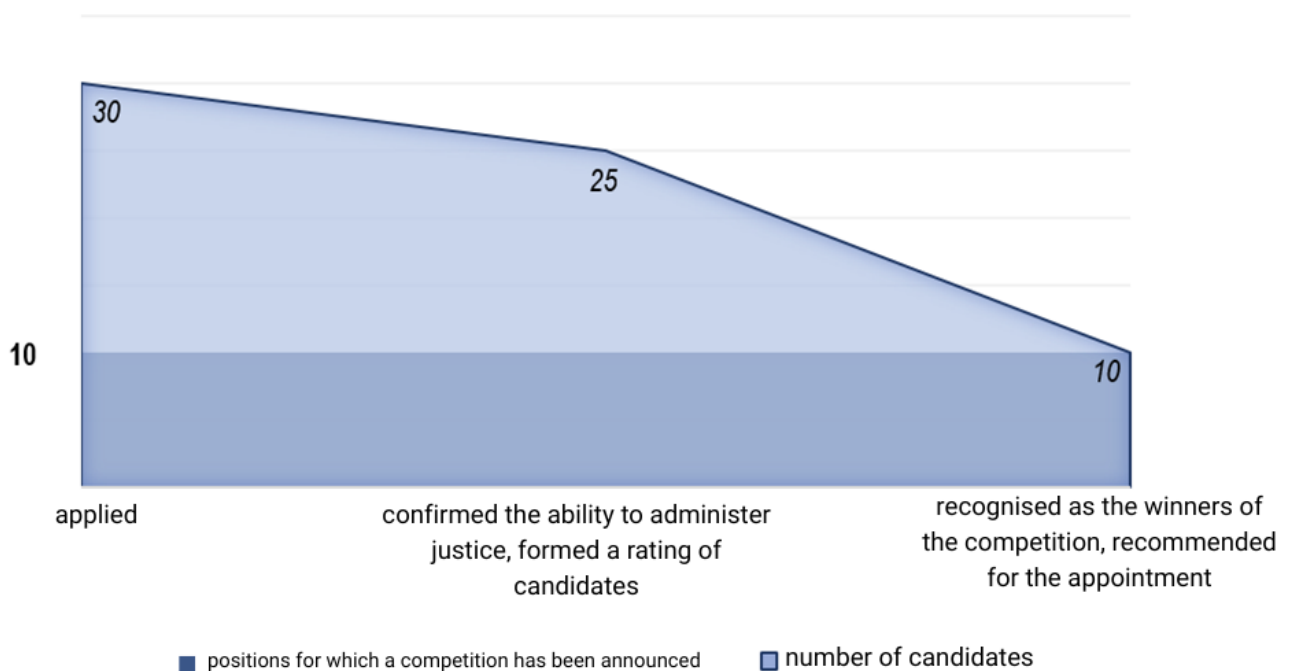
General statistics of the competition for filling 14 vacant positions of judges of the **Zhytomyr Court of Appeal**



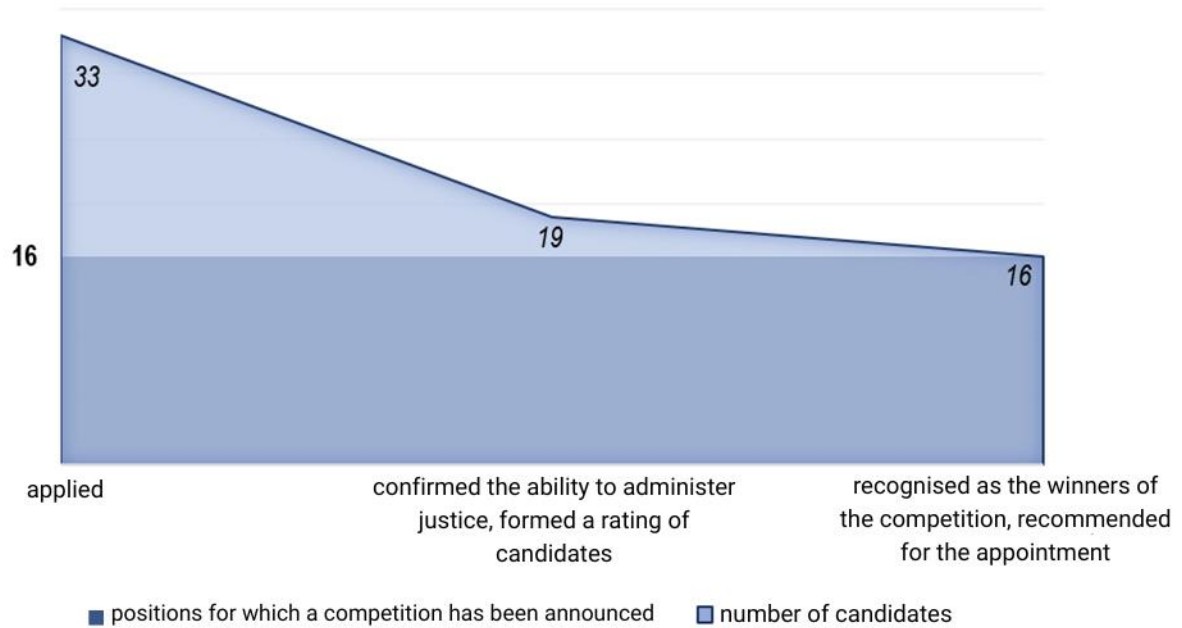
General statistics of the competition for filling 21 vacant positions of judges of the **Sumy Court of Appeal**



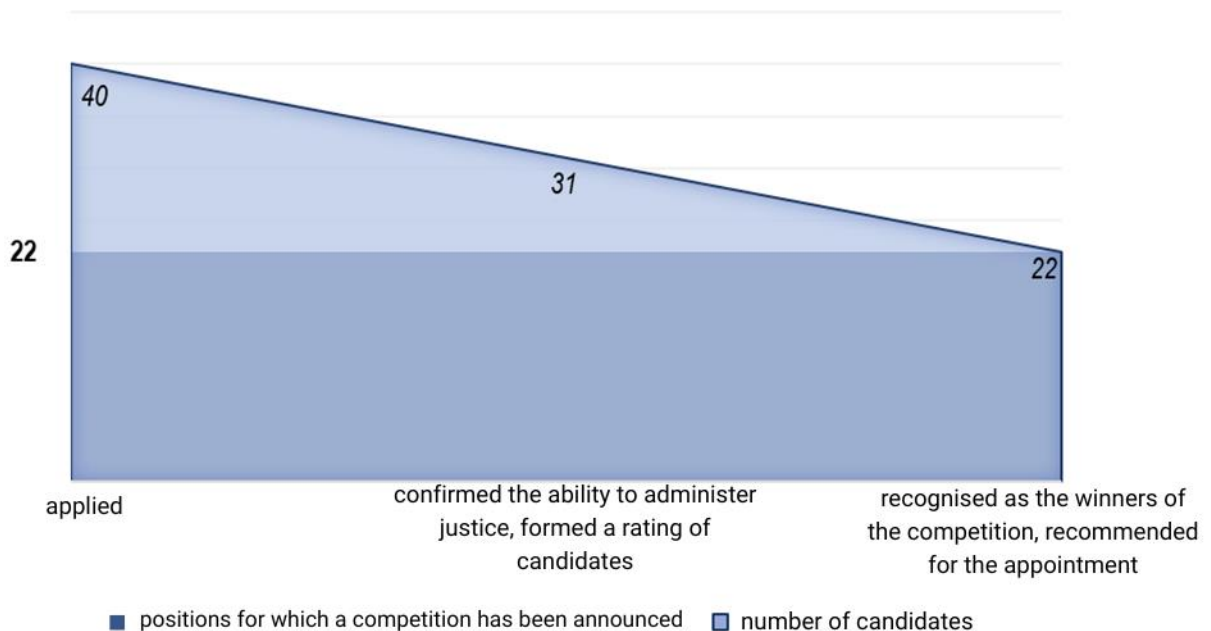
General statistics of the competition for filling 10 vacant positions of judges of the **Zakarpattia Court of Appeal**



General statistics of the competition for filling 16 vacant positions of judges of **the Zaporizhzhia Court of Appeal**



General statistics of the competition for filling 22 vacant positions of judges of the **Chernihiv Court of Appeal**



By Decrees of the President of Ukraine, 71 candidates were appointed to positions of appellate courts judges, including:

17 – to positions of judges of appellate administrative courts:

- 2 – to the Second Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 5 – to the Fifth Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 7 – to the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 2 – to the Seventh Administrative Court of Appeal;
- 1 – to the Eighth Administrative Court of Appeal;

30 – to positions of judges of appellate commercial courts:

- 9 – to the Central Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 7 – to the Northern Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 7 – to the Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 2 – to the South-Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 2 – to the North-Western Commercial Court of Appeal;
- 3 – to the Eastern Commercial Court of Appeal;

24 – to positions of judges of appellate general courts:

- 8 – to the Zhytomyr Court of Appeal;
- 16 – to the Sumy Court of Appeal.

In addition, in 2025 the High Council of Justice supported the Commission’s recommendations regarding the transfer, without competition, of three judges from liquidated appellate courts (one general court and two commercial courts) to courts of the same level, following confirmation of their suitability for the positions held (one decision was adopted by the Commission in 2024 and two in 2025).

As of 31.12.2025, 725 judicial positions in appellate courts of Ukraine that have not ceased operations (and whose territorial jurisdiction has not been reassigned to another court) remained vacant, including:

- 540 – in appellate general courts ;
- 82 – in appellate commercial courts;
- 103 – in appellate administrative courts.

Interviews with 568 candidates for the position of appellate court judges are still ongoing.



3. STATUS OF FILLING JUDICIAL POSITIONS IN HIGH SPECIALISED COURTS AND THE SUPREME COURT

COMPETITION TO THE HIGH ANTI-CORRUPTION COURT

As of 01.01.2025, the number of vacant judicial positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court amounted to 25, including:

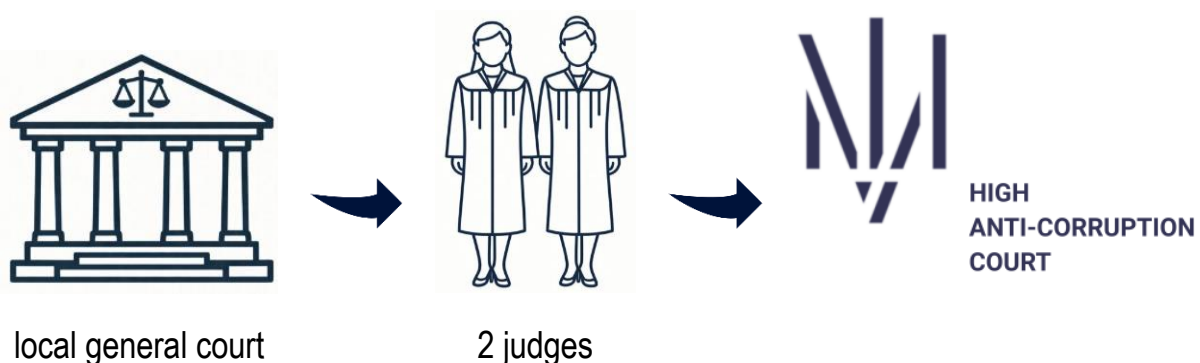
- in the High Anti-Corruption Court as a court of first instance – 15;
- in the Appeals Chamber of the High Anti-Corruption Court – 10.

In 2025, the competitive selection for positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court, announced on November 23, 2023, was completed.

Following the completion of the practical assignment, the Commission adopted the corresponding decision. Seven candidates for the High Anti-Corruption Court as a court of first instance continued participation in the competition. None of the candidates intending to take positions in the Appeals Chamber of the High Anti-Corruption Court successfully completed the practical assignment.

In accordance with part four of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine “On the High Anti-Corruption Court,” special sessions of the Commission and the Public Council of International Experts were held, and the results for seven candidates were approved, two of whom continued participation in the competition.

After the candidate ranking was approved, the winners of the competition were determined. The Commission recommended to the High Council of Justice the appointment of two candidates to positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court. The winners of the competition were two judges from local general courts.



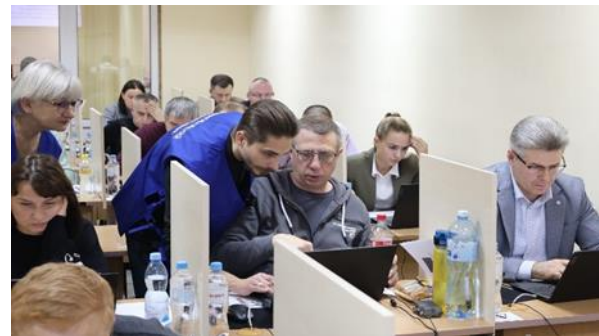
By the Commission’s decision of 03.06.2025, a new competition was announced to fill 23 vacant positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court, including: 10 vacant positions in the Appeals Chamber of the High Anti-Corruption Court; 13 other vacant judicial positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court.

A total of 205 candidates applied to the Commission to participate in the competition.

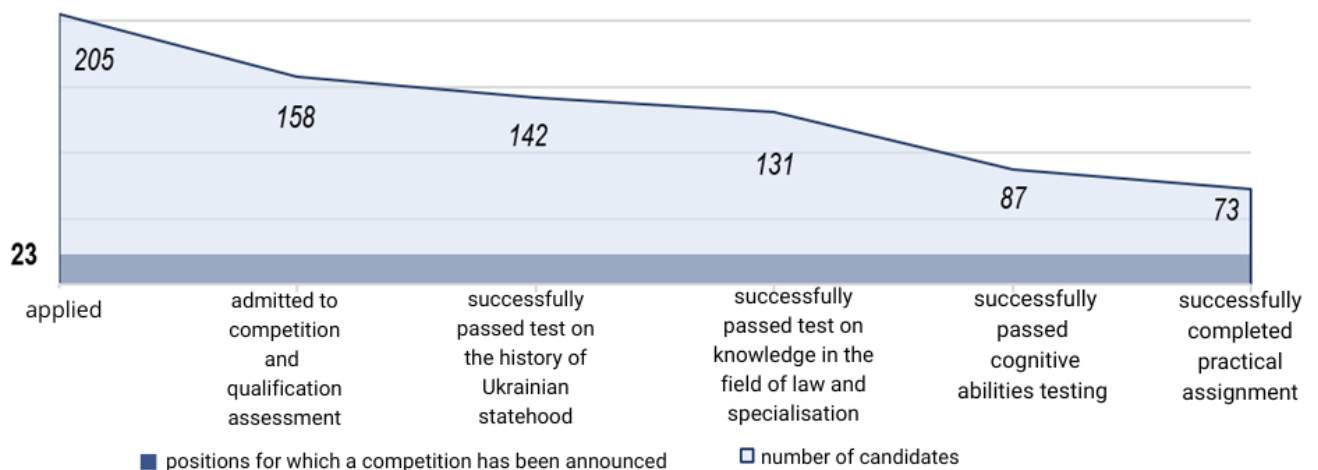
Of these, 158 candidates were admitted to undergo qualification assessment and participate in the competition.

Results of the qualification exam stages

Stages of qualification exam	Passed	Did not pass	Failed to appear	TOTAL
Testing of knowledge on the history of Ukrainian statehood	142	4	12	158
	90%	2%	8%	100%
Testing of general knowledge in the field of law (1 candidate failed to appear)	131	10	1	142
	92%	7%	1%	100%
Cognitive abilities testing	87	44	0	131
	66%	34%	x	100%
Completion of a practical assignment	73	12	2	87
	84%	14%	2%	100%



General Statistics of the Competition for Filling 23 Vacant Judicial Positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court



A novel feature of the competition for the High Anti-Corruption Court, announced on 03.06.2025, was that candidates for the judicial positions of both the first-instance and appellate chambers underwent the stages of the qualification exam together. The purpose of this mechanism is to maximise the filling of positions according to the participant's choice, provided that the candidate simultaneously meets the requirements for both first-instance and appellate judgeships. The Commission also provided for the possibility of increasing the number of judicial positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court as a court of first instance and in its Appeals Chamber for which the competition was announced, in the event of additional vacancies arising in the court itself. This mechanism aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of the court more quickly.

As of 31.12.2025, the number of vacant judicial positions in the High Anti-Corruption Court amounted to 23, including:

- 13 – in the High Anti-Corruption Court as a court of first instance;
- 10 – in the Appeals Chamber of the High Anti-Corruption Court.



COMPETITION FOR THE SPECIALISED CIRCUIT ADMINISTRATIVE COURT AND THE SPECIALISED ADMINISTRATIVE COURT OF APPEAL

The Law of Ukraine “On the Establishment of the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal” of 16.09.2025 No. 4602-XI (which entered into force on 02.10.2025) established the relevant specialised courts.

By Decision of the High Council of Justice of 30.09.2025 No. 2016/0/15-25, taking into account the advisory opinion of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, the number of judges for 2026 was set at 17 positions in the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court, and 10 positions in the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal.

On 29.10.2025, the Commission announced competitions to fill 17 vacant positions of judges at the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and 10 vacant positions of judges at the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal.

During the period from 01 to 23.12.2025, the Commission accepted documents and applications for participation in the competition and for the qualification assessment.

In total, the Commission received 356 applications, of which:

225 were for participation in the competition for the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court;

131 were for participation in the competition for the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal.

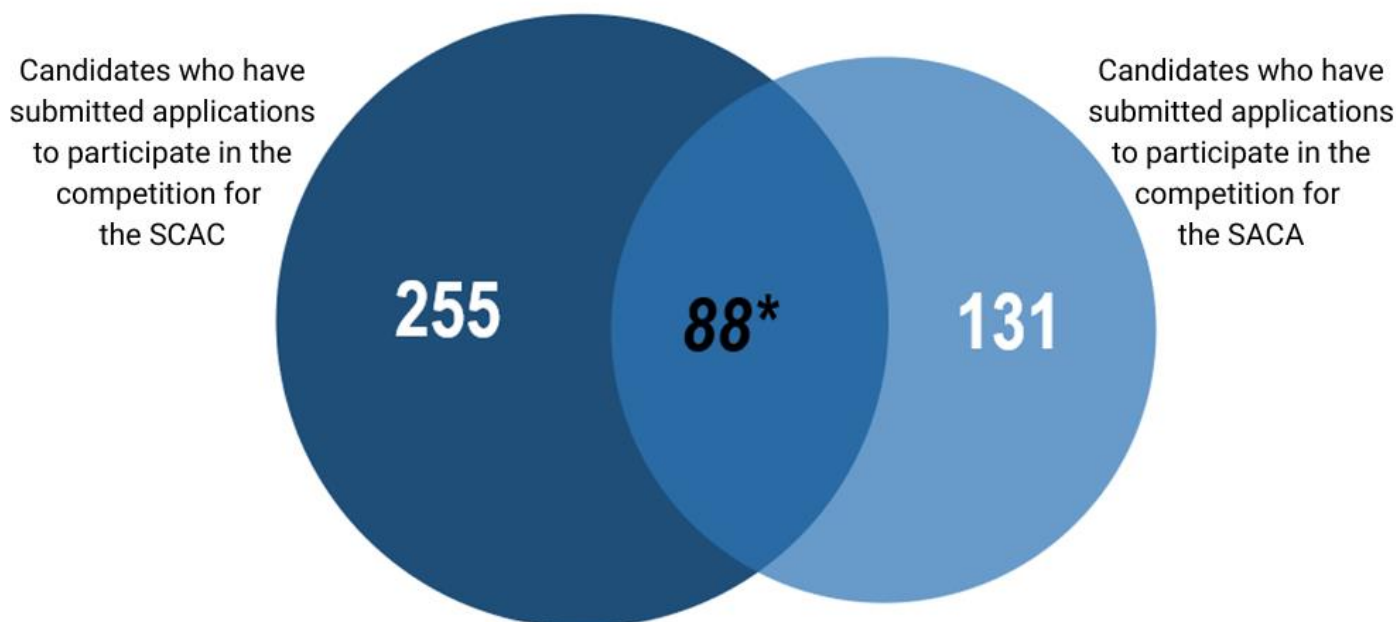
Given the possibility of candidates participating in both competitions simultaneously, the distribution of interest was as follows:

137 candidates are applying for the position of judge at the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court;

43 candidates are applying for the position of judge at the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal;

88 candidates are applying for positions of judges at both courts simultaneously.

The number of unique participants taking part (participating) in the competitions is 268.



* candidates who have simultaneously submitted applications to participate in the competition for the SCAC and the SACA

STATUS OF THE FILLING OF JUDICIAL POSITIONS IN THE SUPREME COURT

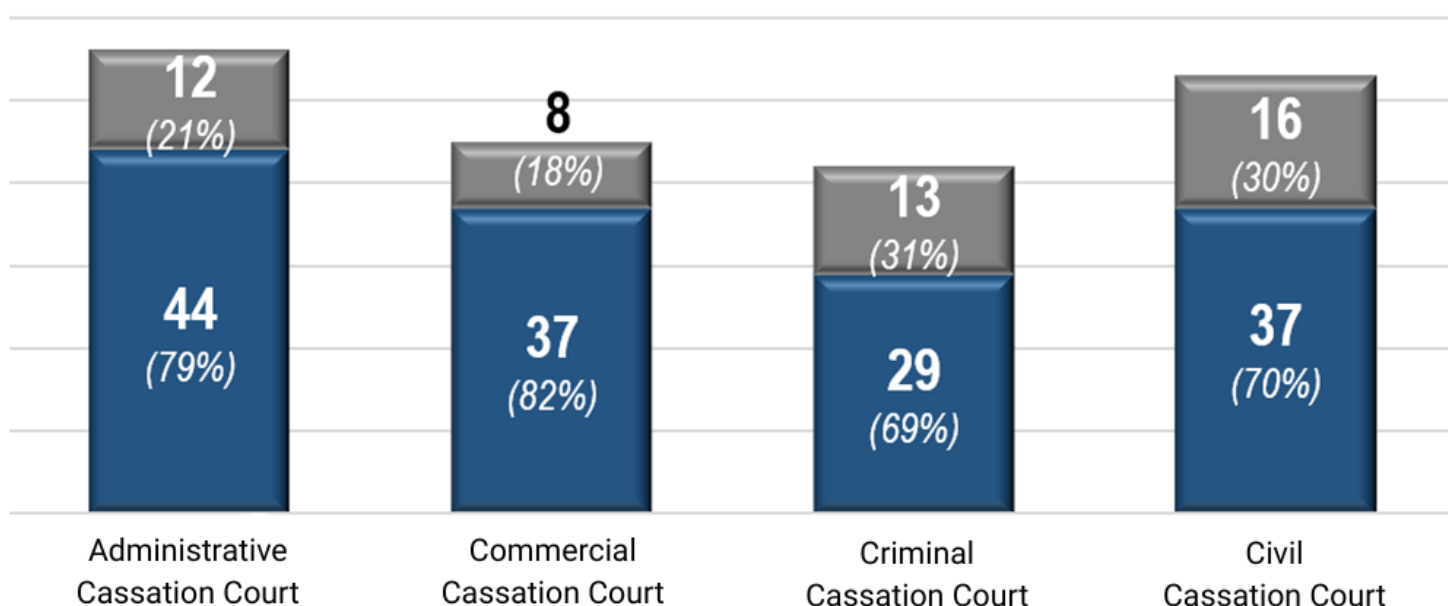
As of 01.01.2025, the number of vacant positions of judges in the Supreme Court was 43, of which:

- in the Administrative Cassation Court of the Supreme Court – 11;
- in the Commercial Cassation Court of the Supreme Court - 6;
- in the Criminal Cassation Court of the Supreme Court - 11;
- in the Civil Cassation Court of the Supreme Court – 15.

In 2025, the Commission did not hold any competitions for appointments to the Supreme Court.

The number of Supreme Court judges is steadily decreasing. This trend is to be expected, the main reason being the departure of judges following the submission of their resignations.

As of 31.12.2025, the occupancy rate for the Supreme Court judges stood at:




■ The number of judges appointed to the positions ■ The number of vacant positions


In total, as of 31.12.2025, 129 positions of judges remained unfilled in the high specialised courts and the Supreme Court, of which:


- in the High Anti-Corruption Court and its Appeals Chamber – 23;
- in the High Court of Intellectual Property and its Appeals Chamber – 30;
- in the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court – 17;
- in the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal – 10;
- in the Supreme Court – 49.


4. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY


General information. In 2025, in response to the challenges posed by the systemic transformation of the judiciary, the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine strengthened its efforts in the field of international cooperation.


 Increase the transparency involving international expertise and technical assistance in the judges' selection procedures

 Building institutional capacity the digital transformation of the Commission's internal processes

 Strengthening institutional independence implementation of additional mechanisms for the independent vetting of candidates, including through the establishment of auxiliary and advisory bodies

 Strengthening strategic dialogue regular bilateral communication with EU diplomatic missions and institutions

 Participation in the European integration agenda fulfilment of the European integration commitments set out in the Ukraine Facility Plan, the 2025 EU Enlargement Package and the Rule of Law Roadmap

 International advocacy participation in international cooperation events to present the results of judicial reform and strengthen confidence in the justice sector

The Commission has launched new areas of cooperation with international organisations and partners, signed several bilateral cooperation agreements, and expanded its participation in international technical assistance (hereinafter “ITA”) projects, particularly with a view to strengthening the Commission’s institutional capacity.

Intensive dialogue with diplomatic missions, foreign diplomatic representations and donor organisations has continued; a series of expert meetings, training sessions, conferences and workshops has been held; and participation of the Commission’s representatives in official visits abroad and other international cooperation events was ensured.

An important step towards enhancing the transparency of judicial selection procedures was the establishment of the **Expert Council**, comprising Ukrainian and international representatives. This advisory

body operates in accordance with the updated legislative framework and ensures the independent assessment of the integrity and professional competence of candidates for positions in the specialised administrative courts – the Specialised Circuit Administrative Court and the Specialised Administrative Court of Appeal. The competition for these courts forms part of Ukraine’s international obligations arising from the process of accession to the European Union and is aimed at ensuring that the national justice system complies with European standards.

At the same time, certain challenges in the field of international cooperation were of an objective nature. In particular, following the US Government’s political decision to reassess technical assistance programmes, the implementation of two ITA projects involving the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was temporarily suspended and subsequently terminated, which led to partial restrictions on the implementation of certain measures within the framework of judicial reform.

However, under these circumstances, the Commission continued to maintain close cooperation with international partners, focused its efforts on enhancing openness and transparency and strengthening institutional capacity, and reaffirmed its key role in implementing reforms in the justice sector in line with European standards and best practices.

Participation in international programmes, projects and initiatives in the field of judicial reform. During the reporting period, the Commission continued its cooperation with a trusted partner – the **EU Project “Pravo-Justice”**. The partnership is based on a Memorandum of Cooperation signed in April 2024 and aims to align approaches and coordinate actions in the organisation and conduct of selection procedures for candidates for judicial position. With the Project’s support, technical equipment has been provided for organising qualification exams, and specialised software is being developed to process information on judges and candidates for positions of judges, as well as to ensure automated data exchange with state registers. A range of measures has been implemented to assess candidates’ professional, cognitive and moral-psychological characteristics; study visits have been organised and thematic analytical materials prepared. The cooperation covered both technological modernisation and the improvement of organisational processes within the activities of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine.



Throughout the year, the HQCJ maintained systematic cooperation with other international partners within the framework of ITA projects aimed at supporting the reform and sustainability of the judicial system. Cooperation was established, in particular, with IDLO, the Council of Europe project “Support to the Functioning of Justice in the War and Post-War Context in Ukraine”, and the Dutch-Ukrainian CILC project.

A key outcome was the Commission’s signing of three new cooperation agreements, which established the legal and organisational framework for further collaboration on the implementation of judicial reform, compliance with anti-corruption policy standards, and the digital transformation of the judiciary.

International Development Law Organisation (IDLO)

Implementation has begun on the ITA project “**Supporting the Sustainability of Judicial and Good Governance Reforms in Ukraine**”, which is being implemented by the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Joint Action Plan, signed in July 2025, sets out a systemic framework of organisational, analytical and methodological measures aimed at strengthening the institutional independence and enhancing the transparency and accountability of the High Qualification Commission of Judges of Ukraine as a permanent judicial governance body.

The Project provides for a thorough analysis of existing approaches to assessing the professional competence and integrity of judges, the further development of testing methodologies and practical assignments, as well as the formation of evidence-based proposals for improving the normative legal regulation governing judicial selection procedures. These tasks will be carried out with the involvement of national and international experts, ensuring that the work is interdisciplinary and comparative in nature.

EU Anti-Corruption Initiative in Ukraine (EUACI)

In October, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Commission and the ITA project “**EU Anti-Corruption Initiative in Ukraine, Phase III**” (EUACI). The initiative is implemented with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Denmark. The scope of cooperation covers technical and organisational support to the Commission in conducting competitions for the positions of judges of the High Anti-Corruption Court. The cooperation is systemic in nature and is carried out within the framework of the first component of the Project, aimed at institutionally strengthening the functioning of Ukraine’s anti-corruption bodies. During the reporting period, the “Exam” subsystem of the Workflow Automation System (WAS) was modernised, enabling the software to be adapted to the specific requirements of candidate selection procedures, particularly regarding the enhancement of the security, reliability and functionality of electronic testing tools. In addition to providing technical support, as part of its active cooperation with EUACI, the Commission participated in a series of analytical and scientific-practical events dedicated to improving anti-corruption expertise and integrity assessment practices.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

In October, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of the ITA Project “**Reinforcing the European Dimension of Ukrainian Civil Service in Law-making, Justice and Public Finances**”, initiated with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



The document was concluded between the Commission, the “Agency for Legislative Initiatives” NGO, the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and the High Council of Justice, and is aimed at consolidating efforts towards the large-scale digitalisation of judicial institutions.

One of the objectives of the Project, which is being implemented by the “Agency for Legislative Initiatives” NGO, is to introduce a set of technical and organisational measures aimed at developing and utilising digital solutions in the Commission’s activities, with a view to optimising and standardising internal work processes. Specifically, this involves developing the information components of the “Judicial Career Cabinet” system, creating a new official website for the Commission, implementing an electronic document management system, and engaging specialist expertise to support the digital transformation. The implementation of these tasks will take place during the 2025–2028 project cycle, taking into account European integration benchmarks and the need for technical modernisation of judge selection procedures.

A key element of international cooperation has been the Commission’s effective collaboration with the **German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)**. Over the course of the year, a series of working meetings were held with representatives of the organisation, focusing on the implementation of the step in the Rule of Law Roadmap concerning the enhancement of the substantiation of the Commission’s decisions. The cooperation took place within the framework of the project “Strengthening Ukraine’s EU Accession in the Rule of Law” (3*E4U), which is scheduled for implementation in 2024–2026 with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. The main task was to conduct an analytical review of the relevant Commission decisions, based on the results of which comprehensive recommendations for improving the decisions were prepared, and three joint training sessions were organised and conducted for Commission members, staff of the Secretariat of the Commission and members of the Public Integrity Council.



Participation in international cooperation activities. During the reporting period, members of the Commission undertook official missions within Ukraine and abroad to represent the Commission at international and national events relating to the exercise of its powers in the area of judicial selection, support for the judicial governance system, promotion of justice reforms, implementing European Union standards, as well as participating in expert discussions and professional consultations.

The purpose of the Commission representatives’ official missions abroad was to participate in conferences, working visits, training sessions, expert missions and the exchange of best practices, organised with the support of international organisations, EU institutions and ITA projects.

The main themes of the international events were shaped by the need to implement standards of the rule of law, align the national judicial system with European Union law and practice, and adapt the institutional foundations of judicial governance to new challenges. Key areas of international cooperation included ensuring the independence and integrity of the judiciary, improving judicial administration mechanisms, developing the system of judicial education and professional training for judges, and establishing common approaches to judicial professional ethics. Considerable attention has been paid to the study and implementation of European and international practices in the field of administrative justice and the assessment of judicial institutions performance. Within the framework of international activities, particular attention was paid to the enforcement of judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the strengthening of anti-corruption mechanisms within the justice system, and the coordination of actions with international organisations and institutions of the European Union.



In 2025, the following official missions abroad were undertaken:



1. *Participation of Commission members O. Omelian and R. Sydorovych in the launch conference of the project “Pathways to Progress: Germany-Ukraine Dialogues on Rule of Law for EU Accession” (17.01.2025, Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany).* During the conference, organised by the “OPORA Civic Network” NGO in collaboration with GIZ and with the support of the 3*E4U Project, key issues relating to the advancement of judicial reform in Ukraine were

discussed. The main focus was on modernising the judicial system, improving selection procedures and disciplinary accountability of judges, and increasing public confidence in the judiciary in the context of European integration. During the event, members of the Commission presented an analysis of staffing levels in the judicial system for specific periods and provided an update on the progress of key procedures, in particular competitions and the qualification assessment of judges. They also highlighted the risks associated with the growing number of courts without fully qualified judges, and the need to conduct competitive procedures in accordance with the principles of ethics, integrity and professionalism, with a view to ensuring free and equal access to justice.

2. *Participation of Commission member H. Shevchuk in a visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union as part of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice” (21–22.01.2025, Luxembourg City, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg).* The visit was organised with the aim of supporting the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to the EU acquis, as well as in the context of the negotiation process under Chapters 23 and 24 of the EU Accession Agreement. Participants familiarised themselves with the activities of the Court of Justice, its approaches to ensuring the independence and integrity of the judiciary, and the transformation of legal education. During the event, meetings were held with leading judges and officials of the Court, which facilitated the exchange of experience and strengthened institutional dialogue.



3. *Participation of Commission members O. Omelian and V. Gatseliuk in the conference “Ukraine on the Path to EU Accession: Enlargement Policy and the Impact of the Rule of Law”, at the invitation of representatives of the European Parliament (14.05.2025, Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium).* During their participation in the discussion sessions, the Commission’s representatives briefed the international community on the current state of Ukraine’s judicial system

and the Commission’s key achievements, particularly regarding the conduct of competitive procedures, public engagement, the optimisation of internal work processes and digitalisation. They also highlighted the challenges caused by the war, staff shortages and insufficient material and technical resources, emphasising the importance of continued coordination with international partners and the strengthening of the rule of law as a key factor in EU integration of Ukraine.

4. *Participation of Commission members L. Volkova and V. Gatseliuk in the international conference “Judicial Governance in Ukraine and Europe: Current Challenges and Prospects for Reform” and visits to the Court of Justice of the European Union and the Supreme Court of Justice of Luxembourg (02.07.2025, Luxembourg City, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg).* During the event, organised by the Luxembourg Centre for European Law of the University of Luxembourg, representatives of the Commission briefed the international professional community on the legal status and powers of the Commission, in particular regarding the organisation of competitive procedures and approaches to the qualification assessment of judges. A series of meetings was also held during the visit with representatives of relevant European Union institutions, which facilitated a practical exchange of experience and strengthened mutual understanding on issues relating to the reform of Ukraine’s judicial system.



5. *Participation of Commission member H. Shevchuk in the plenary session of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (07–09.07.2025, Paris, France).* As part of Ukraine's participation in international anti-corruption initiatives and the fulfillment of its commitments under the Istanbul Action Plan, representatives of the Ukrainian side took part in a meeting of the Anti-Corruption



Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, which operates under the auspices of the OECD Working Group on Bribery. Prior to the meeting, preparatory and monitoring meetings were held with the Ukrainian delegation, during which the final draft of the report on the results of the 5th round of monitoring of Ukraine's implementation of its commitments across nine key areas of anti-corruption policy was discussed. The draft Work Programme of the Anti-Corruption Network for

2027–2030 was also reviewed, policy dialogues on integrity were held, and key trends, achievements and challenges in the field of anti-corruption were presented. The event was attended by delegations from the countries participating in the Istanbul Action Plan, representatives of the OECD Secretariat and international experts, which contributed to the deepening of the regional anti-corruption strategy and the consolidation of coordination mechanisms in the implementation of relevant reforms.



6. *Participation of Commission Chairman A. Pasichnyk in the visit of a delegation of representatives of Ukraine's judicial authorities to Latvia, organised by the High Council of Justice in conjunction with the Judicial Council of the Republic of Latvia (06–08.10.2025, Riga, Republic of Latvia).* The visit of the Ukrainian delegation to the Republic of Latvia marked an important stage in the development of bilateral professional

dialogue between judicial administration bodies. The participants' attention focused on analysing organisational models for the competitive selection of judges, qualification

assessments, and developing approaches to ensuring public trust in the judiciary. In his presentations, Commission Chairman A. Pasichnyk raised issues regarding the Commission's procedural efficiency, the transparency of its activities, the use of digital solutions to optimise work processes, and the role of international experts in fostering a judiciary of integrity. The experience of adapting the selection of judges mechanisms to the conditions of martial law was discussed, in particular technical and logistical solutions for the safe conduct of exams and interviews, as well as the features of the domestic model of regular assessment of judges, focused on development and professional growth. The format of the visit combined strategic-level engagement with a detailed analysis of national law enforcement practices.

7. *Participation of Commission member R. Sydorovych and O. Rybchuk, Director of the Judicial Career Department of the Commission Secretariat, in the TAEIX expert mission to conduct an expert assessment of the National School of Judges of Ukraine (06–10.10.2025, Rzeszow, Republic of Poland).* The aim of the event was to conduct a professional analysis of the judicial training model in Ukraine,

implemented by the National School of Judges of Ukraine, taking into account best European educational practices. As part of the Mission, a series of expert meetings was organised with representatives of the European Commission, European judicial training institutions and specialists in the field of judicial governance, during which issues relating to the structure and content of training programmes, teaching methods, institutional aspects of independence, criteria for the quality of judicial training, as well as mechanisms for improving cooperation between judicial schools and judicial governance bodies were discussed.

8. *Participation of Commission member V. Gatseliuk in the Conference “Rule of Law and Independence of Administrative Justice”, organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (29–30.10.2025, Warsaw, Republic of Poland).*

Commission member V. Gatseliuk presented to European counterparts the updated approaches to the competitive selection and assessment of judges in Ukraine, with particular emphasis on



integrity standards, the legal aspects of information gathering, and the practical application of international standards, including provisions of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, in particular the judgement in *Bregey v. Ukraine*. During the discussions, the conceptual distinction between criminal standards of proof and the procedural standard of “reasonable doubt” in the context of judicial selection was examined. Following the conference, strategic recommendations were developed for the implementation of a framework instrument to ensure the independence of administrative justice in the region. The need to consolidate efforts between judicial and civil society institutions in order to restore public confidence in the judiciary was also emphasised.

9. *Participation of Commission members S. Chumak and R. Kydysiuk in a study visit organised with the support of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice”, dedicated to supporting the rule of law and European integration reforms in Ukraine (03–07.11.2025, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia).*

Particular attention within the programme was devoted to Croatia’s experience in implementing the provisions of Chapter 23 “Judiciary and Fundamental Rights”, one of the key and most complex chapters in the EU accession negotiation process. Participants were provided with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the



institutional architecture of Croatia’s legal system, including the organisation and functioning of the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, bodies of judicial and prosecutorial governance, the State Attorney’s Office, anti-corruption institutions, as well as the operation of parliamentary oversight mechanisms. During the visit, educational sessions were organised and conducted at the Judicial Academy and the University of Applied Sciences in Šibenik, focusing on judicial reform, administrative justice, and the implementation of European Union standards. The practical component included visits to municipal and circuit courts, providing insight into the organisation of their work. An important element of the visit consisted of meetings with representatives of public authorities, who provided expert assessments of the challenges and key factors contributing to the successful completion of the accession negotiation process.

10. *Participation of Commission member R. Sabodash in the International Conference on “Global Perspectives on Court Administration”, organised by the International Association for Court Administration with the support of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice” (17–19.11.2025, Dubai, United Arab Emirates).*



During the event, the experience of administering a large-scale competition for the appointment of judges to local and appellate courts under martial law was presented. It was noted that, with the support of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice”, the Commission is conducting one of the largest competitions in Ukraine’s history for first-instance courts,

in which over 9,300 candidates are participating. At the same time, it is conducting a competition for courts of appeal. The speaker highlighted key aspects of organising the process: the development and testing of exam questions, the involvement of the expert community, the conduct of a broad communication campaign, and the implementation of technological solutions that ensured a high level of transparency in the procedures. The importance of digital tools for ensuring transparency and the effective administration of procedures was emphasised separately.

11. *Participation of Commission members R. Sabodash and I. Kushnir in a special meeting of the Network of Ukrainian Experts on the Execution of the European Court of Human Rights Judgements (05.12.2025, Strasbourg, France).* As part of the event organised by the Council of Europe, representatives of the Commission joined the discussion on systemic challenges related to Ukraine’s enforcement of the Strasbourg Court’s judgments. The meeting brought together a wide range of participants – representatives of the ECHR, the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, the Supreme Court, the High Council of Justice, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, civil society, and the academic community.

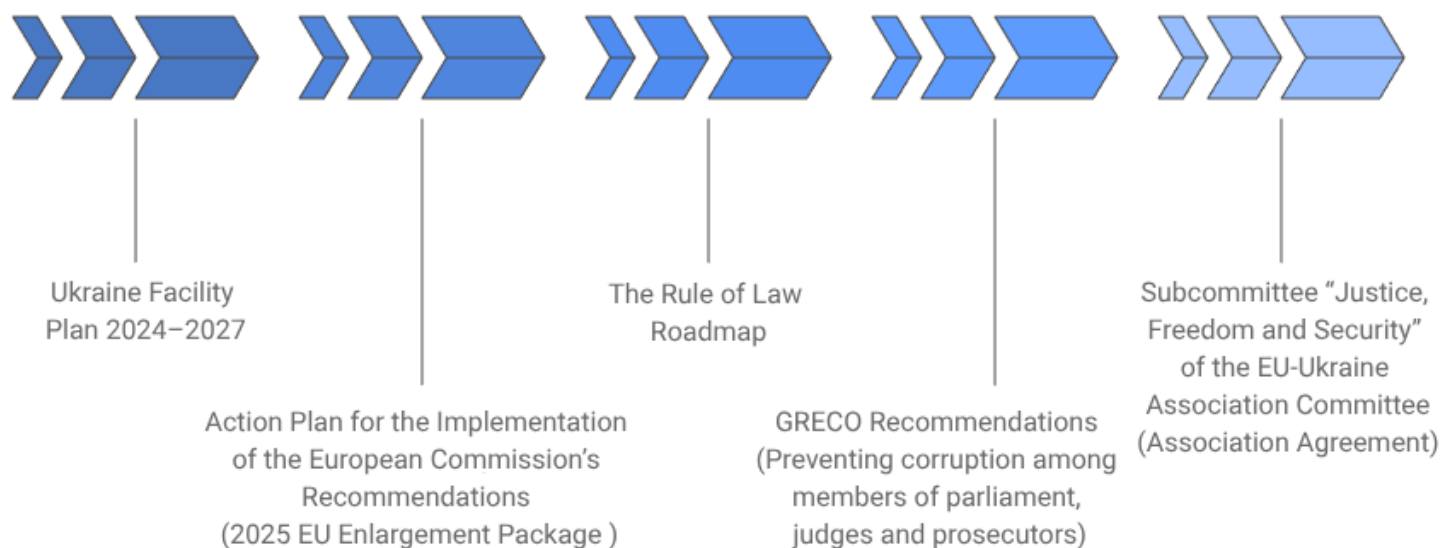
The programme included four thematic sessions dedicated to assessing progress in the implementation of the Court’s judgements, legal and procedural obstacles arising under martial law, cross-sectoral aspects of implementing groups of systemic cases (in particular, “Oleksandr Volkov”, “Burmych”, “Lutsenko”), as well as the prospects for strengthening the national mechanism for the implementation of the Court’s judgements. Particular attention was paid to the problems of insufficient independence of the judiciary, delays in the consideration of cases and non-enforcement of national court decisions. During the discussion, the need to introduce transparent, effective and preventive mechanisms to prevent systemic human rights violations at the national level was emphasised, in particular by ensuring the integrity and professional competence of the judiciary.



Throughout 2025, the Commission focused its efforts on the practical implementation of Ukraine’s systemic commitments in the context of judicial reform, the consolidation of the rule of law, and the advancement of the state’s European integration course. The active participation of Commission members and staff of the Commission’s Secretariat in a range of events of various kinds demonstrated not only the stability of our partnership but also the institution’s increasingly deep integration into the common European legal space. Cooperation with key organisations of the European Union, the Council of Europe, the OECD,

diplomatic missions and international donors has taken on new substantive dimensions, reflecting confidence in the Commission’s ability to facilitate the implementation of strategic reforms.

Attention was also focused on ensuring consistent communication with international partners and national executive authorities regarding the implementation of Ukraine’s commitments under the Ukraine Facility Plan, with particular emphasis on the selection of judges and the vetting of their integrity. During regular consultations with representatives of the Directorate-General for Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood of the European Commission (DG ENEST), discussions centred on the progress of the Plan’s indicators, the staffing capacity of the High Anti-Corruption Court, and the strategic prospects for the development of the administrative justice system.



The year 2025 was also marked by a high level of expert participation by Commission members in strategic level events, including sessions, consultations and inter-institutional negotiations aimed at developing a shared vision of the role of the judiciary in the context of gradual alignment with European Union standards.

On 12.12.2025, with the support of the EU Project “Pravo-Justice”, a joint strategic session was held with the participation of Commission members and the new composition of the Public Integrity Council. The



aim of the event was to deepen institutional cooperation between the two bodies in the context of ensuring the effectiveness of the procedures for the qualification assessment of judges and the selection of candidates in 2026. During the session, participants identified joint strategic priorities for cooperation in the coming year, agreed on the procedures for operational interaction, including interview schedules, the procedure for notifying

changes to the schedule, formats for remote participation in meetings, etc., analysed key challenges in the area of integrity and professional ethics of judges and candidates for the positions of judges, and developed approaches to crisis situations and responses to shared risks.

5. OTHER POWERS

SECONDMENT OF JUDGES. TRANSFER OF JUDGES.

Secondment of judges



Article 55 of the Law of Ukraine “On the Judiciary and the Status of Judges” establishes the procedure for secondment as the temporary transfer of a judge to another court of the same level and specialisation for the administration of justice.

A judge may be seconded to another court of the same level and specialisation to administer justice in the following circumstances:

- the inability to administer justice in the relevant court,
- an excessive caseload in the relevant court,
- the suspension of the court’s work due to a natural disaster, military operations, counter-terrorism measures or other exceptional circumstances,
- a change in the territorial jurisdiction of cases being heard in the relevant court, due to the court’s inability to administer justice for objective reasons during a state of war or emergency, in connection with a natural disaster, military operations, counter-terrorism measures or other exceptional circumstances.

Against the backdrop of geopolitical developments linked to the Russian Federation’s armed aggression against Ukraine, active hostilities across a significant part of our country’s territory, and a sharp deterioration in the security situation, it has become impossible for the courts to administer justice in certain areas. Such circumstances require a prompt response, in particular from the Commission, to ensure the full functioning of the judicial system, unimpeded access to justice and the continuity of judicial proceedings.

According to data from the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine on the time required to process cases and materials received by local and appellate courts in 2025, the workload on judges in certain courts is excessive: in some courts, the number of days required to process cases and materials exceeds the average by more than five times. Courts that did not conduct proceedings in 2025 (due to a change in territorial jurisdiction) were not included in the calculations.

As reported by the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, throughout 2025 the Commission adopted decisions concerning the authorisation of judges’ secondment and requests for the early termination thereof, including simultaneous secondment to other courts:

Secondment of judges

Recommendations has been issued regarding the secondment of judges	135*
Requests for secondment has been denied	64
Left without consideration	29

Early termination of secondment

Secondments terminated prematurely	77*
Refusals of early termination of secondment	18
Left without consideration	24

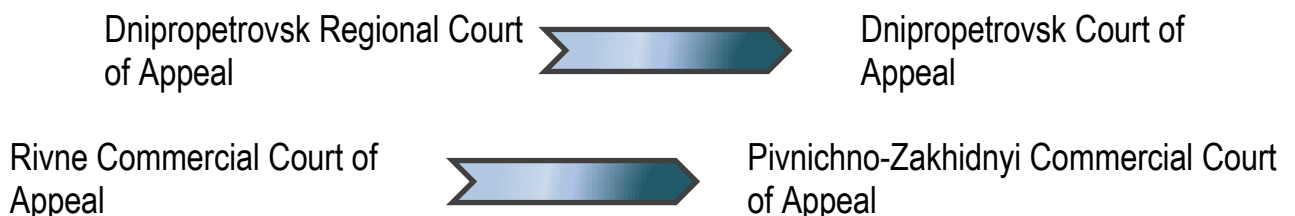
* in 48 cases where the secondment was terminated early, a recommendation regarding the judge's secondment was issued at the same time

Following a review of the Commission's recommendations on the secondment of judges, the High Council of Justice endorsed 82 recommendations, rejected 49, and left 2 without consideration.

Transfer of judges

The transfer of a judge to the position in another court of the same or lower level may be carried out without a competition only in cases of reorganisation, liquidation or closure of the court in which that judge holds position.

Thus, in 2025, following this procedure, the Commission recommended that the High Council of Justice transfer two judges from the courts of appeal:



The applications of 3 judges have been left without consideration due to their dismissal.

Qualification assessment of judges for suitability for the position held

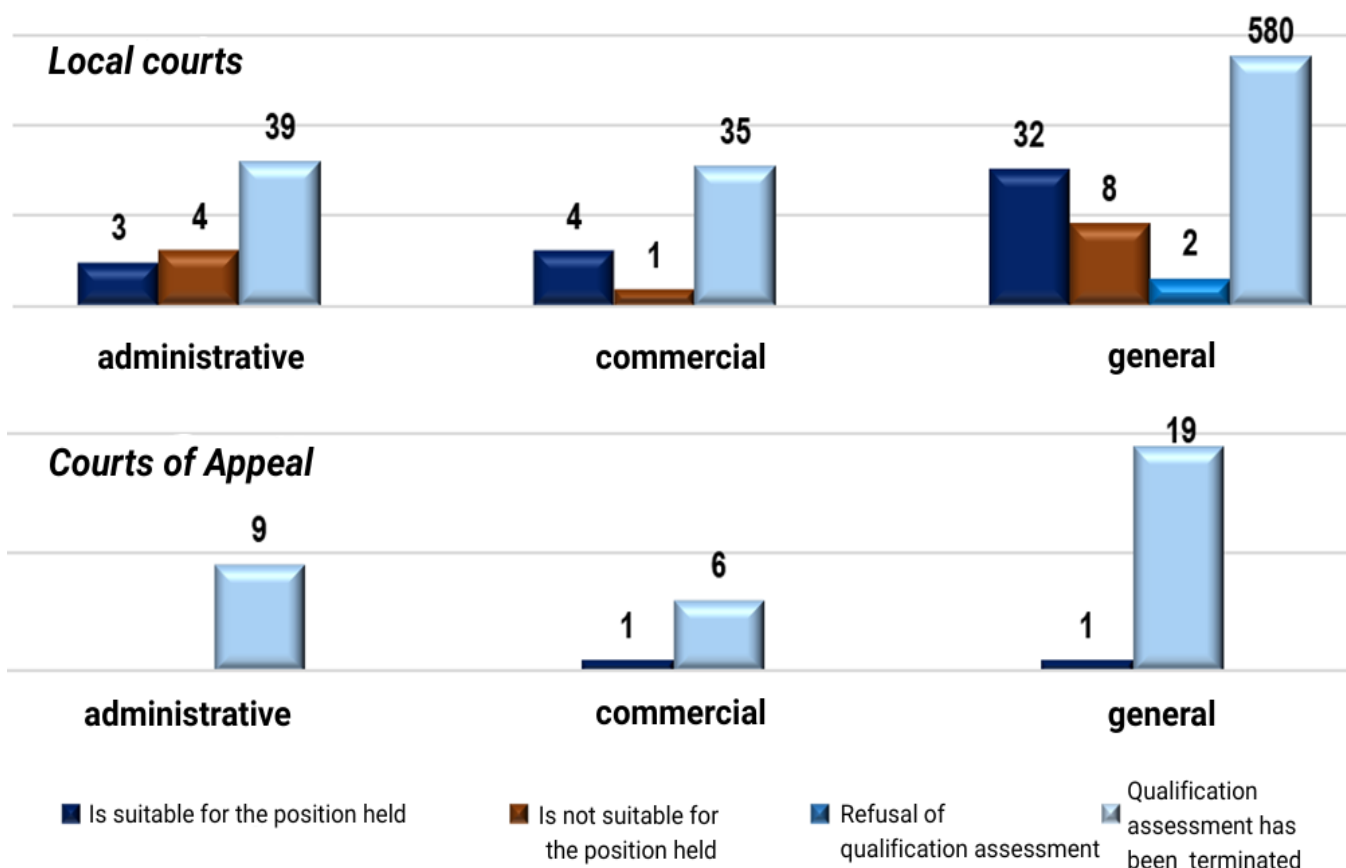


As of January 2025, the qualification assessment of 1,573 judges for suitability for the position held had not been completed; consequently, the procedure continued during the reporting period.

During January–April 2025, tests of personal moral and psychological qualities and general abilities, as well as interviews with a psychologist, were conducted for 34 judges as part of the qualification assessment for suitability for the position held.

Following the results of the assessment for suitability for the position held, decisions have been taken regarding 745 judges, of whom:

- 42 judges are suitable for the position held;
- 13 judges are not suitable for the position held;
- in respect of 2 judges, a motion was submitted to the High Council of Justice for dismissal from position of a judge due to refusal to undergo qualification assessment for suitability for the position held;
- the qualification assessment of 688 judges was terminated (due to the termination of their powers, dismissal from the position of judge, failure to acquire the powers to administer justice, or confirmation of their ability to administer justice in the High Anti-Corruption Court or the Court of Appeal).



Following the results of the qualification assessment of 35 local court judges whose five-year terms of appointment have expired, they have been recommended for appointment to the position of judge, of whom 33 are judges of local general courts, 1 is a judge of a local commercial court and 1 is a judge of a local administrative court.

The qualification assessment of 1,346 judges for suitability for the position held has not been completed. The procedure for the qualification assessment of judges' suitability for the position held is ongoing.

