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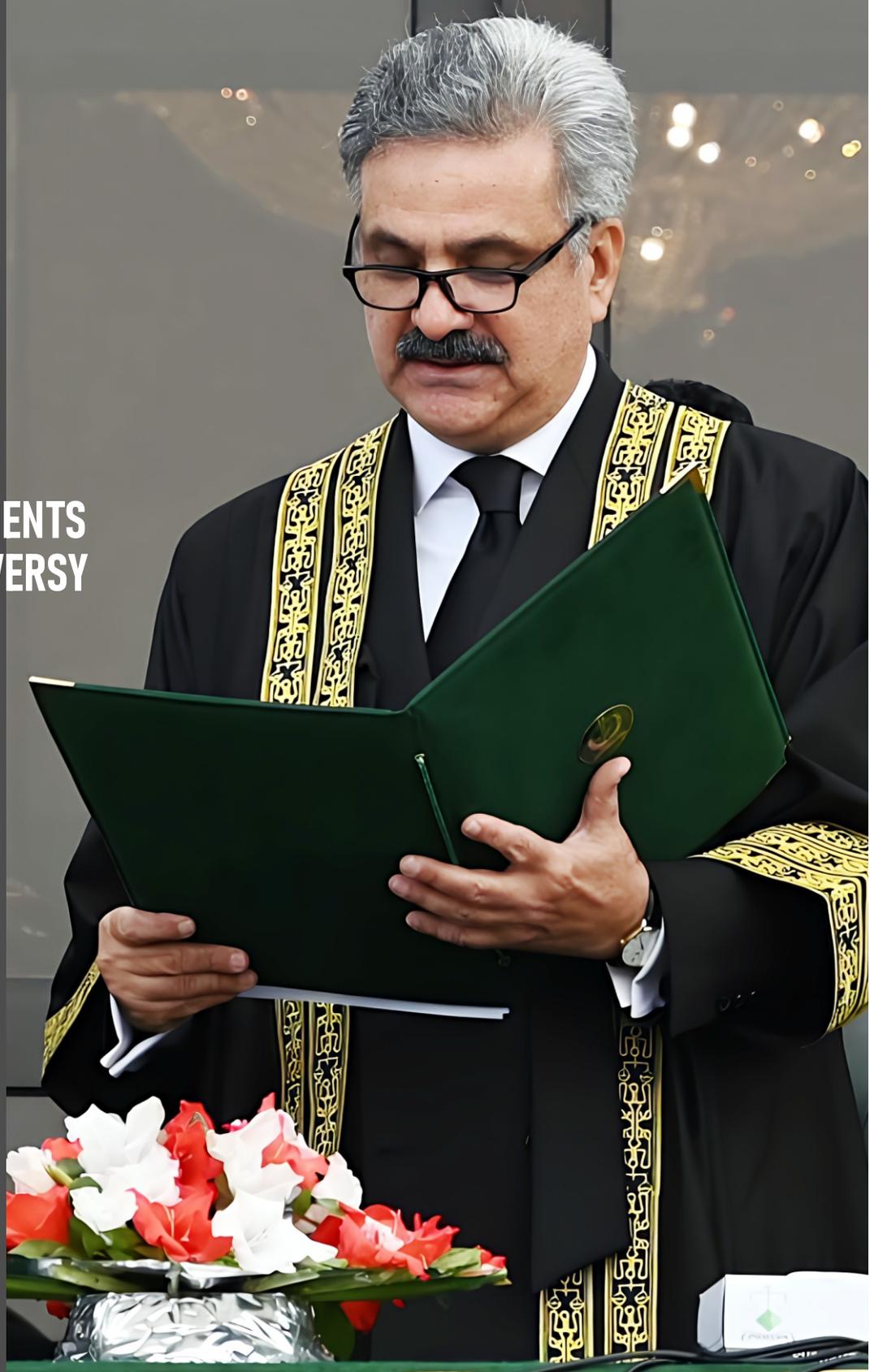
JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS & CONTROVERSY

Young Lawyers
**BE A GOOD PUPIL
NOT A PUPPET**

Egypt
**FROM PYRAMIDS
TO GAVEL**

**Ai's LEGAL
TAKEOVER**

In Memoriam
**JUSTICE AZMAT
SAEED**





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Controversial PECA Amendments Sparks Intense Debate

IMAGE CREDIT NPC

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Justice
Azmat Saeed Sheikh

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Please include your full name, city, telephone number. All write-ups or letter are subject to editing for length and clarity. Unpublished material cannot be acknowledged or returned. Please keep your letters under 250 words.

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Editor's Note

Ramadan Reflections and Legal Updates

Warm greetings to our Muslim readers for the holy month of Ramadan, the 9th month of the Islamic calendar. May this blessed period be filled with reflection, devotion, and communal harmony.

The team at The Legal has meticulously crafted this month's issue, bringing you a captivating and informative read. Within these pages, you'll find a wide range of research work, articles, and news on various legal matters. Of particular interest is the research on the expanding role of AI in legal affairs (page 8). This subject is crucial for both students and practising lawyers. While we've provided a summary in the magazine, I highly recommend reading the full text available in the publications section of The Legal International's website.

We are deeply thankful to our international readers for their active engagement and contributions. This issue features a research summary from England and an essay from Egypt, highlighting the diverse perspectives within our community of lawyers and researchers.

Young lawyers are brimming with energy, yet they often require guidance and encouragement in their early careers. We've included an article to help them navigate the complexities of their initial years in the legal profession (page 26).

Furthermore, recent amendments and enactments of laws in Pakistan have incited considerable protests from lawyers, journalists, and human rights activists. Some judges of the superior courts have even written letters to higher authorities and challenged measures under the 26th Amendment. The fluid nature of these developments has made writing about them particularly challenging. Consequently, some articles in this issue were updated until the very last moment. We earnestly hope for a swift resolution to the judicial crisis in Pakistan.

As always, we encourage your feedback and suggestions. Your engagement is what propels us to continually improve and provide content that is not only informative but also thought-provoking and relevant to our diverse readership.

Happy reading!

Aftab Kazmi
Editor in Chief

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Editorial Secretary **Naseem Bano**

CONTRIBUTORS

Abdussalam Ahmed
Syed Mohammad Ali, AHC
Faryal Fatima
Eesha Arshad, AHC
Khaled Al-Ansari, ADV
Shandana Sajjad, AHC
Ch Ali Usman Gujjar, AHC
Zaheeruddin Ahmad, AHC
Ahmad Ali

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THE LEGAL

RESEARCH
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Contacts
mag@the-legal.org
+92 311 3555 503

Office 1, Building 40,
Paradise Commercial, Bahria Town Phase-4,
Islamabad (Pakistan)

NEWS BRIEFING

Bench Dismisses Contempt

Islamabad – Islamabad High Court (IHC) has dismissed contempt proceedings against its registrar and deputy registrar on February 17. The larger bench, including Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Mohammad Azam Khan, and Justice Inaam Ameen Minhas, ruled that judges cannot initiate contempt proceedings against court officials if disciplinary action is an option.

The decision followed an appeal by Registrar Sardar Tahir Sabir and Deputy Registrar Mohammad Awais ul Hassan Khan, who faced contempt charges from Justice Babar Sattar. Justice Sattar's charges stemmed from the officials' failure to maintain order during a lawyers' strike on May 9 last year, based on a complaint by Advocate Naeem Bukhari. The bench stated that disciplinary proceedings are the appropriate route when such actions are possible.

Illegal Sand Mining

Chennai – Madras High Court has directed the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to initiate criminal cases and launch an extensive investigation into the illegal beach sand mining operations, citing the findings from various Committee reports and other available materials.

The bench emphasised that the CBI Director must form Special Investigation Teams (SITs) with experts of high integrity to conduct a thorough investigation. Additionally, the CBI Director is to monitor the SITs' investigations closely.

The court highlighted the need to scrutinise the modus operandi of the illegal beach sand mining mafia and the role of various officials, from senior ranks down to those accountable for the significant economic loss to the State exchequer.

The court said that the investigation must examine the alleged corruption.

**Lawyer's Inspiring Journey**

Roanoke (Virginia, US) – Elizabeth Barbour, a tenacious US lawyer, embarked on her legal journey at 54 and now, at 68, has been working on 50 domestic violence cases, considering her career "a privilege, not a job."

After passing the bar on her second attempt, Barbour joined the Legal Aid Society in Roanoke, Virginia, at 60. Reflecting on her decision to attend law school, she remarked, "Going to law school was a declaration of selfhood."

"Law school was hard. It was disheartening," Barbour confessed. "I was literally everybody's mother's age. I didn't have a cohort of friends. I was like a foreigner. I felt really isolated. But three years of being pummeled with all this information really did expand my bandwidth."

Despite the emotional toll of her work, Barbour finds it incredibly rewarding. "Initially, the courtroom was frightening," she said. "But my mum always said: 'Do what you're afraid to do.'" Now, she feels at ease, saying, "It's more and more rewarding. I love my office. I love my clients. I see no end to my career. It is a privilege, not a job."e Supreme Court of Pakistan, emphasised the critical need for climate finance during his address at the Pakistan International Climate Change Conference on 6th February.

Barbour was earlier a hand model at company in New York. In the vibrant world of advertising and fashion, a hand model is an individual who expertly showcases their hands for artistic, fashion, or product-related purposes.

Corruption Inquiry Axed

Bengaluru – India's Supreme Court has scrapped mandatory preliminary inquiries in corruption cases, ruling on February 17, that such probes are not a legal requirement – a move set to impact swathes of pending litigation in the Karnataka High Court and Supreme Court itself.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Sandeep Mehta declared that if a "detailed, well-reasoned" source report prima facie reveals a cognisable offence, authorities may bypass preliminary checks. The judgment overturns a Karnataka High Court order from March 4, 2024, which the apex court criticised for imposing "unwarranted fetters" on investigative agencies via "administrative hurdles".

"While preliminary inquiries may be desirable in some cases, they are neither a vested right of the accused nor a mandatory step before registering criminal proceedings," the court asserted. It stressed such inquiries serve only to determine if allegations disclose a cognisable offence, not to "verify veracity".

Legal experts warn the ruling strips procedural delays often exploited to stall corruption probes, bolstering enforcement agencies' autonomy. However, critics argue it risks hasty prosecutions without adequate scrutiny. The decision amplifies India's judicial pivot toward expediting graft cases, signalling tighter reins on procedural roadblocks.

NEWS BRIEFING



Climate Justice Urgent

Islamabad - Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, the senior puisne judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, emphasised the critical need for climate finance during his address at the Pakistan International Climate Change Conference on 6th February.

Justice Shah highlighted that without climate finance, there would be no climate justice, warning that a business-as-usual approach could lead to "climate apartheid." He pointed out the "dual injustice" faced by the Global South, where countries bear a disproportionate burden of climate change yet face significant structural barriers in responding to disasters. He urged the Global North to support vulnerable nations in the Global South, stressing this was not charity but a legal and moral obligation.

"Climate justice today, in the judiciary's view, equates to climate finance. Without adequate funding, adaptation remains an aspiration rather than a reality," he stated. Reflecting on the devastating 2022 floods, he added, "We realised that the only way forward is through climate finance. Delay in financing is not just a policy failure; it is a denial of justice."

Justice Shah asserted that the right to life and dignity in constitutions and international frameworks must now include the right to climate finance. He stated, "Without it, our people are left defenceless against a crisis they did not create."

He elaborated that the scope of climate justice now encompasses water security, agriculture, food security, disaster risk reduction, health, urban planning, infrastructure, ecosystems and biodiversity, energy, finance, and climate.

Highlighting Pakistan's vulnerability, Justice Shah criticised the lack of government action, noting that the Climate Change Act 2017 envisaged a climate change authority and dedicated fund, yet there had been no significant progress.

Judges Challenge Seniority Shake-Up

Islamabad - Five Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges have petitioned Pakistan's Supreme Court to contest a contentious reshuffle that stripped them of seniority after three new judges were transferred to the court, including Justice Sarfraz Dogar of Lahore High Court. The move saw Justice Dogar elevated as senior puisne judge, displacing Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani.

Justices Kayani, Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Saman Rafat Imtiaz filed a constitutional petition on February 20 via advocates Muneer A Malik and Barrister Salahuddin Ahmed. They allege a "concerted campaign" to "undermine the credibility" of IHC judges, claiming efforts to malign them across public forums.

The petition invokes the Supreme Court's landmark Al-Jehad Trust ruling, which cautioned against exploiting presidential powers under Article 200(1) of the Constitution to punish judges via transfers. While the provision permits judicial appointments, the judges argue it is being weaponised to erode institutional independence, asserting such tactics risk destabilising the judiciary's autonomy.

The case reignites scrutiny over executive interference in judicial affairs, with the petitioners urging the apex court to intervene.

Kerr's Legal Triumph

London - In a gripping turn of events, Sam Kerr, renowned as one of the world's premier female footballers, was acquitted by a jury at Kingston Crown Court of charges pertaining to racially aggravated harassment of a police officer.

The Australian striker, who has also dazzled on the field for Chelsea FC, admitted to calling police constable Stephen Lovell "stupid and white" in the heat of the moment at a police station. However, she steadfastly denied that her actions amounted to a racially aggravated offence.

The verdict, delivered early last month following over four hours of deliberation by a 12-member jury on the seventh day of the trial, marked a significant chapter in this high-profile case.

The incident in question dates back to January 2023, when Kerr and her fiancée, Kristie Mewis—a fellow footballer from the United States—were enjoying a night out in London. The evening took a turn when their taxi driver reported them to the police, alleging that they had refused to cover the clean-up costs after one of them was sick in the cab, and further accused them of smashing the vehicle's rear window.

Kerr, who identifies as a white Anglo-Indian, contended that constable Lovell wielded his power and privilege inappropriately by accusing her of something she insisted she was not. During the heated exchange, she labelled the officer as "stupid and white."

Judge Peter Lodder, following the jury's verdict, remarked, "I take the view that her own behaviour contributed significantly to the bringing of this allegation. I do not question the jury's verdict, but this aspect holds substantial influence over the matter of costs."

The case has since stirred considerable discourse, with Kerr's acquittal bringing a measure of closure to the embattled football star.

ONLINE PRIVACY

Google's New Policy Sparks Legal Concerns

Tech Giant's Move to Digital Fingerprinting Raises Privacy Issues
Legal Experts Urge Users to Switch to Safer Alternatives

Staff Report

Google's recent update to its program policies, launched on February 17, has ignited a wave of concerns among global users and legal experts, particularly in the United Kingdom. The tech behemoth's decision to expand advertising surfaces through digital fingerprinting has raised significant privacy issues.

The update introduces the contentious method of fingerprinting, which collects unique data from users' devices, such as browser information, operating systems, hardware details, installed software, internet service providers, screen resolutions, locations, time zones, and more. This extensive data gathering gives advertisers a wealth of user information and allows Google to boost its profits.

Critics warn that this new strategy could be exploited, potentially causing significant harm to users. Technology experts have recommended that internet users consider switching to alternative browsers and search engines that prioritise safety and security.

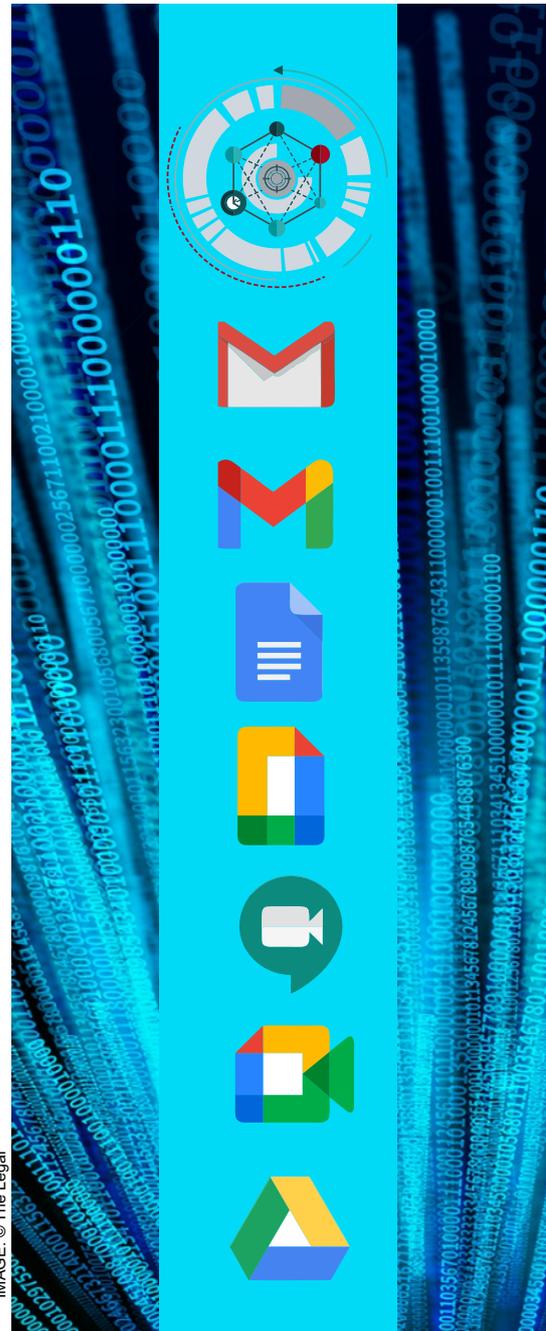
Google's traditional tracking cookies, which were once effective in gathering personal data, can now be easily deleted or masked. In contrast, fingerprinting is much more difficult to block. Even after clearing browsing data, the signals used in fingerprinting allow websites and advertisers to quickly identify users.

The UK's Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has raised concerns about Google's recent policy change. Previously warning that fingerprinting could "subvert user choice and is wrong," the ICO now labels Google's reversal as "irresponsible," emphasising the absence of user consent and control over data collection.

Stephen Almond, the ICO's executive director of regulatory risk, remarked, "The ICO believes that fingerprinting is not a fair method of tracking users online, as it likely diminishes people's choice and control over their information. This policy change could lead to fingerprinting taking the place of third-party cookies."

According to UK data-protection laws, including the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations and the Data Protection Act, companies are required to provide users with "fair choices" regarding tracking technologies, which includes obtaining consent for personalised advertisements.

This update has also sparked legal concerns related to the



Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The AVMSD requires that audiovisual commercial communications be clearly identifiable and bans covert advertising, while the GDPR enforces strict rules on personal data processing and consent.

Google's revised policies may conflict with these regulations, potentially resulting in legal disputes and enforcement actions from regulatory bodies. The full impact of these changes remains to be seen, but the initial reactions indicate a challenging path ahead for the tech giant in terms of privacy and data protection. ■

AI's Legal Takeover

How AI is Revolutionising Justice Systems Worldwide

AI has been transforming the legal sector by improving efficiency in tasks like legal research and case analysis. However, challenges such as data privacy, algorithmic bias, and the lack of ethical judgment persist. While AI offers significant benefits, human oversight remains crucial to ensure accountability and address ethical concerns in legal practice.

Muhammad Usman Zaheer, AHC (PBC), RF-Advocate (SRA)
Doncaster, England

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a distant technological concept; it is rapidly reshaping industries, including the legal sector. While AI's potential in streamlining legal processes is undeniable, it also brings forth critical concerns regarding ethics, bias, and accountability. This article explores the transformative impact of AI on legal systems in common law and civil law jurisdictions, examining its advantages, risks, and the evolving legal landscape.

AI and Legal Practice

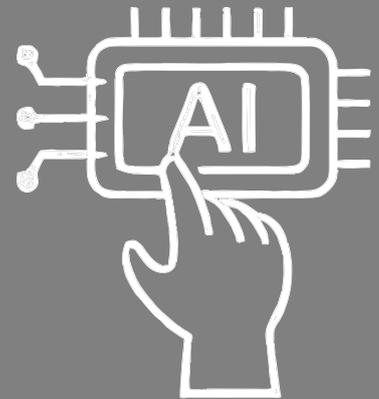
AI's integration into legal practice has revolutionised traditional workflows. From automating legal research to drafting contracts and predicting case outcomes, AI has introduced unprecedented efficiency. In Pakistan, the UK, and Canada, AI tools such as ChatGPT have been employed to assist in judicial decisions and case analysis, enhancing productivity and accuracy. However, despite its efficiency, AI cannot replace human lawyers due to its lack of legal reasoning and ethical considerations.

Legal professionals in major jurisdictions are embracing AI-assisted tools to refine case strategies and document drafting. In 2023, a court in Pakistan used ChatGPT to analyse a civil procedure case, highlighting AI's growing role in judicial proceedings. Similarly, in the UK, legal firms have developed AI chatbots to provide quick legal insights, streamlining client consultations. Despite these advancements, concerns persist regarding the reliance on AI-generated legal advice, given that AI lacks the ability to apply a conscious judicial mind.

Challenges of AI in Law

The rapid adoption of AI in legal systems presents complex challenges. One of the primary concerns is data privacy. AI systems process massive amounts of personal data, raising issues regarding compliance with privacy laws. In Pakistan, the draft

This is a highly condensed summary of the original research article "**The Comparative Impact of AI on the Commercial Systems of Common Law and Civil Law Jurisdiction.**" It can be accessed by clicking on the link: www.the-legal.org



National AI Policy aims to regulate AI applications, while Canada's proposed Artificial Intelligence and Data Act (AIDA) seeks to ensure ethical AI deployment. However, legal experts argue that these frameworks still lack clarity and enforcement mechanisms.

Another pressing issue is algorithmic bias. AI models often reflect the biases inherent in their training data, leading to discriminatory outcomes. A study from Stanford University revealed that AI-generated legal analyses displayed biases against minority groups, emphasising the need for stricter oversight. In legal recruitment, AI-based hiring systems have also been found to exhibit biases in favour of certain demographics, contradicting anti-discrimination laws such as the UK's Equality Act 2010 and Canada's Human Rights Act 1985.

Moreover, AI-generated errors have led to legal malpractice cases. A striking example is the suspension of a young lawyer in Colorado who unknowingly submitted fabricated case laws generated by ChatGPT. This incident underscores the necessity for legal professionals to verify AI outputs and remain accountable for their use.

A Double-Edged Sword

While AI has proven useful in legal research and documentation, its role in judicial decision-making remains controversial. The case of Muhammad Iqbal v Zayad in Pakistan's Sessions Court marked a historic moment where a judge utilized AI for legal analysis. Though the final judgment aligned with established laws, critics caution against over-reliance on AI, arguing that it cannot replace human judicial discretion.

China has taken AI in the



IMAGE Credit: Algorithm-X Lab

judiciary a step further, introducing robot judges for minor cases such as e-commerce disputes and copyright claims. The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has also explored AI applications to enhance judicial efficiency. However, concerns persist regarding the transparency of AI-generated judgments and the risk of undermining due process.

AI in Specialised Legal Domains

Beyond conventional legal practice, AI is making strides in specialised legal domains, such as space law. With the increasing commercialisation of outer space, legal disputes over satellite damages, space resource utilisation, and cybersecurity threats have surged. Traditional dispute resolution mechanisms, such as the Outer Space Treaty and the Liability Convention, are often inadequate in addressing modern challenges.

AI-driven arbitration and dispute resolution mechanisms are emerging as potential solutions. By analysing large datasets, AI can assist in expediting complex legal disputes related to space exploration. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) have started incorporating AI-based legal research tools to streamline case evaluations. Nonetheless, the enforceability of AI-generated legal decisions in space law remains uncertain.

Regulating AI in the Legal Sphere

While AI presents undeniable benefits in legal systems, a robust regulatory framework is essential to mitigate risks. Governments and legal institutions must establish clear policies on AI's role in legal proceedings, ensuring transparency, accountability, and ethical compliance. Proposed regulatory approaches include:

AI's impact on the legal industry is undeniable, offering efficiency, cost reduction, and enhanced legal research capabilities. However, its inherent limitations – such as bias, lack of ethical judgment, and susceptibility to errors – underscore the necessity for human oversight. As legal frameworks evolve to accommodate AI's role, a balanced approach is include:

- AI oversight committees to monitor AI deployment in courts and legal firms.
- Mandatory AI literacy programs for legal professionals to minimise risks of misuse.
- Global AI governance frameworks to regulate AI's role in international legal disputes, including space law.

AI as a Legal Partner, not a Replacement

AI's impact on the legal industry is undeniable, offering efficiency, cost reduction, and enhanced legal research capabilities.

However, its inherent limitations—such as bias, lack of ethical judgment, and susceptibility to errors—underscore the necessity for human oversight. As legal frameworks evolve to accommodate AI's role, a balanced approach is essential: embracing AI's benefits while ensuring its application aligns with fundamental legal principles and human judgment.

The future of AI in law will depend on how well legal professionals, policymakers, and technologists collaborate to develop ethical and effective AI integration strategies. Rather than replacing lawyers and judges, AI should serve as a tool to augment human legal expertise, ensuring a more efficient and equitable legal system for all. ■

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has also explored AI applications to enhance judicial efficiency.



IMAGE: Credit Pngegg

from PYRAMIDS to GAVEL

Egypt Becomes MENA's
Fast-Growing
Arbitration Hub



Khaled Al-Ansari
*Lawyer &
Legal Consultant,
Aswan - Egypt*



Arbitration Evolves into a Robust Mechanism in Egypt



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للتحكيم التجاري الدولي

Egypt has solidified its position as a leading arbitration hub in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), leveraging a revamped legal framework aligned with global benchmarks to attract commercial and investment dispute resolutions. Legal experts and investors alike hail the nation's strategic reforms as a catalyst for bolstering international confidence in its juridical landscape.

The primary legislation governing arbitration in Egypt is the Egyptian Arbitration Law No. 27 of 1994, which is based on the UNCITRAL (United Nations Commission on International Trade Law) Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration. This law applies to both domestic and international arbitrations conducted in the country.

Egypt is a signatory to several international treaties that support arbitration, including:

- The New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (1958)
- The Washington Convention (ICSID) on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (1965)
- The Arab League Convention on Judicial Cooperation (1983)

Egypt has several institutions that oversee arbitration proceedings, the most prominent are:

A. Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA)

- Established in 1979, the CRCICA is the leading arbitration institution in Egypt and the MENA region.
- It follows UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules and provides a neutral platform for dispute

resolution.

- The CRCICA administers arbitrations in various sectors, including construction, energy, and finance.
- ### B. The Egyptian State Council and Judicial Support for Arbitration
- Egyptian courts play a supportive role in arbitration by enforcing arbitration agreements and awards.
 - Courts can intervene only in limited circumstances, such as appointing arbitrators or ruling on challenges to awards.

For arbitration to be valid in Egypt, parties must agree in writing, either in a separate arbitration clause or a standalone agreement. Essential aspects of arbitration procedures include:

A. Appointment of Arbitrators

- Parties can appoint their arbitrators, or, in case of disagreement, institutions like the CRCICA may step in.
- Arbitrators must be impartial and independent, with expertise in the subject matter.

B. Conduct of Arbitration Hearings

- Arbitration hearings can be held in person or remotely, with flexibility in language and procedure.
- Egyptian law allows arbitrators to determine the applicable substantive law unless parties specify otherwise.

C. Arbitration Awards

- Awards must be in writing, stating the reasoning behind the decision.
- Awards are binding and final, with limited grounds for annulment under Egyptian law.

Arbitral awards in Egypt are enforced through the Egyptian courts, with recognition under the New York Convention. However, awards can be challenged under specific grounds, such as:

- Lack of a valid arbitration agreement.
- Procedural irregularities or unfair treatment of parties.
- Violation of Egyptian public policy.

Egyptian courts generally uphold arbitral awards, reinforcing the country's arbitration-friendly reputation.

Despite a strong legal framework, challenges remain, including:

- Judicial intervention: While courts support arbitration, some cases see excessive judicial interference.
- Public policy exceptions: Egyptian courts sometimes refuse enforcement based on public policy grounds.
- Time-consuming enforcement processes: Delays in enforcing awards can frustrate parties seeking swift dispute resolution.

Recent reforms, such as the increasing use of digital arbitration procedures and Egypt's commitment to investor-friendly policies, aim to address these challenges.

Conclusion

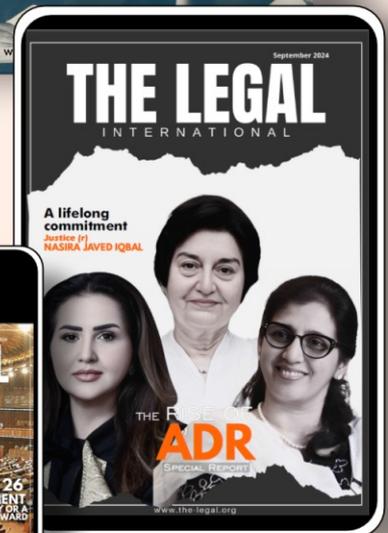
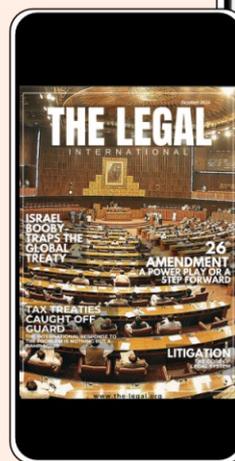
Arbitration in Egypt has evolved into a robust and reliable dispute resolution mechanism, particularly for commercial and investment disputes. With strong legal backing, established institutions like the CRCICA, and Egypt's adherence to international conventions, arbitration remains an attractive option for both local and foreign entities. However, continuous legal reforms and streamlining enforcement procedures will be crucial to further enhance Egypt's arbitration landscape. ■

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Ammar Asif Mir

Advocate
BA.LLB (Hons.)

Family Law, Cybercrime,
Criminal law, FIA,
& Harassment

Faisalabad
+92 316 0759944



Javaria Yaqub

Advocate High Court
LLM (UK)

Constitutional, Criminal,
Civil, Banking, Family
Property & Company

Rawalpindi
+92 333 0512654



Ibrahim Manzoor

Advocate High Court
LLM, LLB, MS Computer science

Family, Cybercrimes,
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36-C, 2nd Floor, Cantonment
Plaza, Saddar Road
Peshawar



Mehwish M Kakakhel

Advocate
LLB

Conveyancer in UK based
firm, Family Matters &
Constitution

Rawalpindi
+92 307 3273462



Zumer Ayaz

Advocate High Court
BA. LLB

Criminal, Civil
Banking Services, &
NAB

Karachi
+92 332 3863595



Ameet Kumar

Advocate High Court
BA. LLB Hons.
in Shariah and Law & Mediator

Civil, Criminal,
Corporate, Arbitration,
& Family Matters

Islamabad
+92 335 0470701



Sarmad Sajjad Ali

Advocate High Court
BA, LLB (Sharia Law)

Criminal,
Civil, NIRC (service matters),
Narcotics, & Family

Islamabad
+92 336 5995447



Ali Raza Baloch

Advocate High Court
LLB

Civil, Family, Consumer,
Corporate Law

Rawalpindi
+92 334 5333798



M Masood Mahmood

Advocate
LLB

Immigration,
Cybercrimes, FIA,
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Peshawar
+92 333 9787880



Wasif Ullah

CASE STUDY

Exclusive Jurisdiction Clauses

Bolstering Contractual Certainty in Commercial Disputes

Lahore High Court returns plaint to Karachi, citing contractual forum selection clauses, in a ruling seen as a win for legal predictability in commercial agreements.

Syed Mohammad Ali, AHC - Islamabad

In the realm of commercial and banking contracts, jurisdiction clauses play a pivotal role in determining the forum for dispute resolution. The recent Lahore High Court judgment in *Sadiq Poultry Farms (Pvt) Ltd. v. First Habib Modaraba* (PLD 2025 LHR 161) has reaffirmed the importance and enforceability of exclusive jurisdiction clauses. This case provides valuable insights into how Pakistani courts interpret such clauses and their impact on commercial litigation.

Boilerplate Clauses: An Essential Component of Contracts

A boilerplate clause refers to standardised contractual terms that appear in most agreements, typically located towards the end of a contract. These clauses help define the relationship between the contracting parties and ensure legal certainty in case of disputes. Common boilerplate clauses include “force majeure”, dispute resolution, governing law, and exclusive jurisdiction clauses.

Exclusive jurisdiction clauses, in particular, dictate which court or legal forum will have the authority to hear disputes arising from the contract. These clauses are critical in commercial agreements as they provide predictability and prevent forum shopping. The enforceability of such clauses has been the subject of various legal challenges, one of the most notable being the case of *Sadiq Poultry Farms v. First Habib Modaraba*. The jurisdiction on this matter has been further clarified by the Honourable Mr Justice Jawad Hasan in his recent judgment, reinforcing the principle that jurisdiction clauses should be upheld as agreed upon by the contracting parties. His ruling provides clear guidance on the interpretation of such clauses and affirms that parties cannot arbitrarily deviate from their contractual obligations regarding jurisdiction selection.

Background of the Case

The dispute arose between Sadiq Poultry Farms (Pvt.) Ltd. and First Habib Modaraba concerning a financial arrangement under the Financial Institution (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance, 2001. The plaintiff sought the recovery of Rs. 285 million due to alleged breaches of sanctioned finance facilities. However, the defendant challenged the territorial jurisdiction of the Lahore High Court, citing Clause 12 of the Diminishing Musharakah Agreement, which conferred exclusive jurisdiction to the courts of Karachi.

The court was tasked with determining whether the suit was maintainable in Lahore or if it should be adjudicated exclusively in Karachi, as stipulated in the contractual agreements between the





parties. The judgment primarily revolved around two fundamental legal questions: whether parties can contractually agree to confer exclusive jurisdiction on a particular court, and whether such an agreement is enforceable under Pakistani law.

Judicial Reasoning

The court analysed multiple agreements, including the Diminishing Musharakah Agreement, Monthly Payment Agreement, and Property Finance Agreement, all of which contained exclusive jurisdiction clauses favouring Karachi. The defendant's counsel relied on various Supreme Court precedents, including *Fauji Foundation v. Shamimur Rehman* (PLD 1983 SC 457) and *Eden Builders (Pvt.) Ltd. v. Muhammad Aslam* (2022 SCMR 2044), which uphold the validity of such clauses.

Judgment reinforces party autonomy in dispute resolution, urging businesses to draft jurisdiction terms carefully to avoid costly jurisdictional battles.

In light of these precedents, the court reiterated that jurisdiction clauses are binding unless they contravene public policy or statutory provisions. The Supreme Court in *State Life Insurance Corporation v. Rana Muhammad Saleem* (1987 SCMR 393) had previously held that selecting a specific forum for dispute resolution does not violate Sections 9 or 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

Decision of the Court

Lahore High Court concluded that, since all agreements were executed in Karachi and explicitly stipulated Karachi as the exclusive forum for dispute resolution, the suit could not be maintained in Lahore. Consequently, the plaint was returned under Order VII Rule 10 of the CPC for presentation before the competent court in Karachi.

Implications for Commercial Contracts

The ruling in *Sadiq Poultry Farms v. First Habib Modaraba* reinforces the enforceability of exclusive jurisdiction clauses in Pakistan's legal landscape. This decision highlights the binding nature of jurisdiction clauses, requiring parties to adhere to the contractual forum agreed upon unless compelling legal grounds justify deviation.

It also emphasises the need for strategic contract drafting, ensuring that jurisdiction clauses align with commercial and geographical interests to avoid litigation in unfavourable forums. Furthermore, it upholds the principle of judicial recognition of party autonomy, with Pakistani courts continuing to honour contractual agreements that do not contravene statutory provisions.

Conclusion

The decision of Lahore High Court underscores the sanctity of exclusive jurisdiction clauses in commercial agreements. By reaffirming established legal principles, the judgment serves as a guiding precedent for future contractual disputes. Businesses and legal practitioners must take heed of this ruling when structuring contracts to ensure clarity, enforceability, and strategic advantage in dispute resolution. ■

Landmark ruling cites Supreme Court precedents to curb forum shopping, setting a clear precedent for enforcing contractual jurisdiction terms in commercial litigation.

RESEARCH

Pakistan's Legal Overhaul

Can ADR Ease the Burden on Courts?

Pakistan pushes for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to tackle a staggering backlog court cases. It must bridge the gap between legislative intent and grassroots implementation for ADR to succeed.

Shandana Sajjad - AHC, Islamabad

Pakistan's overburdened judicial system, grappling with a backlog of over 2.14 million pending cases, is increasingly turning to Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) as a lifeline to deliver faster and more affordable justice.

For decades, Pakistan's justice system has been crippled by inefficiencies, with civil and criminal cases languishing for years. The problem is starkly visible in Islamabad's district courts alone, where 31,018 cases remain unresolved, according to the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan.

The economic toll is equally dire, as protracted litigation deters foreign investment and drains public resources. In response, lawmakers have embedded ADR into the legal fabric, invoking constitutional principles like Article 37's guarantee of "inexpensive and expeditious justice" and Article 10-A's right to a fair trial. Courts now routinely encourage parties to explore ADR, with judges empowered to impose costs on those who unreasonably refuse.

The ADR framework draws strength from Pakistan's historical reliance on informal justice mechanisms. Traditional systems like *jirgas* (tribal councils) and *panchayats* (village councils) have resolved disputes in rural and tribal areas for generations, often blending customary practices with communal consensus.

Modern reforms have sought to institutionalise these models through Dispute Resolution Councils (DRCs), which operate under legal sanction in provinces like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Composed of local elders, lawyers, and officials, DRCs resolve everything from property disputes to minor criminal offences swiftly, often within weeks.

Surveys indicate high public trust in their impartiality, particularly in regions where formal courts are viewed as distant or corrupt. However, DRCs face crippling shortages of trained mediators, inadequate funding, and weak enforcement mechanisms—flaws that risk replicating the very inefficiencies they aim to replace.

Critics argue that ADR's success hinges on addressing Pakistan's deeply entrenched power imbalances. In feudal and tribal societies, traditional councils often reinforce the authority of local elites, leaving women, minorities, and the poor vulnerable to biased rulings. A 2023 study of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KPK) DRCs found that while they excel in resolving petty disputes, they

This is summary of the research report "Practical Applicability of ADR in Pakistan: Its Effectiveness and Analysis." The full-length paper can be read at: www.the-legal.org



The ADR experiment faces uphill battles. Provincial disparities—like Punjab's broad ADR scope versus Sindh's civil-only approach highlight coordination challenges.

struggle to handle cases involving domestic violence or land rights, where power dynamics tilt overwhelmingly in favour of influential families. Similarly, the persistence of *jirgas* in some areas has sparked controversy, with human rights groups condemning their role in enforcing harmful practices like honour-based punishments. Legal experts stress that modern ADR mechanisms must be insulated from such pressures through rigorous oversight, training, and explicit safeguards for marginalised groups.

Provinces have adopted divergent approaches to ADR, reflecting Pakistan's complex legal landscape. Punjab, home to over half the population, permits ADR for both civil and criminal cases under its 2019 Act, while Sindh restricts it to civil matters. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has tailored its system to align with Pashtun traditions. Islamabad's 2017 Act, meanwhile, focuses on civil disputes and compoundable offences, requiring cases to be resolved within 90 days or dismissed. These variations underscore the challenges of

ADR mechanisms must be insulated from pressures through rigorous oversight, training, and safeguards for marginalised groups.

harmonising ADR practices across a federation where provinces wield significant legislative autonomy under the 18th Constitutional Amendment.

The judiciary's role has been pivotal. Supreme Court rulings since 2023 have emphasised ADR's voluntary nature, striking down attempts to compel participation while urging litigants to embrace "collaborative justice." In one landmark case, the court voided a government attempt to mandate ADR in tax disputes, affirming that consent must be "free from coercion." Lower courts, however, remain inconsistent. Some judges enthusiastically refer cases to mediation; others cling to traditional adversarial methods, citing concerns over transparency. The result is a patchwork of outcomes, with arbitration fees—often running into millions of rupees—ironically pricing out the very citizens ADR aims to help.

Business leaders and international investors cautiously welcome the reforms. Pakistan's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index has long been hobbled by its sluggish courts, with commercial disputes averaging five years to resolve. Arbitration, particularly for contracts involving foreign firms, is seen as a potential game-changer. Yet progress remains tentative. While the 2020 KPK ADR Act aligns with international standards, experts note that Pakistan lags in adopting modern arbitration laws, with the colonial-era Arbitration Act of 1940 still

For a Judiciary Drowning in Delays, ADR isn't Just a Reform — It's a Survival Strategy

governing many proceedings. "Strong arbitration isn't just about laws—it's about credibility," says Lahore-based legal scholar Dr. Amina Khan. "Until Pakistan ensures enforceability and neutrality, global businesses will hesitate."

Grassroots awareness remains another hurdle. The Pakistan Bar Council has further complicated matters, with senior lawyers resisting ADR over fears of lost income. "Lawyers used to 20-year cases won't embrace a system that resolves disputes in months," admits Karachi attorney Ali Raza.

Yet glimmers of progress emerge. Pilot projects in Lahore and Peshawar have linked ADR centres to district courts, offering free mediation services. Universities are introducing ADR modules, and the 2023 National Judicial Conference endorsed plans to train 5,000 mediators by 2025. International partnerships, such as a recent EU-funded initiative to strengthen DRCs in Balochistan, signal growing external confidence.

With trust in state institutions eroding and informal justice systems increasingly hijacked by extremist groups, ADR offers a chance to restore civic faith. "This isn't just about clearing backlogs—it's about reimagining justice as a service, not a privilege," argues Supreme Court advocate Sara Malkani.

The road ahead is fraught, but the alternative—a judiciary collapsing under its own weight—is untenable. For millions awaiting justice, ADR may yet prove the difference between hope and despair. As Pakistan navigates this delicate balance, the world watches to see whether ADR can deliver on its promise—or become another casualty of good intentions undone by systemic neglect. ■



IMAGE: by yanalya on FreePik



Judicial Appointments & Controversy

The JCP was meant to ensure that only candidates of merit got picked for appointments, but some of its recent actions have conspicuously revealed procedural ambiguities and susceptibility to political pressures.

The recent induction of new judges to the Supreme Court of Pakistan has sparked controversy, revealing cracks in the judicial system of the country. The Judicial Commission of Pakistan's (JCP) move to go ahead with the appointments, in the face of opposition from incumbent judges and legal experts, highlights systemic issues regarding transparency, timing, and the perceived autonomy of the judiciary. This analysis delves into the complex controversy, placing it in the context of Pakistan's wider constitutional and political landscape.

Timing of Appointments: A Contentious Prelude

One of the chief criticisms is around the time of the appointments, which opponents are saying conveniently coincide with the litigation carried out on the 26th Amendment. The critics, including four judges of the Supreme Court, argue that if the appointments were hurriedly put in place, there would be fear of incurring accusations of "court packing," where the executive or judiciary manipulates the bench strength to benefit a particular case.

The striking parallels to a historical precedent, namely Franklin D. Roosevelt's decree in 1937 that tried to expand the US Supreme Court, come to mind in this context. In Pakistan, strategic appointments are viewed as having the potential to politicise the judiciary, thus undermining its role as an unbiased referee. If the new judges decide on the 26th Amendment, serious questions about their independence could arise, especially if they are viewed as siding with the interests of the executive. Such perceptions may delegitimise any resulting verdict, no matter how impeccable its legal merit. Thus, this controversy is not about mere procedural quibbling, but about something that really touches the essence of judicial integrity.

Seniority List Alterations: Undermining Protocol

Among the most controversial is the alleged manipulation of the seniority list of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), which was modified before the appointees took oath. Seniority, particularly in the Pakistan judiciary, normally means elevation in the higher courts. Such seniority protects against favouritism. This formal swearing-in is a constitutional requirement that establishes the authority of the judge by the act of taking an oath; changing the seniority position prior to this step is a violation of otherwise established steps.

This irregularity has fuelled accusations of arbitrariness. By bypassing due process, the JCP risks normalising ad-hoc

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

- February 9, 2025: Four Supreme Court judges, including Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Athar Minallah, wrote a letter to Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Yahya Afridi. They urged him to halt new appointments to the court until the decision on the 26th Amendment case is made. The judges argued that new appointments could create controversy and undermine the court's legitimacy.
- February 10, 2025: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) convened to consider the elevation of eight high court judges to the Supreme Court. Despite calls from some judges and sections of the legal community to defer the meeting, the JCP approved the appointment of six permanent judges and one acting judge.
- February 13, 2025: President Asif Ali Zardari gave assent to the appointment of six permanent and one ad-hoc judge in the Supreme Court. The President signed the summary of judges' appointment on the advice of the Prime Minister. The judges appointed include Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, Justice Salahuddin Panhwar, Justice Shakeel Ahmed, Justice Aamer Farooq, and Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim as regular judges, and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb as an acting judge.
- February 14, 2025: The newly-appointed judges took oath at the Supreme Court in a swearing-in ceremony headed by CJP Yahya Afridi. The new judges include former Balochistan High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Hashim Khan Kakar, ex-Sindh High Court Chief Justice Muhammad Shafi Siddiqui, SHC senior puisne judge Salahuddin Panhwar, Peshawar High Court judge Shakeel Ahmad, ex-Islamabad High Court Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, and ex-PHC Chief Justice Ishtiaq Ibrahim.



IMAGE CREDIT SCP

interventions into judicial promotions, thereby destabilising the institutional hierarchy. If seniority becomes dependent on obscure debating rather than objective criteria such as tenure, the judiciary may be victimised by internal factionalism, wherein judges would be driven to please rather than uphold the law. Such a change would severely disrupt the predictability and fairness expected from a strong legal system.

Boycotts and Protests: The Legal Community's Rebuke

The response among legal professionals has been quick. The All Pakistan Lawyers Action Committee (APLAC) and its affiliates have called boycotts and demonstrations, characterising the appointments as an attack on judicial independence. Their protest draws on a wider ethos within Pakistan's professional classes, which have traditionally aligned themselves with constitutionalism – from the Lawyers' Movement in 2007 against military dictatorship to the current campaign for institutional accountability.

These demonstrations are not symbolic. By declining to recognise the validity of appointments, lawyers challenge the judiciary to answer their concerns or face extended breakdown. The insistence on delaying appointments until outstanding cases are decided serves to highlight an underlying principle: judicial proceedings have to be immune from outside forces, including internal JCP pressures. The mobilisation of the legal fraternity thus reiterates an essential query – can a judiciary that has been implicated in procedural wrongfulness exert enough authority to enforce the rule of law?

Judicial Independence: A Perennial Struggle

The conflict, at heart, is a recurring phenomenon in Pakistan's saga of shielding its judiciary from political and executive intervention. In actuality, the judiciary has been oscillating between two extremes—subservience to the dictatorial regimes, under General Musharraf, or assertive judicial activism, as during the time of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry. The imbroglio brings us to suggest that institutional independence in a democratic framework is not stable, indeed.

The inclusion of representatives from the judiciary, executive, and legal institutions in JCP might, in itself, make politicisation inevitable. Although meant to yield broad input, in practice, it ends up facilitating partisan bargaining. For instance, appointments by the executive branch might create a bench favourably disposed to governmental agendas, thus weakening checks on its power. In other instances, an overly independent judiciary may risk over-reaching, as evidenced by its contentious exercise of suo motu powers. It is thus a matter of balance, which has, however, recently been tipped toward opacity and nurtured suspicion of collusion.

Public Perception: The Credibility Quotient

Public faith in the judiciary largely revolves around impartiality. Surveys after surveys for decades carried out by PILDAT have registered mixed expressions of confidence in the courts of Pakistan, often in relation to high-profile controversies. The present crisis may worsen this scepticism, based on how citizens perceive judges: as people bound to political sponsors rather than to constitutional norms.

The sliding of credibility here has dire implications. Should a judiciary be perceived to be partisan, enforcement of controversial judgments would be thwarted, inviting open non-compliance and extrajudicial resistance. Moreover, marginalised communities relying on the courts for remedy may lose faith in legal avenues, jeopardising social cohesion. Thus, this controversy around appointments transcends mere legal technicalities; it becomes a test for the judiciary in terms of being a pillar of democracy.

Navigating a Path to Restorative Reform

The Supreme Court appointments saga exposes systemic weaknesses in Pakistan's judiciary. The JCP was meant to ensure that only candidates of merit got picked for appointments, but some of its recent actions have conspicuously revealed procedural ambiguities and susceptibility to political pressures. Therefore, implementation of these measures is urgent for restoring credibility.

First, the JCP should adopt transparent criteria based on seniority and merit for the approval of appointments and promotions. Making some discussions public, to the extent possible while honouring the confidential nature of the process, may help dispel some of the suspicion surrounding backroom deals. Second, appointments should be made to avoid conflict of interest concerning the 26th Amendment or keeping all constitutional cases awaiting the final ruling. Third, civil society and members of the legal profession must remain active in safeguarding institutional accountability so that the judiciary may emerge as a symbol of justice rather than a tool in the hands of political manoeuvring.

Pakistan's judiciary is at crossroads. With the challenges at hand addressed not through retrenchment but reform, it has the potential to reassert itself on the ideology of the rule of law – the key to ensuring democratic consolidation in a country ever in the wings of authoritarian shadows. ■

SITUATIONER



IMAGE CREDIT SCP

Judges Rift Spills into Public View

The judiciary is deeply divided over the 26th Amendment, with the executive accused of undermining judicial independence. International scrutiny has intensified following an unprecedented IMF interaction with Pakistan's Chief Justice. Tensions among judges are rising, and legal experts warn of eroding democratic safeguards. The amendment's constitutionality remains unresolved, escalating the crisis and sparking widespread controversy.

Aftab Kazmi - Islamabad

The fractious battle over the Constitution's original spirit and the 26th Amendment has left the judiciary bitterly divided, with pivotal legal questions unresolved, as the executive presses ahead with controversial measures critics decry as an “assault on judicial independence”.

The escalating row, which has exposed stark rifts among judges, follows claims that the government – once reined in by accusations of judicial overreach – is now orchestrating its own overreach, tilting the balance of power and igniting fears of eroding democratic safeguards and the rule of law.

With no signs of a truce, the judicial crisis continues to loom overhead. Where is this heading? Few are certain, but senior legal figures and media commentators have scathingly criticised the situation. “This is a mockery of the judicial system... and not sustainable in the long run,” said veteran lawyer Munir A. Malik, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and ex-Attorney General of Pakistan. A national daily warned in its editorial: “The executive's obsession to 'manage' the superior judiciary is now taking a toll on the rule of law.”

As the executive scrambles to plug leaks with impulsive measures, the judicial system has become a Pandora's box, drawing international scrutiny over its independence. Last month's International Monetary Fund (IMF) probe marked a turning point. For the first time in the history of Pakistan, officials of an international financial institution directly questioned the

chief justice of Pakistan. Critics are branding it as an “interrogation” of the superior judiciary.

The government's decision to permit this unprecedented access to the IMF, despite having a capable Law Minister, baffled observers. The Supreme Court acknowledged the irregularity in a press release: “...the judiciary is not used to direct interaction with such missions but since the Finance Division requested, this interaction is taking place.” Critics questioned whether the Chief Justice was obliged to comply, risking the institution's dignity.

Raza Rabbani, a senior leader of the ruling coalition's Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarian (PPPP) and former Senate chairman, called the mission “a breach of sovereignty”. Chief Justice Yahya Afridi, who later feared backlash, called for an urgent

media talk to defend the meeting. He said that he told the IMF delegation that: “This is not our job to give all the details to you (the IMF officials).”

Meanwhile, tensions among judges escalated. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, a senior judge of Islamabad High Court, remarked: “Judiciary, parliament, and executive all have collapsed. Judiciary is a pillar of the state and this pillar is (hanging) in the air.” Justice Kayani has been bypassed by a judge Justice Sardar Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar, a ranked 15th judge transferred from Lahore High Court, to become acting chief justice under the provisions of the 26th Amendment.

The speaker of the National Assembly immediately responded to these remarks by saying: “Justice Mohsin Kayani’s remarks are an attack on the parliament. Nobody has a right to give a statement against the parliament of Pakistan.” Speaker Ayaz Sadiq asked the Federal Law Minister “to convey this to the concerned judge that this is not acceptable.”

The rift has spilled into public view: senior judges are penning dissenting letters, while the Chief Justice has removed perceived rivals from administrative committees. In yet another development, Akhtar Hussain, a member of the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP), resigned on February 21. He was a representative of the Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) in the commission. In his resignation letter, Hussain said: “...on present controversies with regard to judicial appointments, I am unable to continue and hereby resign as

being a member of the JCP.” The PCB swiftly replaced him with Advocate Ahsan Bhoon, reportedly a government loyalist, for a two-year term. Critics dismissed the move as “face-saving”, given Hussain’s fervour for the amendment supporters and his impending June exit.

Amid the turmoil, a plethora of legal questions swirls around for answers. A writ petition in Peshawar High Court challenges the constitutionality of the 26th Amendment, demanding the annulment of orders elevating judges and appointing Justice Afridi as Chief Justice. Mufti Noorul Basar has requested in the petition the annulment of impugned orders dated February 10, 2025 (elevation of six judges to the supreme court), October 23, 2024 (nomination of Justice Yahya Afridi as Chief Justice), and October 26, 2024 (oath-taking of Justice Afridi), passed by the respondents “illegal, unlawful, fanciful, perverse, of no legal effect, void-ab-initio against fair play, reasonableness, rationale and transparency.”

The constitutionality of the 26th Amendment has also not yet been established and is challenged through a number of petitions in courts. Chief Justice Afridi, who was appointed under the very amendment by superseding two senior judges, headed the meeting of the Practice and Procedure Committee of the Supreme Court and fixed the petitions before the Constitutional Bench, also formed under the amendment, to hear them. Legal experts highlight the irony: Justice Afridi, a beneficiary of the amendment, now heads the bench reviewing its validity –

flouting the principle of *nemo iudex in causa sua* (no one should judge their own case), a cornerstone of natural justice.

The government has forged ahead by reconstituting the Judicial Commission with the inclusion of politicians in it as per the amendment. The majority of the new JCP’s members are government affiliates. The commission has been appointing judges, completely disregarding some judges’ reservations and protests, who are saying that the legality of the amendment must be checked first via a full-court session, comprising the 16 judges. Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Ayesha Malik, and Justice Athar Minallah also wrote a joint letter to the Chief Justice to hold a full-court session to ascertain the constitutionality of the amendment.

The JCP has elevated 36 judges to different high courts and seven judges to the Supreme Court. During a contentious 10 February meeting, lawyers protested outside as JCP members Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar and some opposition political parties’ members boycotted the proceedings.

With the JCP accused of “court-packing” to sway constitutional challenges, Advocate Munir A. Malik warned: “Our demand for a full-court session on the 26th Amendment is being undermined. This is against the rule of law.” He also said the purpose of this exercise at Islamabad High Court is that whatever constitutional matters come to Islamabad court, they could be placed before the fixed bench.” ■

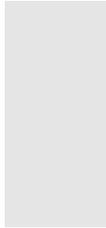


IMAGE: © THE LEGAL

PECA ACT



Controversial PECA Amendments Sparks Intense Debate

Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) Amendments, enacted to combat misinformation and disinformation, provoke fierce opposition from journalists and human rights organisations, who argue it threatens freedom of expression.

Faryal Fatima - Karachi

Pakistan has joined global efforts to combat disinformation by ramping up its cyber laws via the controversial PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) amendments. Journalists and human rights activists, however, blast the move as a bid for “draconian” powers, igniting countrywide protests over free speech fears.

As Russia, Singapore, Germany, and the US enact fresh laws, Pakistan's allegedly planned “digital crackdown” faces fire. Critics brand new curbs a bid to squelch dissent, labelling the amendments as the government's tool to control the voices of dissent, particularly over the social media.

The Press Freedom Index of Reporters without Borders positions Pakistan at 152 out of 180 nations with one indicating the most favourable media environment. According to the Freedom House the internet in this territory does not offer free access to information.

In 2016, authorities implemented the PECA with targets to prevent cybercrime and stopping online harassment while curtailing the dissemination of harmful content that could result in violence. Human rights organisations and activists express broad criticism about the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act

(PECA) because they believe it restricts access to information while infringing upon freedom of expression.

President Asif Ali Zardari has recently approved the 'controversial' PECA Amendment Bill 2025. The president has also approved the Digital Nation Pakistan Bill 2025, which focuses on modernising digital infrastructure in the country.

The amendments to PECA were adopted in a rapid session of the national assembly that lasted only for 15 minutes on January 23, 2025. These amendments have granted increased control over online content regulation to government entities. Section 26(A) introduces a new regulation that explains penalties for spreading misinformation or disinformation or content which might trigger “fear, panic or unrest” online, leading to three years imprisonment or a Rs2 million (US\$ 7,150) fine.

A protection and regulatory authority has been established under the amendments which will review social media platforms to create awareness programmes while performing oversight functions including educational training and content enforcement. It can pass orders for the removal of



IMAGE CREDIT NPC

objectionable content within 24 hours, following the requests from people whose rights are affected by false information. Social media platforms may be required to register with the authority under prescribed conditions and fees, with additional conditions imposed as deemed necessary. The authority possesses the power to delete or block content that;

- Opposes Pakistan's ideology and promotes law violations, intimidation or terrorism.
- Leads to damages of property or disrupts civic operations or triggers ethnic or sectarian violence.
- Contains information that qualifies as obscene or

pornographic or fake or defamatory material specifically targeting judiciary members parliament members and members of the armed forces.

- Promotes terrorism or violence.
- All parliamentary events marked for removal by the authority become unavailable for streaming or social media sharing as part of an official presentation control measure.

Opposition from Human Rights Organizations and Journalists

Responding to the amendment, Babu Ram Pant, Deputy Regional Director of Campaigns, South Asia, stated: "The latest amendment to the draconian PECA by the National Assembly will further tighten the government's grip over Pakistan's heavily controlled digital landscape." Amnesty International demanded the removal of the bill while insisting for meaningful civil society participation in developing PECA consistency with human rights standards.

The amendments received fierce criticism from journalist organisations who labelled them both a free speech

obstacle and an affront to Pakistan's fundamental law. The Joint Action Committee of journalists rejected unsolicited changes to the bill because it did not consult with Pakistan Federal Union of Journalist (PFUJ) and All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) and insisted the government must involve all stakeholders.

Additionally, The PFUJ declared the amendments anti-democratic while threatening countrywide demonstrations until their full withdrawal. The Karachi Press Club condemned these changes as they believed they endangered press freedom while calling for governmental support to enhance traditional media instead of silencing it.

The PFUJ set up a hunger strike camp at the National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad, and Lahore Press Club to oppose the PECA amendments. Journalists together with human rights groups, lawyers and civil society activists also joined forces under the PFUJ and Punjab Union of Journalists (PUJ) to protest. Protesters held noisy demonstrations while PFUJ Secretary-General Arshad Ansari denounced the government's suppression of journalism and declared journalists to be

The National Assembly rapidly adopted the PECA Amendment Bill, granting increased control over online content. The amendments have been met with protests and legal challenges.

IMAGE CREDIT NPC



representatives of public voices.

Government's Justification

Information Minister Attaullah Tarar supported the new amendments by explaining that they will serve to control social media platforms while preserving working journalists' freedom. "For the first time, we have defined what social media is. Any online platform or web application that transmits information is social media," Tarar said.

According to him, the existing Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority (PEMRA) regulations handle both electronic and print media coverage but PECA specifically deals with digital media regulation. Tarar made it clear that members of the press club who maintain registration status qualify as journalists but those who use their phones to express whatever they wish do not meet that definition.

Legal Challenges

The PECA amendments have been challenged at the Supreme Court of Pakistan through a petition which claims that both freedom of speech and human rights are violated by the amendments. The petition submitted by Muhammad Qayum Khan asks the court to declare the amendments ultra vires while requesting complete judicial examination of both the amendments and original legislation.

According to the submitted petition PECA's extended powers threaten to enable state control of what citizens can say and result in legal prosecution targeting political critics and journalists alongside activists. A similar challenge has also been filed at Sindh High Court. ■

PFUJ Declares War on 'Draconian' Media Laws

The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) unveiled a sweeping strategy on February 25 to combat shrinking media freedoms and safeguard journalists' safety, pledging legal action and protests after Ramadan.

The plan, outlined in the "Islamabad Declaration" following the three-day Biannual Delegates Meeting (BDM) of the PFUJ, fiercely rejects the "draconian" Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) and demands its repeal, alongside other "black laws" like the Anti-Terrorism Act, which critics say target journalists. Over a dozen Balochistan-based editors and reporters currently face such charges, the declaration noted.

Pakistani journalists under the banner of PFUJ have fought a gallant battle for the freedom of the press and expression over the last 75 years during military rule as well as under the so-called civilian rules like the present one, and reject all anti-media laws framed to target critical voices in the name of fake news, misinformation, and disinformation like the PECA Amendment Act, 2025, said the PFUJ.

The declaration said that the country has been passing through one of the most difficult eras where democracy has seriously been under question since the induction of the so-called 'hybrid system,' in which the Parliament has also lost supremacy and attempts have been made to control the two strongest pillars of the state i.e. the superior judiciary and the media. Rulers and parliamentarians look like puppets of power, while the policy of 'carrot and stick' has been used to 'control' the media. This situation has almost brought a few independent media houses to the verge of collapse.

Since its inception, says the declaration, the state has never allowed the media to grow and within a few years imposed the Press and Publication Ordinance, 1963, and took control of 'Progressive Papers Ltd.' Today, even Article 19 of the Constitution, 1973, which guarantees 'freedom of the press,' needs a serious review as successive governments have misused or misinterpreted the term 'reasonable restrictions' and imposed 'unreasonable restrictions.'

"For the last seven decades, successive military and civilian governments have used 'government advertisements' as a 'tool' or bribe to promote their own 'fake news.' For instance, the Federal, Punjab and Sindh governments moved to stop government advertisements of daily DAWN because of its professional and critical approach in reporting and editorials. Contrary to this, the recent decision of the government to declare not only official media like Pakistan Television, Radio Pakistan, and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) as 'strategic institutions,' which for decades have been used to promote 'fake news,'" said the PFUJ's communique.

PFUJ, it says, has already worked out a plan to take up the issue not only in courts but also at the international forum, including international human rights organisations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and media watchdogs. "PFUJ has also planned a different 'protest strategy,' which may surprise many including the government; details of which may not be shared with the media before the plan," said the union's press release.

As a body of professional trade unions of journalists, PFUJ has also decided not only to frame a wide-ranging 'code of conduct' for print, electronic, and digital media but also a practical mechanism to implement it, like a Media Complaints Commission, comprising independent minds of senior journalists including editors and members of civil society. — **Staff Report**

вода



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A Young Lawyers' Challenge

Be A Good Pupil, Not a Puppet

Ch Ali Usman Gujjar
Advocate High Court,
Lahore

*Navigating the
Labyrinth of Early
Legal Careers*

**From
Idealism to
Courtroom Realities**

How Young Lawyers Can Thrive Without Selling Their Souls Amid gruelling hours, bar politics, and hierarchical traps, a new generation of legal minds is rewriting the rulebook. Their mantra? 'Be a pupil, not a puppet.' Here's how they're balancing respect for tradition with the courage to challenge it—and why the profession's future hinges on their success.



The legal profession, with its gilded promises of prestige and purpose, often greets young lawyers with a harsh reality check. Freshly minted from university, idealistic and steeped in academic rigour, they stride into courtrooms and corporate firms only to find that textbooks alone cannot arm them for the battles ahead.

The transition from scholar to practitioner demands more than intellect: it requires emotional grit, political acumen, and the shrewdness to sidestep pitfalls—from suffocating hierarchies to the seductive traps of bar politics. In this high-stakes arena, one mantra rings true: “Be a good pupil, not a puppet.”

1. The Crossroads: Choosing a Firm That Fits

For young lawyers, selecting a firm is less about chasing prestige and more about alignment. Thorough research is non-negotiable—scrutinise a firm's ethos, mentorship culture, and growth opportunities, not just its letterhead. Yet, too often, this decision is made under duress from peers, seniors, or societal expectations, leading many to join firms ill-suited to their values.

“Don't sacrifice long-term potential for short-term glamour,” advises Helena Carter, a partner at a London-based human rights firm. “A firm's reputation means little if its practices clash with your principles.” Key considerations include:

- Cultural fit: Prioritise collaboration over cutthroat competition.
- Mentorship: Seek

Engagement with bar associations can open doors—or become a quagmire of power plays.

For young lawyers, selecting a firm is less about chasing prestige and more about alignment.

firms that invest in nurturing talent, not just billing hours.

- Patience: Rushed decisions breed regret. “This isn't a sprint,” Carter adds. “Your career will stagnate if you prioritise speed over strategy.”

2. The Professional Tightrope: Ambition vs. Autonomy

The leap from academia to practice leaves many struggling to balance ambition with self-preservation. The pressure to prove oneself can fuel burnout or, conversely, stifle initiative. Hierarchical structures often demand deference, but blind obedience risks eroding creativity.

“Respect tradition, but don't let it dictate your voice,” argues Raj Patel, a rising star in commercial law. His advice?

- Observe and assimilate: Learn from seniors' triumphs and missteps.
- Challenge tactfully: “Questioning a flawed strategy isn't disrespectful—it's essential,” Patel insists.
- Cultivate your brand: Reliability, ethics, and independent thinking are currencies in a field overcrowded with conformists.

3. Bar Politics: A Double-Edged Sword

Engagement with bar associations can open doors—or become a quagmire of power plays. While networking and advocacy opportunities abound, young lawyers risk entanglement in factionalism and favouritism.

“Join only if it serves your growth,” cautions Eleanor Whitmore, a criminal law specialist. Her rules for navigating this minefield?

- Stay principled: “Letting votes or money sway your integrity is career suicide.”
- Focus on craft: “Your primary job is to excel as a lawyer—not a politician.”

4. Mentorship: A Lifeline, Not a Leash

A mentor can illuminate the path forward, but the relationship must empower, not control. Seek mentors who champion ethics and individuality, not sycophants.

“A good mentor doesn't want a clone; they want a thinker,” says Marcus Lowe, a veteran QC. His guidance?

- Retain your voice: Adapt their wisdom to your style.
- Pay it forward: “The law thrives when knowledge flows freely,” he notes.

5. The Puppet Trap: When Compliance Erodes Conviction

The allure of pleasing seniors can morph into toxic dependency. Young lawyers must set boundaries to avoid exploitation—whether through gruelling hours or unethical demands.

“Respect hierarchy, but hone your instincts,” urges Amira Khan, a disputes lawyer. “Your analytical edge is your greatest weapon.”

The Pupil's Promise

The legal profession demands resilience, but its rewards are profound for those who navigate it with open eyes. To be a “good pupil” is to honour tradition while forging innovation; to reject puppetry is to safeguard one's moral core. As the sector grapples with crises of burnout and cynicism, the call for principled leaders grows louder. To the next generation: master the rules, but write your own script. After all, the law needs more than practitioners—it needs pioneers. ■

TL RESEARCH

US Patent System

Guardians of Innovation Amidst Technological Turbulence

Tracing its evolution from a colonial framework to a global powerhouse, the US patent system remains a linchpin of innovation and economic growth.



Zaheer ud din Ahmad - AHC, Lahore



With over two centuries of evolution, the US patent system remains a cornerstone of American innovation. Today, it stands as a complex yet vital framework, nurturing technological advancement, safeguarding intellectual property, and driving economic growth. As AI and biotechnology introduce new challenges, the system must balance protecting inventors with fostering competition.

In this evolving landscape, interpreting the claims of a patent in infringement cases becomes critical. Claim construction—determining the scope and meaning of patent claims—is an objective process where courts interpret terms as understood by a skilled person in the relevant field at the time of the patent filing. However, this often raises challenges, especially when relying on external sources such as dictionaries. The landmark case *Phillips v. AWH Corp.* cautioned against over-reliance on these tools, emphasising the importance of context. Misinterpreting claims can distort their intended scope, undermining the patent's role in providing clear public notice.

The shift towards intangible assets and digital innovation has reshaped the patent landscape. The 1980s and 1990s saw a surge in software and business method patents. In *State Street Bank v. Signature Financial Group*, the Federal Circuit upheld the patentability of business methods, paving the way for a boom in software patents. Yet, this period also witnessed challenges, including the dot-com bubble burst in 2000. Bankrupt startups sold their patents, giving rise to non-practising entities (NPEs), or “patent trolls,” which leveraged vague patents to extract settlements from established companies.

The Supreme Court's interventions in the 2000s clarified patent standards, addressing issues like injunction criteria and nonobviousness. These judicial rulings set the stage for legislative consensus, culminating in the AIA. By transitioning to a modified first-to-file system and enhancing administrative reviews, the AIA aimed to reduce litigation and promote global harmonisation.

The US patent system does not exist in isolation. Globalisation, particularly the rise of Chinese manufacturing, has intensified competition. From 1991 to 2007, the influx of low-cost imports reshaped US manufacturing, prompting firms to cut costs and refocus operations. While some firms divested, others reduced investments in research and development (R&D). This trend highlights the delicate balance between maintaining domestic

innovation and competing in global markets.

Despite its advancements, the US patent system faces persistent challenges. Vague laws on patent eligibility, judicial biases towards specific districts, and the lack of specialised expertise among generalist judges contribute to inefficiencies. While the Federal Circuit and Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) have brought consistency and efficiency, their coexistence with district courts often results in duplicative efforts.

The role of corpus linguistics—analysing linguistic patterns within patents—offers a promising solution for improving claim interpretation. By examining language in its natural context, this approach provides nuanced insights, ensuring clarity and reducing disputes. ■

From courtroom battles to global competition, the US patent system adapts to safeguard innovation while facing modern challenges.



The United States.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting.

X000001
July 31, 1790

IMAGE: COURTESY CHICAGO HISTORY MUSEUM

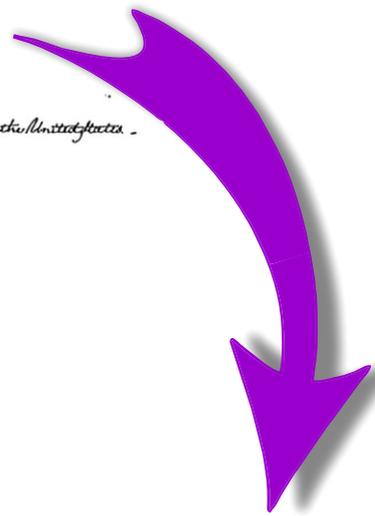
Whereas Samuel Hopkins of the City of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania hath discovered an Improvement, not known or used before such Discovery, in the making of Pot ash and Pearl ash by a new Apparatus and Process, that is to say, in the making of Pearl ash 1st by burning the raw Ashes in a Furnace, 2^d by dissolving and boiling them when so burnt in Water, 3^d by drawing off and settling the ley, and 4th by boiling the ley into Sells which then are the true Pearl ash, and also in the making of Pot ash by fluxing the Pearl ash so made as aforesaid; which Operation of burning the raw Ashes in a Furnace preparatory to their Dissolution and boiling in Water, is new, leaves little Residuum; and produces a much greater Quantity of Salt: These are therefore in pursuance of the Act, entitled "An Act to promote the Progress of useful Arts", to grant to the said Samuel Hopkins, his Heirs, Administrators and Assigns, for the Term of fourteen Years, the sole and exclusive Right and Liberty of using, and vending to others the said Discovery, of burning the raw Ashes previous to their being dissolved and boiled in Water, according to the true Intent and Meaning of the Act aforesaid. In Testimony whereof I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed. Given under my Hand at the City of New York this thirty first Day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & Ninety.

George Washington

City of New York July 31st 1790.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing Letters Patent were delivered to me in pursuance of the Act, entitled "An Act to promote the Progress of useful Arts"; that I have examined the same, and find them conformable to the said Act.

Edm: Randolph Attorney General for the United States.



Historical Roots From English Law to American Innovation

The US patent system finds its origins in English law, particularly the Statute of Monopolies (1623), which established the concept of exclusive rights for new inventions. After the American Revolution, states issued their own patents, leading to conflicts and inefficiencies.

The 1789 Constitutional Convention resolved this by embedding a national patent system in the Constitution. Early legislation, such as the 1790 Patent Act, set the stage by granting inventors exclusive rights, although it faced criticism for its vague criteria. Subsequent reforms, including the 1793 Act, refined patentability standards, transferring patent evaluation to courts.

By the late 19th century, patents had become integral to the US economy, fuelling innovations like the lightbulb and telephone. However, the rise of corporate monopolies and economic slumps sparked concerns over excessive patent protections. The Sherman Antitrust Act (1890) marked a shift towards limiting monopolistic practices, influencing how courts approached patent cases. Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration further tightened patent rules, demanding a "flash of creative genius" for patentability. This strict standard was later relaxed in the 1952 Patent Act, which introduced the no obviousness requirement, streamlining patent criteria and laying the foundation for the modern system.

By the 20th century, inconsistencies in patent rulings across regional courts highlighted the need for reform. The Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982 created the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, centralising patent appeals. This specialised court brought consistency to patent law and curtailed forum shopping. It also strengthened patent protections, fostering innovation in industries like pharmaceuticals and technology.

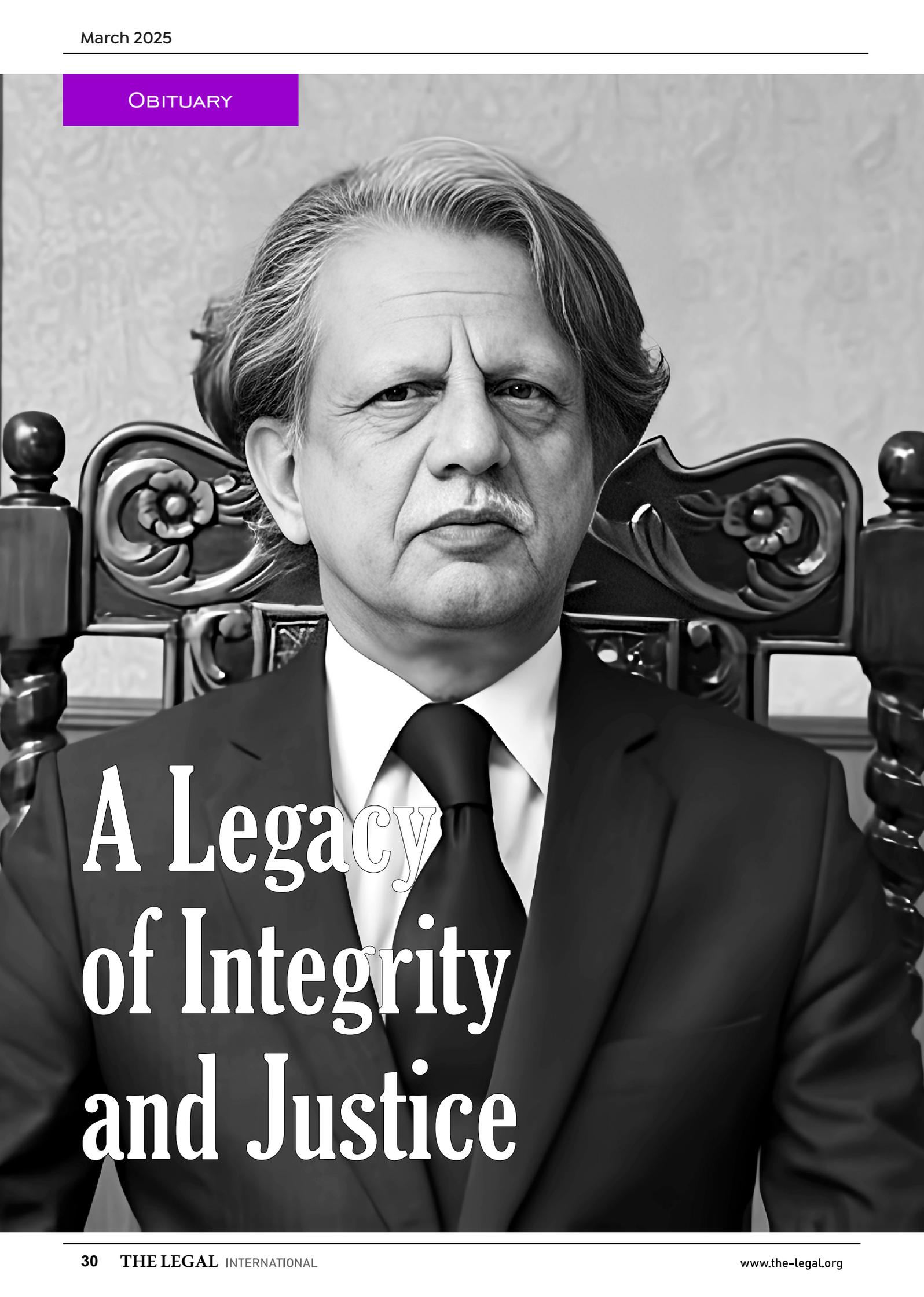
Congress's efforts to modernise the system continued with the 2011 America Invents Act (AIA). Among its key reforms were inter partes reviews (IPRs) and post-grant reviews (PGRs), which streamlined administrative challenges to patents. These proceedings, managed by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB), offer a faster and more cost-effective alternative to lengthy court battles. However, regional disparities in granting stays during parallel judicial and administrative proceedings remain a challenge. -ZDA

The first US patent, signed by George Washington

On April 10, 1790 US President George Washington signed the Patent Act of 1790 into law, founding the United States patent system.

Three months later, on July 31, 1790 Samuel Hopkins of Philadelphia, received the first US patent for an improvement in "the making of Pot ash and Pearl ash by a new Apparatus and Process." President George Washington signed the patent, as did Attorney General Edmund Randolph and Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. The original document is preserved in the Chicago History Museum.

OBITUARY

A black and white portrait of a middle-aged man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is seated in a dark, ornate wooden chair with floral carvings on the backrest. The background is a light-colored wall with a subtle floral pattern. The text 'A Legacy of Integrity and Justice' is overlaid in large white font on the lower half of the image.

A Legacy of Integrity and Justice

In Memoriam

Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh

The legal community mourns the passing of former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh, who departed this world on February 12, 2025 in Lahore at the age of 70, after a protracted illness. Known for his unwavering commitment to justice, integrity, and legal excellence, his departure marks the end of an era for Pakistan's judiciary, leaving an irreplaceable void. His life and career stand as a testament to his dedication to the law and his impact on the legal landscape in Pakistan.

Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh's legal journey began in 1978 in Rawalpindi, following the completion of his LLB degree. His early career was marked by dedication and perseverance as he honed his skills in various law chambers. In 1980, he established his independent legal practice in Lahore, demonstrating his capability and ambition. The year 1981 was pivotal as he was enrolled as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court and subsequently as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. These milestones underscored his growing reputation as a formidable legal mind and set the stage for a distinguished career.

On June 1, 2012, Justice Sheikh was sworn in as a permanent judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, with the ceremony presided over by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry. This marked the beginning of a significant chapter in his judicial career. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he served with distinction as the Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, where he was known for his judicious decisions and fair-minded approach to the law. His tenure as Chief Justice was characterised by a commitment to justice, fairness, and the rule of law, and he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the legal community.

Staff Report



IMAGE: © THE LEGAL

One of the most notable moments of his career was his participation in the bench that heard the Panama Leaks case, a landmark in Pakistan's legal history. His involvement in such high-profile cases highlighted his legal acumen and steadfast dedication to upholding the rule of law. The Panama Leaks case brought to light significant issues related to corruption and transparency, and Justice Sheikh's role in this case demonstrated his commitment to justice and accountability. His tenure in the Supreme Court, which spanned from 2012 to 2019, was marked by numerous significant rulings that have had a lasting impact on the country's legal landscape.

In July 2019, Justice Sheikh took on the role of acting Chief Justice of Pakistan, further cementing his legacy as a respected and influential figure in the judiciary. His colleagues and legal experts admired him for his unwavering commitment to justice, his deep understanding of the law, and his ability to navigate complex legal challenges with integrity and fairness. His leadership and dedication to the principles of justice and fairness were evident in his work and in the respect he garnered from his peers.

Justice Sheikh's passing has prompted an outpouring of tributes from the legal community. Colleagues and legal experts have lauded his service and dedication, acknowledging that his contributions to Pakistan's judiciary will be remembered for generations. His peers have described him as a beacon of justice, whose judicious decisions and commitment to the rule of law have left an indelible mark on the legal fraternity. His legacy is one of integrity, fairness, and a deep commitment to justice.

According to a press release issued by the Lahore High Court, his funeral prayers were held on Friday at 3 PM in Allahu Akbar Masjid, H-Block, DHA Phase 1, Lahore. This gathering not only marked a farewell to a distinguished jurist but also a celebration of a life dedicated to the service of justice. The legal community and the public alike came together to honour his memory and reflect on his contributions to the field of law.

Justice Azmat Saeed Sheikh's legacy endures in the annals of Pakistan's judiciary. His memory will be cherished by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him, and his contributions to the legal profession will continue to inspire future generations of lawyers and judges. His life and career serve as a reminder of the importance of integrity, dedication, and commitment to justice in the pursuit of legal excellence. His passing marks the end of an era, but his impact on the legal community will be felt for years to come, and his legacy will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps. ■

Hyderabad Legal Fraternity & Police

Horns Lock Over Alleged Overreach

Tensions between lawyers and law enforcement escalate as city-wide demonstrations disrupt traffic and spark political solidarity, ending only after key police official steps aside.



IMAGE: © The Legal

Hyderabad witnessed a dramatic showdown last month as hundreds of lawyers flooded the streets, reigniting friction between the legal community and police. The protests, framed by lawyers as a battle against “police high-handedness,” drew sharp criticism from detractors who accused legal bodies of exploiting unrest to wield undue influence.

The flashpoint emerged on February 7, when advocates launched a three-day demonstration demanding the transfer of Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Farrukh Lanjar and the dismissal of Bhattai Nagar police station's Station House Officer (SHO). The catalyst? A case filed against Advocate Ali Raza for allegedly using an unauthorized number plate and tinted vehicle windows – a charge decried by lawyers as emblematic of systemic harassment.

Gathering at Hyderabad Bypass's Wadhu Wah Gate, protesters brought traffic to a standstill, snarling key arteries linking Karachi, Punjab, and rural Sindh. Advocate Ayaz Hussain Tunio, president of the Sindh High Court Bar Association, warned of nationwide escalation if

Staff Report

demands went unmet. “This isn't just about one case—it's about halting police excesses,” he declared.

Solidarity rallies soon erupted in Sehwan, Dadu, and Karachi's Defence Morr, with backing from political heavyweights including Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's Sindh President Haleem Adil Sheikh and Sindh United Party chief Zain Shah. Religious and business groups likewise threw their weight behind the cause, amplifying pressure on authorities.

The deadlock broke only after Hyderabad Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Tariq Razak Dharejo brokered talks, culminating in SSP Lanjar's provisional leave of absence and the appointment of SSP Tando Mohammad Khan as his interim replacement. While the case against Raza remains unresolved, police acquiesced to form a judicial commission – a move advocates initially dismissed as insufficient.

Earlier, Sindh Police had proposed a judicial inquiry overseen by Hyderabad's District Session Judge, but lawyers rebuffed the offer, insisting Lanjar's transfer was non-negotiable. “We won't settle for half-measures,” a bar association member asserted during the protests.

For residents, the resolution came as a relief after days of gridlock. “These protests paralysed the city – it's ordinary people who suffered,” complained local shopkeeper Imran Khan. Commuters echoed frustrations, with one dubbing the chaos “a tug-of-war between egos, not justice.”

Critics argue the episode underscores a deeper malaise: the fraught dynamic between Pakistan's legal institutions and law enforcement. While lawyers claim moral high ground in curbing authoritarian tactics, opponents allege bar associations increasingly weaponise street power to sidestep accountability.

Though normalcy has returned, the underlying tensions remain unresolved. The judicial commission's findings – and whether they satisfy either camp – will determine if Hyderabad's streets stay quiet. For now, both sides have retreated, but the spectre of renewed clashes looms large. As one senior officer remarked anonymously: “This isn't the end. It's a ceasefire, not a peace treaty.” The incident serves as a stark reminder of the fragile balance between justice and jurisdiction. ■

TL EVENT

Federal Shariat Court

IMAGE CREDIT: SUPPLIED



Roots IVY Ambassadors' Visit to the FSC

A-Level Law students from Roots School System's Flagship Campus, Islamabad, along with Vice Principal Duri Sameen, recently took part in an educational visit to the Federal Shariat Court.

The experience, supervised by Syed Mohammad Ali Advocate High Court and CEO of The Legal R&D, allowed them to gain a deeper understanding of Pakistan's legal framework and judicial system. During the excursion, students had the unique opportunity to observe live court proceedings, providing them with firsthand insight into the workings of the judiciary. They were able to see how Islamic and constitutional principles are applied in real cases, which enriched their academic perspective.

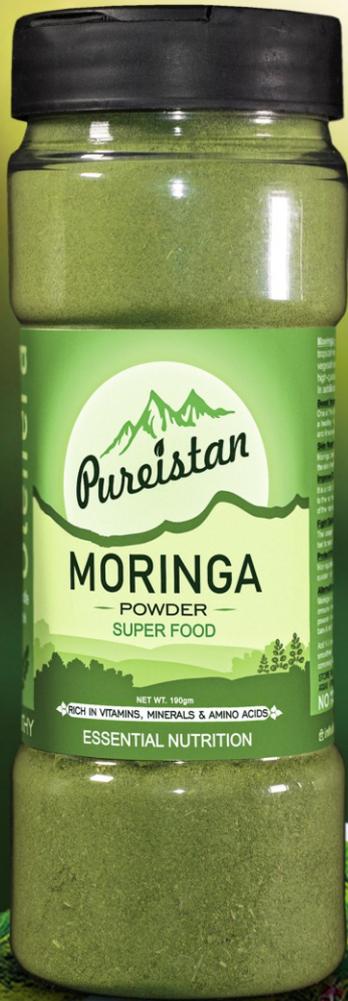
To further enhance their learning, Senior Research Advisor Dr Motia-ur-Rahman gave an engaging lecture on the court's role, jurisdiction, and its importance in the country's legal landscape. A standout moment of the visit was a special tea session with Mr Justice Dr Syed Muhammad Anwer, Aalim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court. His Lordship shared valuable insights on contemporary legal issues, especially the increasing impact of technology and artificial intelligence in the legal field. He also addressed the changing nature of legal education and the significance of ethical lawyering. This interactive discussion allowed students to engage directly with the judge, posing thought-provoking questions and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities that are shaping the future of the legal profession.



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