



Role of the School of Magistrates in the light of the Justice Reform in Albania

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Albanian School of Magistrates

- Established in 1997
- School of Magistrates in the Republic of Albania was established as a strong foundation stone in the field of law, specifically (but not only) for the realization of professional education in this field.
- In **23 years of activity** and operation, the School of Magistrates has **laid the foundations of the justice system** through the preparation of judges and prosecutors to a higher professional, ethical and moral standard, as well as the creation of a new culture and physiognomy on the model new magistrate.

Albanian School of Magistrates

- As a fully independent institution comprised of the **most prominent jurisprudence professors and magistrates**, who managed to maintain their integrity and bring the practice experience and the principle of academic freedom, the School of Magistrates **has aimed at selecting the best teaching modules**, which undoubtedly have contributed to the enhancement of the quality and professionalism of young magistrates.
- It is **the only institution that provides professional training for judges and prosecutors on duty**, fulfilling the legal obligation for their continuing training through a rich program and scientific methods.

Albanian School of Magistrates

- **The mission of the School** is increasing access to justice, increasing public trust in Albanian justice, in parallel with strengthening and further enhancing the contribution of this sector to the development of Albanian society, will also serve as an incentive for accelerating European integration.
- **The vision of the School** is the sustainable and professional preparation and development of magistrates and other important actors of the justice system in the Republic of Albania, such as: state advocates, legal assistants, legal advisers and chancellors of courts and prosecution offices with high ethical and moral integrity in order to work towards restoring the trust of society to justice and to contribute the an improvement of the legal culture in the society.

Role of the School of Magistrates in the Justice Reform

- In the current situation, with a comprehensive reformation being made in the justice system, the School of Magistrates is already at the level of an institution anticipated by the Constitution. Its activities and functions are regulated through several laws with qualified majority.*
- The school is responsible for the **Initial and Continuous Training of magistrates** (judges and prosecutors), **state advocates, legal advisors, legal assistants** and **chancellors in courts and prosecution offices**. At the same time, in cooperation with the High Judicial Council and the High Prosecutorial Council, the School has an important role in the professional training of judicial administration.

Role of the School of Magistrates in the Justice Reform

- After two decades of activity, at the stage in which the justice system finds itself, it is up to the School of Magistrates **to write the history of a new justice** that is based on the **principles of independence, accountability, transparency and efficiency** and that will **guarantee fundamental human rights and freedoms**.
- It is the direct responsibility of the School of Magistrates to **increase the trust of Albanian citizens** in the training of the magistrates who should guarantee the independence of the justice system and the well-functioning of the rule of law.

Role of the School of Magistrates in the Justice Reform

- Following the constitutional changes and the adoption of laws on justice reform, the School of Magistrates functions and carries on its activity with more **challenges and greater responsibilities**. Any lawyer seeking to be part of the justice system has no other entry gateway, except for the School of Magistrates.
- The strategic mission is and remains the **professional training of magistrates** as well as other relevant actors of the justice system, with high professional, moral and ethical skills and qualities, in order to increase the quality of justice, the service to citizens and strengthening the rule of law.

Novelties of the Justice Reform regarding Magistrate' s Profession

- The new legislative framework introduced several provisions aiming at making the profession of the magistrate more attractive and establishing additional guaranties regarding:
 - the role/prestige of the magistrate's profession in a society;
 - the legal standards for the career development of magistrate;
 - the benefits that the magistrate enjoys according to the law.

Novelties of the Justice Reform regarding Magistrate' s Profession

- **Article 138 of the Albanian Constitution limits the reduction of salaries.**
- **The Status Law enshrines a wide range of rights of magistrates; the main ones being – in brief – the following:**
- Article 5(1)(5): right and obligation of the magistrate to participate in continuous trainings; all expenses are covered by the training institutions; training days are considered as working days.
- Article 9: extra office activities of magistrates, including remunerated extra office activities, including in particular teaching and lecturing.
- Article 10: freedom of associations and of opinions.
- Article 11: salaries and other benefits; in particular paragraph 3 refers to 'Further financial benefits', including a) bonus for any temporary transfer, or the mobility scheme; b) bonus for proficiency; c) state supplementary pensions ...; ç) any other benefit based on special conditions of work or personal and family situation of the magistrate...
- Article 12: the new scheme for the salaries allows bonuses for seniority, for leading positions, for difficulties at work, etc.
- Article 15: additional remuneration up to 60% of the salary for the magistrates in the mobility scheme.
- Article 16(1): proficiency allowance 'of one reference base salary'.
- Article 17(1): state funded home loan.
- Article 19 (for the candidate magistrates): scholarship fees for magistrates.
- Article 20: special protection of magistrates and their families.
- Article 21: supplementary pension and other benefits.
- Article 22: Inviolability of the **Salary and other Financial Benefits of a Magistrate.**

Admission to the Albanian School of Magistrates

- Legislation amendments within the justice reform process have increased the role of the school several times, turning it into one of the key bodies of the justice system with responsibility for recruitment and initial professional theoretical and practical training of candidates for magistrates.
- Initial training Programme
 - It is a three years programme (professional internship during the third year)
- Procedures of Recruitment to the School of Magistrates are regulated in the Status Law and in the Internal Regulation of the School (refer to articles 28, 29, 30 of the Status Law)*

Admission to the Albanian School of Magistrates

- For further information on recruitment refer to the website of the School of Magistrates: <https://www.magjistratura.edu.al/> and on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/Shkollaemagjistratures/>



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OF ALBANIA

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Admission to the Albanian School of Magistrates

- For information regarding Admission Exam refer to:
<https://www.magistratura.edu.al/54-faqe.html?lang=1#60>

— ADMISSION COMPETITION

- › Admission criteria for candidates for magistrate
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For any question regarding entrance to the School of Magistrates do not hesitate to contact:

- **Secretary of Initial Training**

E-mail: info@magjistratura.edu.al

Thank You for Your Attention!