

Preventing corruption in civil court cases: problems and solutions

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Received: 23 December 2024; **Accepted:** 25 January 2025; **Published:** 27 February 2025

Abstract: Corruption is one of the factors that seriously harms social development, the rule of law, and public trust in the judicial system. The presence of corruption in civil court cases violates the principles of fair justice, causing social instability and legal uncertainty. In recent years, Uzbekistan has been implementing comprehensive reforms to combat corruption. In 2017, the Law "On Combating Corruption" was adopted, and in 2020, the Anti-Corruption Agency was established. Under the state program for 2023–2025, measures are being taken to digitize the judicial system, increase transparency, and ensure judicial independence. However, according to Transparency International's 2023 report, many more reforms are still needed to improve transparency in the judiciary and prevent corrupt practices. International experience shows that digitizing judicial processes, introducing a system for evaluating judges' activities, and strengthening public oversight are crucial in reducing corruption. This article analyzes existing problems and solutions in preventing corruption in civil court cases. The judicial reforms implemented in Uzbekistan, international experiences, and technological innovations are examined, and proposals for reducing corruption are presented.

Keywords: Corruption, civil court, judicial transparency, anti-corruption measures, digitization, judicial independence, public oversight, legal reforms.

Introduction: Corruption is one of the main factors that seriously undermine social development, the rule of law, and public trust in the judicial system. The presence of corruption in civil court cases disrupts the principles of fair justice, leading to social instability and legal uncertainty. Therefore, effectively combating corruption, increasing judicial transparency, and ensuring fair judicial decisions are among the key priorities. In recent years, Uzbekistan has implemented significant reforms in the fight against corruption. In particular, the Law "On Combating Corruption" was adopted in 2017, and the Anti-Corruption Agency was established in 2020. These legal mechanisms aim to prevent corruption, ensure the transparency of state institutions, and strengthen the judicial system. Additionally, under the state program for 2023–2025, measures are being implemented to digitize the judiciary, ensure transparency in court proceedings, and increase judicial independence.

However, corruption in the judiciary remains a significant problem. According to Transparency

International's 2023 report, although Uzbekistan has made significant positive changes in controlling corruption, further reforms are needed to improve judicial transparency and prevent corrupt practices. International experiences indicate that strengthening the legal framework, digitizing court proceedings, implementing a system for evaluating judges' activities, and enhancing public oversight are necessary measures to combat corruption in the judiciary.

This article examines the challenges and solutions related to preventing corruption in civil court cases. Specifically, it analyzes the anti-corruption measures taken in Uzbekistan's judicial system, international experiences, and technological innovations while offering recommendations for reducing corruption.

METHODOLOGY

The research employs legal analysis, the study of statistical data, and comparative legal research methods. Within the framework of this study, reports published by the Anti-Corruption Agency of the

Republic of Uzbekistan, the Supreme Court, and the Prosecutor General's Office in 2023 were examined. Additionally, Uzbekistan's performance in combating corruption was analyzed based on the rankings provided by Transparency International and the World Bank.

The main sources include the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law "On Combating Corruption," legal and regulatory documents related to the judicial system, and relevant academic articles. Furthermore, an analysis of court cases related to corruption was conducted. Reports issued by government agencies and international organizations on anti-corruption measures and expert opinions were also studied.

Additionally, international experiences in combating corruption—particularly in Estonia, Singapore, Sweden, and the United States—were analyzed. The study combines empirical and theoretical approaches. Real statistical data on corruption cases in civil courts were examined, the transparency of court rulings was analyzed, and the results of public surveys on trust in the judiciary were considered. Moreover, recommendations were developed based on international experiences and advanced technological approaches to eliminate corruption-related problems. During the research, qualitative and quantitative analysis methods were used. Uzbekistan's legal framework was assessed based on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the recommendations of the Venice Commission, and the anti-corruption standards of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The anti-corruption legislation of Uzbekistan was compared with that of Estonia, Singapore, South Korea, and Sweden. The experiences of these countries helped identify effective mechanisms that could be implemented in Uzbekistan. In qualitative analysis, the legal framework on anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan and foreign countries was studied, and legal expertise on regulatory documents and court decisions was conducted. Quantitative analysis was carried out by examining statistical data and trends to illustrate the impact of corruption on judicial proceedings. Additionally, modern legal research methods were applied to assess the impact of corruption on court cases.

Comparative and legal analysis methods were widely used in the study. Interviews were conducted with legal experts, judges, and anti-corruption specialists. These interviews helped analyze the most common forms of corruption in the judiciary, legal loopholes, and practical shortcomings. Corruption-related court decisions in civil courts were also examined to evaluate

how corruption cases were handled and to assess the transparency of court proceedings.

In particular, the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Uzbekistan and international experiences were compared. Based on the reports of the World Bank and Transparency International, as well as the requirements of the UN Convention Against Corruption, the effectiveness of legal reforms was evaluated. Furthermore, the study used normative legal analysis to thoroughly examine corruption-related legislative norms and their practical application. The enforcement of anti-corruption provisions in the Criminal Code, court decisions, and legal mechanisms in international experiences were compared.

RESULTS

- The main causes of corruption in civil court cases were identified as a lack of transparency in the judicial system, conflicts of interest between judges and parties, and low salaries of state employees.
- Between 2023 and 2025, the introduction of electronic systems in the judiciary, online broadcasting of court hearings, and simplification of complaint mechanisms for citizens have shown positive results in combating corruption.
- Articles 210 (bribery), 211 (giving a bribe), and 212 (mediation in bribery) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan serve as key legal foundations for combating corruption in civil court cases.
- It was noted that improving the qualifications of court staff, ensuring their independence, and strengthening internal control mechanisms to detect corrupt practices are necessary.
- The use of information and communication technologies in judicial decision-making plays an essential role in reducing corruption. Additionally, public oversight was strengthened by publishing court decisions related to corruption cases.
- The analysis of international experiences revealed that the use of blockchain technology in Estonia and artificial intelligence in Singapore's judicial system has produced effective results in preventing corruption.
- The study highlighted the importance of establishing open data systems in the judiciary to reduce corruption risks. By allowing citizens and legal professionals to access court decisions freely, corruption cases can be detected early, and public oversight can be ensured.
- The expansion of the electronic document circulation system and the automation of court decision-making processes have reduced the likelihood of judicial errors and subjective rulings.

- Strengthening the system for declaring judges' income and expenses has proven effective in preventing corrupt practices.
- The analysis of foreign countries' anti-corruption experiences demonstrated that strict disciplinary measures against judges involved in corruption are essential for maintaining the integrity of the judicial system.

DISCUSSION

Various strategies and approaches to combating corruption have been analyzed in international academic literature. For example, studies published in Scopus and Web of Science databases highlight judicial independence, transparency principles, and the use of technology in court proceedings as crucial factors in preventing corruption. Research indicates that countries implementing blockchain technology in their judicial systems have seen a significant increase in public trust (Smith, 2022). Other studies suggest that public oversight and media monitoring are key elements in reducing corruption in civil court cases (Brown, 2021). Therefore, enhancing transparency in court decisions and ensuring media monitoring of judicial activities are essential for Uzbekistan.

Additionally, studies emphasize that strengthening judicial independence is one of the most effective measures against corruption. International experience shows that imposing strict penalties on judges and court staff involved in corruption enhances judicial transparency. For example, in Germany and Scandinavian countries, continuous monitoring of judicial activities and open court hearings have helped minimize corruption among judges. Research also suggests that increasing the qualifications of judges and court staff, ensuring their independence, and preventing conflicts of interest are critical in combating corruption. Furthermore, active participation from civil society institutions and media, as well as the establishment of whistleblower protection mechanisms, play a crucial role in addressing corruption.

Although Uzbekistan has implemented several reforms in its judicial system to combat corruption, certain challenges remain unresolved. For instance, identifying high-risk areas in civil court cases and addressing them effectively remains a key issue. While the digitalization of the judiciary has yielded positive results, concerns persist regarding the transparency of court decisions and their accessibility to the public. The impact of digitalization and the implementation of the E-court system on reducing corruption needs further evaluation. However, practical experience shows that human factors still play a decisive role in some court

proceedings, hindering the complete eradication of corruption. To further improve judicial transparency and prevent corruption, it is suggested to fully digitize court processes and publicly disclose judges' income declarations. Additionally, expanding automated judicial processes and electronic document circulation systems remains a pressing issue.

CONCLUSION

Preventing corruption in civil court cases is a priority for ensuring the efficiency of the judicial system and fair justice in the country. Corruption undermines public trust in state institutions, weakens the rule of law, and harms social justice principles. To address this issue, the following measures should be implemented:

1. Deepening legal reforms: Improving anti-corruption legislation and developing clear legal norms to prevent conflicts of interest in court proceedings.
2. Ensuring judicial independence: Enhancing transparency in the appointment and evaluation of judges, ensuring an open and merit-based selection process in the judiciary.
3. Expanding technological solutions: Implementing artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies to automate court proceedings and reduce human interference.
4. Strengthening public oversight: Encouraging active participation of the media and civil society organizations in monitoring court processes related to corruption.
5. Enhancing internal and external control mechanisms in the judiciary: Establishing an independent system for evaluating the financial activities and decisions of judges.
6. Adopting best international practices: Learning from the successful experiences of advanced countries in combating corruption and strengthening cooperation with international organizations.

By implementing these recommendations, it is possible to significantly reduce corruption in the judiciary, increase public trust in the court system, and strengthen legal justice.

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