

**STANDARDIZATION OF INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL  
ETHICS OF LAWYERS OF UZBEKISTAN**

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**Annotation:** Standardization of the interpretation of the rules of professional ethics of lawyers in the Republic of Uzbekistan is an important component of the legal system, aimed at ensuring a uniform understanding and application of ethical standards in legal practice. This standardization helps to strengthen public confidence in the legal profession and improve the quality of legal assistance. Establishing clear and uniform interpretations of professional ethical standards allows lawyers to operate within the highest moral standards, which in turn strengthens the rule of law and promotes the fair administration of justice.

**Key words:** Ethics, advocacy, law, lawyer, norm, principle, protection, Rules of professional ethics of a lawyer, morality, honor, dignity, freedom, domestic, standard, custom, tradition, humanism, legal, trust, respect, violation.

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The Bar acts as one of the fundamental institutions of civil society, ensuring the constitutional right of every citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan to receive qualified legal assistance<sup>1</sup>. It is important to note that the provision of such assistance must comply with established standards, including regulatory and ethical requirements.

Today, the problem of compliance with professional ethics by lawyers is one of the key ones. This is confirmed by the statements of many practicing lawyers, which indicates the serious concern and interest of the legal community in maintaining the high moral standards that are traditionally associated with the legal profession<sup>2</sup>.

Lawyer L. Bardin draws attention to the problems of observing professional legal ethics in his article "There is no profession without morality"<sup>3</sup>. He emphasizes that morality plays an important role in maintaining professional honor, developing the traditions of the Russian jury and awareness of moral responsibility to society. Bardin also expresses concern that some clients may use the Code to file unfounded complaints against lawyers. He also notes cases of inappropriate behavior of lawyers in court, which, in his opinion, undermines the authority of the legal profession. Bardin calls for serious work to secure specific responsibility for violations of the rights of lawyers and emphasizes that a successful solution to this problem is possible only with the participation of "colleagues, not antagonists."

The rules of professional ethics of a lawyer are a set of norms that define the requirements for the behavior of lawyers in the context of carrying out professional activities. They are based on the

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<sup>1</sup> Article 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. National Legislation Database, 05/01/2023, No. 03/23/837/0241

<sup>2</sup> Yakovlev A.P. Modern advocacy. – M.: Litera, 2018. – 482 p.

<sup>3</sup> Bardin L. Without morality there is no profession // Business lawyer. – 2005. – No. 15.

most ethically sound principles and aim to ensure maximum moral integrity in the practice of law<sup>4</sup>.

The United States of America is considered one of the states with the most developed institution of the legal profession today, which makes it interesting to compare the domestic regulation of legal practice with the American one. In this context, it seems relevant to conduct a comparative analysis of the professional ethics of lawyers in Uzbekistan and the USA.

The professional ethics of lawyers in **the United States** is regulated at the level of state and federal courts. Each state has its own rules of professional responsibility for lawyers, although there are guidelines from the American Bar Association (ABA) that are widely accepted in many states<sup>5</sup>.

In **Uzbekistan**, the regulation of professional ethics of lawyers is carried out by a unified system:

- *Chamber of Lawyers of the Republic of Uzbekistan* : The main regulatory body for all lawyers in the country.
- *Ethics Commission* : A specialized body within the Chamber of Lawyers responsible for considering issues related to professional ethics<sup>6</sup>.

The main document regulating the ethical standards of lawyers is the Rules of Professional Ethics of Lawyers of the Republic of Uzbekistan<sup>7</sup>.

Supervision of ethical standards by lawyers in **the United States** is carried out through a system of self-regulation, including state bar associations and courts. State bar associations play a key role in this process, as they often have jurisdiction over issuing licenses to practice and are required to monitor the conduct of their members. The disciplinary system in the United States provides for the consideration of complaints and allegations of violations of ethical standards. State bar associations usually have committees or commissions responsible for handling such complaints. If a violation of ethical standards is determined, the lawyer may be subject to disciplinary action, such as a reprimand, fine, temporary or permanent suspension from practice, or loss of license. Courts also play an important role in overseeing the ethical conduct of lawyers.

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<sup>4</sup> Maryenko D.S., Bednyaev D.N., Lykova K.D. Code of Professional Ethics for Lawyers. Status, purpose, structure // Legal science. 2019. No. 10. pp. 19-23.

<sup>5</sup> Marenich M.N., Borovkov A.V.F. Comparative analysis of the professional code of ethics of lawyers in Russia and the USA. Volgograd State University, Volgograd. -P.13.

<sup>6</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Bar" dated December 27, 1996, No. 349 // <https://lex.uz/docs/58372>.

<sup>7</sup> Rules of professional ethics of lawyers (Appendix No. 8 to the decision of the II Conference of the Chamber of Lawyers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 27, 2013) // [https://nrm.uz/contentauth?link=aaf6eb11aad0df2ee41460a1f2772b8a&products=1\\_vse\\_zakonodatelstvo\\_uzbekistana](https://nrm.uz/contentauth?link=aaf6eb11aad0df2ee41460a1f2772b8a&products=1_vse_zakonodatelstvo_uzbekistana).

Courts can review cases involving violations of ethical standards and take appropriate action if a violation is confirmed<sup>8</sup>.

In **Uzbekistan**, the system of supervision over the activities of lawyers is carried out through the Chamber of Lawyers. The Chamber of Lawyers is a professional self-governing public association that coordinates and controls the activities of lawyers in the country. The Chamber ensures compliance with professional ethics, provides legal assistance and protects the interests of lawyers<sup>9</sup>. Violations of ethical standards by lawyers in Uzbekistan are considered by the Chamber of Lawyers in accordance with established procedures. If there is a complaint or accusation of ethical violations, the Chamber conducts an investigation and decides on possible disciplinary measures. These measures may include a reprimand, a fine, temporary or permanent suspension from practice, and disbarment<sup>10</sup>.

In **Uzbekistan**, the Rules of Professional Ethics for Lawyers were adopted at the First All-Republican Congress of Lawyers, which took place on October 14, 2008<sup>11</sup>, which apply to all members of the legal community operating in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan, while in **the United States** the regulation of ethical aspects of legal practice refers to 10 the competence of the states (Professional State Bar Associations), not the federal authorities (American Bar Association). However, state regulations regarding attorney ethics must be based on the national standard, the Model Rules of Professional Ethics ( Model Rules of Professional Conduct ), which have been approved by the American Bar Association.

Compared to the American Rules, domestic rules have a more pronounced imperative character. When analyzing the regulatory requirements governing the relationship between a lawyer and his client, one can note the similarities in approaches both in Uzbekistan and in the United States. A lawyer is obliged to act reasonably and in good faith, to fulfill his duties in a timely and efficient manner, to avoid conflicts of interest and not to be influenced by the wishes or demands of clients aimed at violating the law or the rights and legitimate interests of third parties. The US Rules also state that a lawyer must not recommend that his clients commit similar violations of the law or the rights of third parties<sup>12</sup>.

The Rules of Professional Ethics for Lawyers of Uzbekistan define the concept of attorney-client privilege in more detail, while the American Rules are limited to indicating that a lawyer should not disclose information related to the case without the consent of the client. Exceptions are

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<sup>8</sup> Oreshin E.V. Ethical and legal regulation of the relationship between lawyer and client in the USA. Moscow State Law University named after O.E. Kutafina (MSAL), Moscow.-S.17.

<sup>9</sup> Advocacy in the Republic of Uzbekistan, Textbook, Volume one, team of authors, Konstauditinform-Nashr , 2007.-P.33;

<sup>10</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On introducing amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of the institution of advocacy” No. ZRU-198 dated December 31, 2008 // <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/6563063>.

<sup>11</sup> Advokatura . Darslik . Mualliflar jamoasi . – Toshkent: TDYU, 2019. – B. 40;

<sup>12</sup> Oreshin E.V. Ethical and legal regulation of the relationship between lawyer and client in the USA. Moscow State Law University named after O.E. Kutafina (MSAL), Moscow.-S.22.

situations when disputes arise with a client, a disciplinary or criminal case is initiated against a lawyer, and also when it is necessary to prevent the client from committing a crime with grave consequences<sup>13</sup>.

The regulation of professional legal ethics in Uzbekistan and the United States is characterized by both similarities and differences. In the USA, the competence to adopt special regulations regulating this area belongs to individual states, while in Uzbekistan this area is regulated at the government level. American legislation pays more attention to the activities of a lawyer, his relationships with clients, colleagues, conflicts of interest and other aspects of professional practice. In contrast, in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Rules of Professional Ethics for Lawyers focus on standards of conduct and responsibility for their violation, which is due to the fact that the practice of law itself is regulated by a separate state law.

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**SJIF 2019: 5.222 2020: 5.552 2021: 5.637 2022:5.479 2023:6.563 2024: 7,805**  
**elSSN :2394-6334** <https://www.ijmrd.in/index.php/imjrd> **Volume 11, issue 05 (2024)**

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