

## REPORT

### ON ACTIVITIES OF "ACADEMY OF JUSTICE" STATE NON-COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATION

The Academy of Justice (hereinafter "Academy") is a state non-commercial organization founded by the Republic of Armenia, represented by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia is the authorized public administration body acting on behalf of the Founder (as per Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Academy of Justice (hereinafter "Law"), Article 2 (1) and (2)). The founding document of the Academy is the RA Government Decision No 1340-N "On approving the charter of the "Academy of Justice" state non-commercial organization", dated as November 11, 2013. The Academy has commenced its activities in January 2014. Based on the lists of persons to receive professional training submitted to the Academy by the staff of the Council of Justice, the Academy, inter alia, arranges for and implements professional training of persons who are on the list of candidates as per results of qualification check-up (Article 3 and Article 2(3) of the Law). In total, 20 candidates for judges, including 11 specializing in civil cases, 8 - in criminal cases and 1 - in administrative cases, received professional training at the Academy in 2014. All candidates for judges receiving professional training at the Academy have successfully completed the training and appointed as judges.

The management of the activities of the Academy is tasked to the Governing Board of the Academy (hereinafter "Board"), while the day-to-day operations of the Academy is administered by the executive body; i.e. Academy Rector (*Article 4 of the Law*). The Board consists of seven members, including the Minister of Justice or his/her Deputy appointed thereby, three prosecutors appointed by the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Armenia, and three judges, to represent civil, criminal and administrative specializations, appointed by the General Assembly of the Judges of Armenia (*Article 5(1) of the Law*). The Board's mandate, inter alia, includes taking all crucial decisions relating to arrangement and implementation of the learning process at the Academy. Specifically, the Board, upon recommendation of the Rector, approves the educational standards and curricula of the Academy, as well as the rules and the schedule of implementation thereof, the probation rules during the professional training of the attendees and the criteria for assessing attendee probation, minimum requirements for the content of probation, and the forms of report to be submitted after the probation and written test, the rules for assessing attendee attainment and for computing examination points, the schedule of exams, methods of assessing attendee attainment, minimum requirements for the structure and content of test items, rules for appealing examination results, as well as, upon recommendation of the Rector, deliberates and settles the issue of applying legally prescribed disciplinary sanctions against attendees, takes decisions in a legally prescribed manner to bring a motion to the Council of Justice of Armenia on removing the attendee's name from the list of candidates for judges and on granting deferment to the attendee (*Article 6 (1 (12-14) and (16-18) of the Law*). The Board functions by way of sessions (*Article 8 (1) of the Law*). Sessions of the Board shall be legitimate, where at least 4 members of the Board are present at a session, while in discussing issues regarding the persons who are on the list of candidates for judges - at least three members should be present (*Article 8 (3) of the Law*). Moreover, issues regarding the persons who are on the list of candidates for judges are discussed and relevant decisions are taken only in the presence of judge-members of the Board and the representative of the Ministry of Justice (Minister of Justice or his/her Deputy, as appointed thereby) (*Article 8 (4(1)) of the Law*). As to the prosecutor-members of the Board, they take part in the deliberation of the above-mentioned issues only with a right to consultative vote<sup>1</sup> (*Article 8(5) of the Law*). Unless otherwise provided by the Law, decisions of the Board are taken by the majority vote of the members present at the session, while in cases where the Board composition is adequate for discussing issues regarding the persons who are on the list of candidates for judges, such decisions are taken by at least three votes - by voting for or against (*Article 8(8) of the Law*).

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<sup>1</sup> The Chair of the Cassation Court, the General Prosecutor, the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and the Rector may partake in the sessions of the Board with a right to consultative vote (*Article 8(8) of the Law*).

Since February 2015, the Academy has launched professional training of persons who are in the list of candidates for judges specialized in criminal cases, where 10 candidates for judges are involved. Given the list of candidates for judges approved by Presidential Decree No NH-429-A, dated as June 10, 2015, professional training courses for persons who are on the list of candidates for judges specializing in civil and administrative cases will be launched in September 2015, where seven candidates for civil judges and two candidates for administrative judges will be involved.