

## **On providing of judicial assistance to the population in Uzbekistan (activities of student's Judicial clinics)**

One of the forms of rendering judicial assistance to the population is the activities of student's Judicial clinics, with the main task to provide judicial consultations free of charge, explaining different issues of acting legislation, dissemination of legal information, rendering of judicial assistance above all to low-income, aged and socially vulnerable sections of the population.

Judicial clinic – 1 (JC-1) under the Tashkent State Judicial Institute was established on March 3, 2000 with the financial contribution from foreign funds.

On 21 January 2001 it was registered by the Department of Justice of Tashkent city and gained the status of Public Association. This measure was undertaken by the clinic in order to have a certain level of independence, which will provide the possibility to attract additional financial contributions in order to maintain its activities.

Taking into consideration that feedback from its clients is crucial for effective management of the clinic the special questionnaire for the clients of JC-1 was introduced, which includes questions on the quality of the services, provided by the clinic, maintenance of ethic norms and confidentiality by the students, the level of facilities and management of the work in the clinic. This kind of information helps to the clinic's authority and students to adjust timely their work and to define ways and directions of its improvement, thus being very useful mean of getting feedback from its clients. The following documents were also introduced to ensure proper activities of the clinic:

- the first visit registration card;
- feedback questionnaire;
- the application and written agreement from the client that his case will be handled by students of Judicial Institute;
- certificate on closing the case.

Mainly low-income and aged citizens are applying to Judicial clinic in order to get consultation. The consultant has to receive and register the question from the client, to open judicial case and to give an appointment for the next meeting. On the day of appointment the consultant meets with his client and gives him judicial advice. The consultants provide not only oral judicial assistance, they also draft procedural documentation. While preparing reply they are using legislative data from PCs, special textbooks and consultations of teachers. The time allocated to prepare the case, including discussion the issue in the working group, selection of the relevant legislative acts and their analysis and only after this drawing of the answer on questions were put, is main teaching element of the activity of student clinic. In this form of clinic study students are gaining skills of practical work with clients. The positive aspects of the work of students in clinic are that students realize theoretical knowledge in practice. The teacher who tutoring student is able

in further studying process to draw more attention to weak aspects, which were observed during the work with client.

Assistance to citizens is given simultaneously on several spheres of law, including:

- Civil law;
- Housing law;
- Labor law;
- Family law;
- Administrative law;
- Criminal law; that allow citizens to have consultations on wide specter of questions and to provide effective and intensive activity of clinic.

20-22 students-clinicians, 3 teachers and 2 volunteers are permanently active in “Juridical clinic-1”. Strong cooperation was established with district courts, firm of attorneys and legal firms.

JC-1 takes part in seminars, conferences, trainings and round-tables on judicial clinic education on the territory of Uzbekistan.

**Juridical clinic allows the institute to address simultaneously a number of tasks:**

- strengthening connection between theoretical study and practice;
- allows to form professional skills and abilities of students;
- giving the possibility for the institute to contribute to solving social problems of the region;
- giving the possibilities to influence to the formation of active civil position and law understanding of students;
- effectively and interestingly spend free time;
- teaching students to mercy that is important for the future of profession of lawyers.

**Conception of Juridical clinic is based on crossing of interests of:**

- citizens in need;
- students;
- high education institute;
- governmental bodies in concern, firm of attorneys, firms and other consumers.

**The forms of work of the teachers with students in the Judicial clinic:**

- consultations;
- composing of documents;
- mini-seminars on discussion of the issues, which were addressed by clients;
- examination of the legislative acts;
- generalization of the judicial and other legal applied practice;

In November 2003, the project “Assistance for realization of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Union” applied to the leadership of Tashkent State Judicial Institute with

the proposal to establish the new scientific magazine in the Republic of Uzbekistan, entitled “Survey of the legislation of Uzbekistan” aimed to resolution of the tasks in the field of development of legislation, science, information and other adjacent fields. The given magazine has been already publishing by the Juridical Clinic under the Tashkent State Judicial Institute. The analytical, review articles, related to current legislation in the field of business, the rights of practiced lawyers, scientists, and also specialists, who are studying the issues of legislative provision of the entrepreneurship.

**The study plan “Judicial clinics -1” was created from the trainings on the following themes:**

- Training for trainers on the Interactive methods of the teaching of law;
- Work with clients: interviewing and consulting;
- Work with client: creation of the judicial documents;
- Circulation of the documents in the Judicial clinic;
- Conception and basic principles of the lawyers’ ethics;
- Professional ethics in the activities of advocates;
- Ethic basis of interrelations in the judicial clinic;
- Judicial technique.

**Partners of the Judicial clinic -1:**

The Bar of Tashkent city

Judicial clinic on civil cases within the UWED (University of World Economy and Diplomacy).

**Judicial clinic - 2**

The Judicial clinic-2 was opened on November 7, 2002 and has equipped by computers, access to Internet, information-legal system PRAVO, library, reception room, room for consulting of clients, fax, copy machine and working places for students.

The main direction of the activity of the judicial clinic-2:

The clinic is carrying out the affairs in the field of the civil legislation.

**Leadership of the clinic:**

During the whole working time there is a qualified lawyer in the Clinic, who is the advisor and instructor of students, in order to help and send students during consultations and certify the accuracy of rendering consultations.

**Duties of students:**

All students, chosen for the Clinic, visit all the lessons within the educational program. With respect to every request, students must begin a separate case in which the written juridical conclusion for the client and estimated form, filled by the client after rendering to consultations to him.

Furthermore, students are participating in additional lessons on the themes included in educational program if necessary.

### **Training and Court practicing:**

In addition to the work in Clinic, some students participate in training with the qualified lawyers. Students also participate in Court practicing, which includes observation on holding of court hearings and their monitoring. The result of this kind of practice is the issuing twice a year the Informational Bulletin in which students place their remark of court practice and carrying out researches on accordance of the activity of courts to the international standards and national legislation.

### **Activities carried out by Judicial Clinic-2 in 2002-2005:**

12.02.2003 – The beginning of consultations in JC-2;  
23-25.03.2003 (Tashkent) – Training on interactive methods of teaching of law for the teachers of Higher Educational Institutions;  
28-30.06.2003 (Tashkent) – Regional Work session on the theme “Judicial Clinic Education”;  
12-17.02.2004 (Tashkent) – Winter school;  
21-22.02.2004 (Tashkent) – Seminar on interactive methods of teaching of law for the teachers of Higher Educational Institutions;  
4-6.11.2004 (Tashkent) – Trainings on children’s rights for inmates of youth village SOS.

### **Partners of JC-2:**

The Bar of Tashkent city;  
Judicial clinic on civil cases within the UWED;  
The Department of protection of human rights of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

### **Academic activity of JC-2 during 2002-2005:**

During the entire period of the activity of JC, 68 students of Tashkent State Institute of Law passed the exams to study in the Clinic.  
Curriculum of JC make up from trainings on the theme:

### **Introduction to the judicial clinic education.**

Civil activity issues.  
Convention of Children’s rights.

### **Implementation of international agreements of the Republic of Uzbekistan into national legislation and legal practices**

Training for trainers on interactive methods of education in law;  
Working with clients: interviewing and consulting;  
Working with clients: compilation of legal documents;  
Document control in Judicial Clinic;

Representation in court on criminal and civil cases;  
Determination and basic principles of lawyer's ethics;  
Professional ethics in advocate's work;  
Ethical basics of relations in Judicial Clinic;  
Law techniques;  
International humanitarian law and International criminal court;  
Matters of getting citizenship, listing of habitation

### **Practical activity of Law Clinic-2**

Since the beginning of its operation 627 people addressed for consultations to the clinic, including 368 women and 259 men.

Students of the clinic worked in children's homes: assisted in solving of law issues. Also in cooperation with Children's Village a series of trainings was conducted for orphans. Lessons on the following topics were held: "Constitution and us", "Concept of Street Law", "Teenager and policeman", "Children and parents", "Consumer rights", "Concept and types of Marriage" and others.

Each working group, consisting of 3 students and 1 leader from experienced members of clinic, works out every lesson individually and presenting it to a group. And only after that it is held in school.

Also members of clinic participated in organization and conducting the Republican Marathon on electoral law that was held in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan and initiated by Tashkent State Law Institute and Youth Movement "Kamolot".

Trainings and lectures on electoral law were held in regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan for population.