



GJYKATA E LARTË
E REPUBLIKËS SË SHQIPËRISË

Annual Performance Report

2025



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6	PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES	56
STRUCTURE OF THE SUPREME COURT	13	Documentation Center	56
Judicial body	13	Directorate of Public and External Relations	63
Legal Service Unit	15	Directorate of Human Resources and Services	68
Human Resources	16	Directorate of Budgeting and Financial Management.....	70
JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE	17	Directorate of Information Technology and Security	72
The activity of the Supreme Court in statistics	28	Directorate of Judicial Administration	76
Incoming cases in the Supreme Court.....	28	CONCLUSIONS	77
Adjudicated cases in the Supreme Court.....	30		
Case Clearance Rate	32		
Number of adjudicated cases based on case type, decision-making and status	33		
Workload per judge.....	46		
Carried-over cases and backlog cases (backlog/stock).....	49		
PERFORMANCE OF MANAGEMENT BODIES	54		
General Assembly of Judges.....	54		
The Supreme Courts Council	54		
The President of the Court	55		
The Chancellor	55		

“Truth does not speak loudly, it simply stands.”

In honour of Judge

ASTRIT KALAJA

SUPREME COURT ACTIVITY REPORT 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year under review was among the most challenging in the history of the Supreme Court, marked by extraordinary events and a continued drive to strengthen public trust in the justice system. Amid a complex and demanding landscape, the Supreme Court remained steadfast in its constitutional mission, exercising its competencies with integrity, impartiality, and professionalism. Despite facing challenges that at times threatened the very foundations of the justice system, the institution stood as a guarantor of the rule of law, affirming that sustainable justice is founded on principles, not circumstances. This Annual Report reflects the efforts and decisions that defined the past year, during which the Supreme Court fulfilled its mandate with responsibility and dignity, contributing to the consolidation of the rule of law and the preservation of institutional integrity.

The Tragic Loss of Judge Astrit Kalaja

It is with profound sorrow that this year's Annual Report opens by recalling a grave criminal act that shook the justice system and the public conscience: the tragic loss of our colleague, Judge Astrit Kalaja, who was killed in duty. This heinous act constitutes a direct assault on the rule of law, a serious breach of judicial independence, and an unprecedented affront to the authority and

dignity of the judicial office. This tragic loss, which occurred in the exercise of constitutional duties and in the delivery of justice "*In the name of the Republic*" will remain a lasting testament to sacrifice, integrity, and unwavering dedication to the judicial vocation. As judges, we are called to honor the legacy and contribution of Judge Kalaja by redoubling our efforts to strengthen the judiciary, to make it more secure, more independent, and more just, in the service of the citizens. Immediately following this tragic event, the President of the Supreme Court, in the exercise of institutional responsibilities, convened a special meeting of all judges of the Republic of Albania. This meeting took place on 9 October 2025 at the premises of the High Judicial Council. At the conclusion of the meeting, the judges unanimously adopted the "*Declaration of the Judges of the Republic of Albania*", affirming their resolute commitment to defending judicial independence and ensuring the security of the judiciary. The declaration called for immediate institutional action to address the deepening crisis in safety and the deteriorating conditions under which judicial functions are performed. The judges underscored the urgent need for concrete measures, including the establishment of dedicated inter-institutional structures, the development of national security platforms, the equipping of courts with protective mechanisms, and the implementation of necessary legislative and sublegal interventions to guarantee the physical, professional, and institutional

1. See the full [Declaration of Judges of the Republic of Albania](#).

protection of judges. Furthermore, they called upon the High Judicial Council to assert its constitutional mandate with determination, and urged the Assembly and the Council of Ministers to assume responsibility for the structural and logistical enhancement of the judicial system.

In parallel, the judges expressed clear moral and professional commitments to enhancing the quality of adjudication, strengthening integrity, and upholding the highest standards of impartiality and judicial ethics. In honour of the fallen judge, the meeting called for formal recognition of the title “*Martyr of the Nation*” and for the lasting commemoration of his legacy within judicial institutions. In this context, the Declaration stands as a clear call to action and responsibility, emphasizing that the protection of judges is a fundamental precondition for the protection of justice and the rights of citizens.

Election of a Judge to the Constitutional Court

In the course of 2025, the Supreme Court conducted the procedure for the election of a judge to the Constitutional Court, pursuant to the ranking of candidates as determined by the Justice Appointments Council (Këshilli i Emërimeve në Drejtësi). Following the completion of the evaluation and ranking process by the Council, the President of the Supreme Court, by Decision No. 1, dated 25 September 2025, convened the Special Meeting of the Judges of the Supreme Court for the purpose of electing a member to the Constitutional Court. The Special Meeting was held on 30 September 2025, with the participation of 15 Supreme Court judges, thereby fulfilling the

required quorum for the validity of the session and enabling the conduct of the election process. At the conclusion of the voting procedure, since none of the candidates secured the required majority of votes, the candidate ranked first in the final list compiled by the Justice Appointments Council was deemed *ipso lege* elected to the position of Constitutional Court judge. Accordingly, the Special Meeting of the Judges of the Supreme Court resolved to elect Mr. Asim Vokshi as a member of the Constitutional Court, for a full nine-year term.

Judicial Decision-Making Process

Throughout 2025, the Supreme Court, as one of the fundamental pillars of the judicial system, continued to contribute to the delivery of quality justice in the service of citizens. In this context, it further consolidated its role as a reliable partner in the administration of justice, ensuring the professional, efficient, and responsible use of the human and financial resources at its disposal, in pursuit of its constitutional mandate.

The Court remained committed to fulfilling its constitutional mission of delivering justice through high-quality judicial decision-making, with a particular focus on the consistent interpretation of the law and the safeguarding of due legal process in accordance with national and international standards of justice. Through its judicial activity and the exercise of its nomophylactic function, the Supreme Court, by means of a consistent, authoritative, and consolidated interpretation of legal norms, continues to develop a corpus of case law that constitutes what is often referred to as “*living instrument*”. This

body of jurisprudence shapes and guides judicial practice, becoming an integral component of the legal system, and ensuring the coherent and balanced development of the law in line with the current socio-economic conditions of society and the evolving dynamics of societal values.

In substantive terms, the judicial activity of the Supreme Court in 2025 was marked by progressive improvement with respect to the high volume of pending cases. The process of backlog reduction has continued steadily, while maintaining the necessary pace for the adjudication of urgent cases. During 2025, the Supreme Court rendered a total of 6876 judicial decisions, while the number of backlog cases currently stands at 14,081. By comparison, in 2024, the Court issued a total of 7,639 judicial decisions, and the backlog at that time consisted of 18,619 cases. These statistical data reflect the Supreme Court's extraordinary efforts to reduce accumulated delays and represent positive and objective indicators of progress. They serve as further encouragement to sustain the current momentum, allowing for the normalization of the situation and its alignment with the standards and benchmarks set forth in the recommendations of CEPEJ.

The judicial capacity of the Supreme Court at the end of 2025 consists of fifteen (15) effective judges. In November 2025, this capacity was reduced by one (1) judge as a result of his election as a judge of the Constitutional Court, while one (1) other judge, due to health conditions, has been unable to perform her duties effectively. Meanwhile, one (1) vacant position created in 2024 has not yet been filled by the High Judicial Council. Under these circumstances, the reduction in adjudicative capacity at the Supreme Court warrants increased attention.

The absence of a full complement of judges has led to a significantly heavier workload for the current judicial panels, with adverse effects on productivity, efficiency, and the overall quality of adjudication. The shortage of judges necessitated organizational measures to redistribute the caseload of the absent judges among the remaining members of the Court. Although this reallocation posed challenges in terms of internal organization and the functioning of adjudicative panels resulting in increased individual workloads and complex scheduling of cases the Court nonetheless succeeded in maintaining an acceptable degree of stability in case processing efficiency and backlog reduction. In 2025, the average caseload per Supreme Court judge amounted to 404 cases.

Despite the positive outcomes achieved in reducing the backlog of cases and addressing urgent matters, a key factor for the Supreme Court's effective functioning remains the availability of sufficient and qualified human resources. In 2025, shortages continued to be observed within the Legal Service Unit, which currently employs 30 legal advisors, out of which 11 seconded magistrates and 19 legal advisors, out of the 38 positions approved by the organizational chart. During 2025, the Legal Service Unit was reinforced with five (5) seconded magistrates. A key challenge for 2026 will be the appointment of eight (8) additional assistant magistrates to fill existing vacancies, through secondments by the High Judicial Council (HJC), in accordance with Decision No. 1, dated 12 September 2024, of the General Meeting of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Legal Service Unit, now staffed with seconded magistrates, non-magistrate legal advisors who are graduates of the School of Magistrates, as well as advisors

who have successfully undergone the transitional re-evaluation process, has ensured a highly qualified support staff for the Court. This has enabled the Supreme Court to maintain a high standard of legal research and analysis, improve the harmonization of judicial practice, and enhance the overall quality of judicial decision-making. Alongside the continued efforts to fill remaining vacancies in the Legal Service Unit, an increase in the volume of adjudicated cases by the Supreme Court is anticipated.

Since 2020, the organizational structure of the Supreme Court has been gradually expanded in an effort to respond to the continued increase in the workload borne by judges, legal advisors, and administrative staff. Changes within the judicial panels resulting from vacancies or other circumstances have been managed through internal organizational practices aimed at mitigating their impact. Although the administrative and institutional measures undertaken to ensure a more effective and organized workflow have produced highly positive quantitative results in terms of case resolution, the Court continues to operate under persistent pressure to reduce the backlog and manage a heavy caseload, all while facing suboptimal working conditions. These challenges continue to hinder efforts to consistently uphold the desired standard of judicial quality. The significantly reduced number of pending cases now standing at 14,081 during a period in which the Supreme Court has operated without its full judicial complement, reflects the extraordinary circumstances under which the institution has continued to function throughout the year.

In accordance with the legal framework, the Supreme Court is organized into the Civil Chamber, the Criminal Chamber, and the Administrative Chamber.

Following the opinion issued by the General Meeting of Judges², the Council of the Supreme Court approved the relevant acts for the allocation of judges to the respective chambers. This allocation was based, inter alia, on the area of appointment of each judge as determined by the High Judicial Council (HJC). Within each chamber, judicial panels composed of three (3) judges have been established. Furthermore, in line with judicial organizational rules and with the aim of ensuring more effective coordination and management of judicial activity between judges and legal advisors, each chamber elected its presiding judge for the year 2025.

Notwithstanding a judge's formal assignment to a specific chamber, and in response to workload demands particularly within the Civil Chamber, which has been operating at reduced capacity due to vacancies and judicial absences, judges from other chambers have participated in judicial panels of the Civil Chamber³ to support its functioning. Therefore, the Administrative Chamber is comprised of five (5) judges, organized into two (2) judicial panels, each composed of three (3) judges. The Civil Chamber is comprised by seven (7) judges, organized into three (3) judicial panels, each composed of three (3) judges. The Criminal Chamber is comprised by five (5) judges, organized into two (2) judicial panels, each composed of three (3) judges. The Council of the Supreme Court has adopted and published the relevant acts concerning the allocation of judges to judicial panels. These acts were made publicly available on the official website of the Supreme Court immediately upon approval, ensuring transparency. Based on this panel allocation, the case assignment

2. See Decision No. 6, dated 21.03.2024

3. See Decision No.10, dated 27.06.2025 and Decision No.15, dated 10/10/2025

process was subsequently carried out by lot, in accordance with subject-matter jurisdiction.

Another matter of concern, which merits thorough discussion and deep reflection, is the professional conduct of the parties who address cassation appeals before the Supreme Court namely, attorneys, state advocates, and prosecutors. Despite the constitutional and legislative reforms and the significant efforts undertaken in recent years concerning the role and function of the Supreme Court within the judicial system, it is regrettable that even today, the Court continues to be perceived by procedural actors as a “third instance” of adjudication. This perception is evidenced by the high number of recourses submitted to the Court and by the inadequate quality of many such submissions, a substantial portion of which are dismissed often at the preliminary stage, via the selection panel (where such a panel is in operation). Specifically, in the exercise of its selection function, the Administrative Chamber continued with the preliminary examination of the appeals lodged during 2025, of which 35% of the registered appeals were not admitted, as being manifestly unfounded. Not infrequently, deficiencies are observed, including a lack of clarity in identifying the claims raised, insufficient articulation and coherence in formulating the grounds for appeal, and inadequate legal reasoning in a considerable number of recourses. These shortcomings, amounting to violations of procedural rules governing the presentation of recourse grounds, oblige the Supreme Court to engage in a resource-intensive filtering and selection process. This, in turn, requires the dedication of valuable judicial time and human resources, diverting attention away from cases of greater importance for the unification and development of judicial practice.

In these circumstances, arises a need to initiate a joint process of discussion and reflection through the establishment of an open and constructive dialogue with procedural actors. This process aims to enhance their sense of responsibility and awareness of the role they play in the administration of justice, as well as of the role and mission of the Supreme Court in leading this important dialogue to strengthen its function in reviewing the legality of judicial decisions issued by lower courts.

From an infrastructural standpoint, the situation regarding the provision of adequate and suitable working conditions remains unchanged. The current premises of the Supreme Court are insufficient to accommodate the full number of judges and administrative staff. Working conditions continue to be inadequate and substandard, with several employees sharing offices in a manner that does not comply with the required ratio between workspace and personnel. The issue of archiving and storing judicial case files within the Court’s premises also remains unresolved. A portion of the files has been temporarily housed at facilities provided by the High Judicial Council (HJC) for this purpose, requiring Court staff to travel daily to transport case materials, an arrangement that hampers efficiency and burdens operations. Following the tragic killing of Judge Astrit Kalaja in the line of duty, the Supreme Court immediately reinforced its internal security measures to prevent similar incidents or risks in the future and to ensure a secure and safe environment for all staff and members of the public within the Court’s premises.

In the exercise of its nomophylactic function, the Supreme Court has, over the course of this year, adjudicated important legal issues, establishing legal

principles of significance for the protection of fundamental human rights, for the socio-economic structure of citizens' and businesses' lives, and for the legality of administrative acts or actions. These efforts have aimed at fostering legal stability and coherence in judicial practice and ensuring uniformity in the interpretation and application of the law. In this context, in 2025 the Supreme Court adopted four unifying decisions and also designated additional cases for unification.

An important mission of the Supreme Court is the dissemination of legal information, aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of its jurisprudence. In this regard, the Documentation Center has continued its role through the preparation and publication of periodic and thematic bulletins of judicial decisions. These bulletins highlight key interpretative trends, doctrinal positions, and the evolving lines of jurisprudence that reflect the Court's exercise of its nomophylactic function. The legal maxims included in the bulletin result from a careful selection process and represent the Supreme Court's distilled legal reasoning as the conclusion reached in each case. The publication of decisions, accompanied by structured metadata prepared by the Documentation Center, facilitates a clear understanding of legal concepts and doctrinal analysis, with the purpose of guiding jurisprudence and serving as a point of reference for the judicial and legal community, thereby supporting its continued professional development.

The digital database established by the Supreme Court and managed by the Documentation Center, *JUDIX*, continues, for the second consecutive year, to demonstrate the Court's commitment to facilitating access to judicial decisions

for users both within and outside the Court. Since its launch, intensive efforts have been made to populate the platform, which now contains approximately 2,000 decisions. *JUDIX* enables all users to access processed decisions by searching through various criteria, including party names, keywords, decision titles, legal basis, decision number, date of decision, judge rapporteur, legal maxim, or case summary.

In 2025, the tradition of publishing the *Unifying Decisions of the Supreme Court* continued, with a new volume compiling selected decisions from all Chambers of the Court issued between 2021 and 2024. This new edition forms part of the Court's ongoing efforts to consolidate national jurisprudence and to further contribute to the harmonization of judicial practice across Albania. By bringing together all unifying and precedent-changing decisions rendered by the Supreme Court during this period, the publication aims to support the consistent interpretation and application of legislation throughout the judiciary, thereby enhancing legal certainty, judicial efficiency, and the rule of law. A notable innovation in this year's edition is the inclusion of an English-language translation of the case summaries, aimed at making Albanian jurisprudence accessible to international readers and legal scholars.

An important milestone in consolidating the Supreme Court's role as an active participant and contributor to international discourse on legal developments and challenges as well as in promoting inter-institutional cooperation and comparative legal exchange was the participation of a comprehensive delegation in the World Law Congress held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from 4–6 May 2025. During this global event, the President of the Supreme

Court, together with judges and legal advisors, actively contributed to several panel discussions, presenting the Albanian judiciary's experiences and recent developments. Through this participation, the Supreme Court also affirmed its commitment to co-host the World Law Congress 2027 in Tirana. This high-profile event will place Albania at the center of attention for legal professionals and institutions worldwide.

Another major highlight of the year was marked by the return, for the second time after a ten-year interval, of the Conference of Chief Justices of the Supreme Courts of Central and Eastern Europe to Albania. On 9–10 June, in Vlorë, the Supreme Court, in its capacity as host institution, jointly with the CEELI Institute and with the support of American judges engaged in initiatives to strengthen the rule of law, organized one of the most significant regional forums, with the participation of 11 delegations from countries of the region and beyond. The proceedings of the Conference facilitated an exchange of

important ideas concerning judicial administration in light of the challenges of modern times.

In 2025, with the aim of enhancing transparency and fulfilling its legal obligations, the Supreme Court launched the *Open Data* section on its official website. This section provides access to statistical data on case adjudication, annual performance reports of the Supreme Court, information on the activity of the Court Council, the Special Assembly of Judges, the General Assembly of Judges, and the Justice Appointments Council. Additionally, the *Open Data* platform includes links to informational videos on how to use the Court's official website, surveys on the Court's performance, budget-related data, the register of information requests and responses, speeches and interviews by the President of the Supreme Court, bulletins of judicial decisions, and templates for information and complaint forms in accordance with the right to access public information.

STRUCTURE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Judicial body

The composition of the Judicial body for 2025 is as following:

Period	January-March 2025	April-July 2025	August-December 2025
Number of judges serving in the Court	17 ⁴	16 ⁵	16

Following the reorganization of the chambers and judicial panels by the Council of the Supreme Court, under the supervision of the President of the Court, the case assignment lottery was re-conducted in accordance with the rules approved by the High Judicial Council (HJC). As a result of this process, the 17 judges of the Supreme Court are currently assigned to chambers and judicial panels as follows:

Administrative Chamber – 5 judges, Civil Chamber – 7 judges, Criminal Chamber – 5 judges

4. For this period, Judge K. Kurushi was not an active member due to his engagement as a member of the High Judicial Council (HJC). In addition, the termination of the mandate of the late Judge D. Sina was declared pursuant to Decision No. 2, dated 20.11.2024. By Decision No. 3, dated 26.11.2025, the termination of the mandate of Judge A. Vokshi was declared as a result of his appointment to the Constitutional Court.
5. During the months of April–December, Judge V. Kola was absent for health reasons.

Administrative Chamber

Permanent Panels	
<i>Judicial Panel 1</i>	<i>Judicial panel 2⁶</i>
Sokol Sadushi Sokol Ngresi Gentian Medja	Asim Vokshi Arbena Ahmeti Enkelejda Metaliaj
	As of December 2025, this panel will be complemented by judges <i>Sokol Ngresi/ Gentian Medja</i> .

6. Following the termination of the mandate of Judge A. Vokshi, on 26.11.2025 the Court Council, by Decision No. 16, dated 27.11.2025, “On certain amendments to Decision No. 6, dated 21.03.2024, ‘On the designation of judges to the Chambers of the Supreme Court and the assignment of judges to the adjudicating panels of each Chamber,’” decided that for administrative cases scheduled to be examined in December 2025 and thereafter, the order of their examination by Adjudicating Panel No. 2 shall be as follows:
 - a) for cases scheduled on days falling in the odd weeks of the month, the composition of the adjudicating panel shall include Judge Sokol Ngresi;
 - b) for cases scheduled on days falling in the even weeks of the month, the composition of the adjudicating panel shall include Judge Gentian Medja.

Composition of the Chamber

Sokol Sadushi
Asim Vokshi⁷
Arbena Ahmeti
Gentian Medja
Sokol Ngresi
Enkelejda Metaliaj

Composition of the Chamber

Artur Kalaja
Ervin Pupe
Margarita Buhali
Enton Dhimitri
Vojsava Kola
Valbon Çekrezi

Civil Chamber

Permanent Panels

<i>Judicial Panel 1</i>	<i>Judicial Panel 2⁸</i>	<i>Judicial Panel 3</i>
Artur Kalaja Ervin Pupe Enton Dhimitri	Margarita Buhali Vojsava Kola Valbon Çekrezi	Artur Kalaja Ervin Pupe

7. Judge Vokshi, has been an effective judge up until 26.11.2025.
8. Pursuant to Decision No. 15, dated 10 October 2025, “On certain amendments to Decision No. 6, dated 21 March 2024, ‘On the designation of judges to the composition of the panels of the Supreme Court and the designation of judges to the composition of the adjudicating benches of each panel’,” in view of the absence of Judge Vojsava Kola as a result of maternity leave and of a vacant position that has arisen within the Civil Panel— a procedure which has not yet been concluded by the High Judicial Council (KLGJ) for the appointment of another judge— the Court Council decided that Adjudicating Bench No. 2 shall be composed of Valbon Çekrezi, Margarita Buhali, and Artur Kalaja / Ervin Pupe / Enton Dhimitri. Starting from November 2025, the order for the examination of civil cases by Adjudicating Bench No. 2 shall be determined periodically, on a weekly basis, in accordance with the following scheme:

Criminal Chamber

Permanent Panels

<i>Judicial Panel 1</i>	<i>Judicial Panel 2⁹</i>
Iir Panda Sokol Binaj Sandër Simoni	Iir Panda Albana Boksi Medi Bici

- a) for cases scheduled in the first week, the composition of the adjudicating bench shall include Judge Artur Kalaja;
- b) for cases scheduled in the second week, the composition of the adjudicating bench shall include Judge Ervin Pupe;
- c) for cases scheduled in the third week, the composition of the adjudicating bench shall include Judge Enton Dhimitri.
- After the third week of November 2025, the order for the examination of cases shall continue to repeat cyclically, following the scheme set out above.
9. With the appointment of Judge Genti Shala, all cases previously allocated by lot to Judge Medi Bici will be reassigned to the newly appointed judge.

Composition of Chamber

Illir Panda
 Sandër Simoni
 Albana Boksi
 Medi Bici
 Sokol Binaj
 Genti Shala¹⁰

Legal Service Unit

Via Decision No. 1, dated 21.01.2021, of the Supreme Court Council “*On the approval of the structure, staffing, job descriptions, and classification of job positions for the staff of the High Court*”, as amended, it was established that the staffing of the Legal Service Unit consists of 32 legal advisers. By Decision No. 1, dated 12.09.2024, the Assembly of Judges decided to increase the number of positions in the Legal Service Unit to 38. In 2025, five¹¹ new seconded magistrates began their secondment to the Supreme Court, while one¹² legal adviser (seconded magistrate) departed due to the expiration of the secondment term. Vacancies in the staffing of the Legal Service Unit

10. Via Decree no. 471, dated 12.12.2025, the President of the Republic appointed Mr. Genti Shala as a Judge of the Supreme Court from among the ranks of judges.
 11. Valiona Haxhiraj, Renis Sheshi, Erola Tarelli, Dorinela Nikolli, Iva Bregasi.
 12. Iva Zemani

directly impact the efficiency of the judicial activity of the High Court, as a larger number of legal advisers enables an increase in the number of judicial decisions issued by the court. The organizational structure of the Legal Service Unit by the end of 2025 was as follows:

Legal Service Unit – Current Situation

Seconded Magistrates	Legal Advisors	% of current advisors compared to the organization structure
11	18 ¹³	80%
Effectively in duty 17.		

Legal Service Unit – Staff required according to the new structure¹⁴

Seconded Magistrates	Legal Advisors
8	0

13. Saimir Nazifi, remains suspended awaiting the decision of SAC. E. H. was on health leave (maternity leave) from March 2025 onwards. I. C. was on health leave (maternity leave) from January to July 2025.
 14. Up until September 2024 the approved number was 32 legal advisers.

Human Resources

Documentation Centre		Judicial Administration			Supporting staff	
8		25			47	
Ratio between supporting staff/ judge --- judicial civil servants per each judge						
No. of active judges	No. of judges in organisa-tional structure	No. of sup- porting staff	The current number of supporting staff	Current/ or- ganizational chart%	Staff/ each judge in organi- sa-tional chart	Current staff per judge
16*	19	132	115	87%	7	6

* 16 active judges and one judge serving as full-time member of the HJC

All the organizational and administrative measures taken by the Supreme Court throughout 2024 have produced positive effects on the activities of the Court and have brought improvements in the efficiency of its structures' work as well as an increase in the quality of judicial services offered to the public.

During 2025, a Case Clearance Rate (CCR or the ratio between cases resolved and incoming cases), of 274% was achieved.

This rate exceeds all international minimum recommendations/ standards that are in ratio 1:1 or 100%.

International minimum stan- dard of case clearance rate	Case Clearance Rate 2025
100%	274%

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

Despite the sustained high number of judicial decisions delivered by the Supreme Court in 2025, this has not been an end in itself. Due to its mission, the Supreme Court issues important decisions which, by virtue of their reasoning and authority, aim to guide judges of the lower courts and other justice sector actors. In fulfilling this mandate, the Court has also rendered intermediate decisions that have paved the way for the unification of practices, by issuing rulings that have oriented judicial practice regarding the meaning and interpretation of the law in various matters. This practice will continue to be consolidated through the Court's jurisprudence, providing greater legal certainty for citizens and contributing to the strengthening of the rule of law.

On the basis of the action plan adopted by the Supreme Court for the clearance of the backlog of pending judicial cases, the chambers have continued to examine cases under the binary system of adjudication. The first strand is based on the principle of chronological review (with reference to the date of registration of the case at the Supreme Court), while the second is based on the principle of priority, according to the criteria set out in legal acts and in the sub-legal acts of the High Judicial Council and Supreme Court concerning the expedited procedure for the adjudication of judicial cases. The principle of chronological review is applied strictly, with no deviation from the chronological order of

cases being allowed, except in emergency cases and those for which expedited handling is required. These exceptions must be duly justified in each case by the reporting judge through a formal decision. The Supreme Court has only deviated from the chronological order in the application by analogy of Decision No. 78, dated 30.05.2019, "*On the calendar of case hearings in the Court of Appeal*" (as amended by Decision No. 254, dated 09.05.2024) of the High Judicial Council, as well as Decision No. 9, dated 03.06.2024, "*On the expedited review of certain judicial cases in the Supreme Court*". This category includes cases which, if examined under the regular procedure, would require time that could worsen the legal situation or result in serious consequences in the enjoyment of lawful rights by the parties to the proceedings. Such cases include labor and social security disputes, family law disputes, cases to be reviewed as a result of decisions of the Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights, interim measures (such as provisional measures related to the claim, suspension of enforcement of a court of appeal decision, or criminal precautionary measures), extradition cases, and others.

Worth mentioning as below, several decisions of the Supreme Court in which important legal aspects have been addressed and analyzed, contributing to the consolidation, unification, and development of judicial practice, as follows:

*Administrative cases**Essential elements addressed****Unifying administrative judgment no. 00-2025-1483(1), of 13.01.2025***

In this case, the Administrative Chamber has unified judicial practice by emphasizing that the right of access to a court, as a non-absolute right, may be subject to limitations, provided that its essence is not impaired. The restriction of the right to appeal, resulting from legal provisions or from the unification or development of judicial practice, is compatible with Article 17 of the Constitution and with Law no. 49/2012, when it is assessed that the measure undertaken is necessary, appropriate, and pursues a legitimate aim in the public interest, serves to protect the rights and freedoms of others, and establishes a reasonable relationship of proportionality between the means used and the aim sought to be achieved. With reference to the provisions of Law no. 115/2016 “On the Governance Institutions of the Justice System”, which relate to the public interest in the timely establishment and operationalization of constitutional bodies, as well as to legal certainty and the proper administration of justice, the phrase “the decision is final and not subject to appeal” limits the right of cassation appeal for the parties in the proceedings.

Unifying administrative judgment no. 00-2025-4083 (79) of 18.02.2025

In this case, the Administrative Chamber has unified judicial practice by determining that: i) Pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 5 of Law no. 20/2020 “On the Completion of Transitional Ownership Processes in the Republic of Albania”, with regard to all lawsuits filed by the Prefect prior to the entry into force of this law, on 07.05.2020, with the object of invalidity/annulment of the AMTP (Land Use Title), regardless of the stage of judicial proceedings, the State Cadastre Agency (ASHK) is obliged to withdraw from the right to pursue the claim, except in cases where the legal ground of the claim is in accordance with the provisions of Article 7, paragraph 1 of this law. ii) In the absence of an expressed will by ASHK to withdraw from the right to pursue the claim, pursuant to Article 68, paragraph 4 of Law no. 20/2020 “On the Completion of Transitional Ownership Processes in the Republic of Albania”, the courts shall continue the examination of the lawsuits filed by the Prefects with the object of invalidity/annulment of the AMTP, in accordance with the criteria set out in this law. iii) If the claim formally raises allegations based on the grounds provided for in Article 7, paragraph 1 of Law no. 20/2020, the courts shall rule on the acceptance or dismissal of the claim, depending on the established factual circumstances. If the claim does not formally raise any of the grounds specified in Article 7, paragraph 1 of Law no. 20/2020, the courts shall assess the absence of substantive active standing of the claimant and shall rule to dismiss the claim.

**Administrative judgment
no. 00-2025-1358 (84), of
19.02.2025**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber established that in matters concerning the financial valuation of properties recognized for compensation, the courts must ensure a thorough investigation and accurate application of substantive law, by carefully determining the cadastral category of the property at the time of expropriation and the corresponding methodology for financial valuation, in accordance with Law no. 133/2015 and the relevant implementing sublegal acts. Accuracy in determining the cadastral category constitutes a fundamental condition for ensuring fair financial compensation and for upholding the standards of due legal process.

**Administrative judgment
no.00-2024-5464(532), of
11.12.2024**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that associations and interest groups have active standing to challenge a normative sublegal act, insofar as they represent the legitimate interests of an indeterminate and undefined number of individuals who may be affected by such act. Claims concerning economic or personal harm suffered by individual members of the association during the implementation of the act are not sufficient to justify the association's interest in challenging it. Such standing is justified only when it is clearly argued that a public interest is being protected.

**Administrative judgment
no.00-2024-5478(561), of
17.12.2024**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that when a non-resident provides services directly related to the construction, design, or administration of immovable property located in Albania, such services are deemed to be performed within the territory of Albania. For this reason, Value Added Tax (VAT) is payable in Albania, regardless of which tax scheme the entity applies. If the entity opts to use the self-invoicing scheme for services received from a non-resident but fails to pay the VAT, the obligation to pay still arises. This is because the self-invoicing scheme and the tax representative scheme produce the same tax effect only when the VAT is actually paid to the tax authorities.

**Administrative judgment no.
00-2025-76(19), of 21.01.2025**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that the experience of a magistrate seconded to institutions outside the justice system constitutes professional work experience (seniority). The work performance of the seconded magistrate is to be assessed in accordance with the evaluation system of the institution to which the magistrate has been seconded. The evaluation of the magistrate's work performance within the host institution is recognized under Law no. 96/2016 and must be converted by the High Judicial Council into the framework of the justice system. When a magistrate seconded outside the justice system holds a professional evaluation covering a shorter period than that required by Article 84 of Law no. 96/2016, such evaluation is convertible to the corresponding level for the actual period of secondment but does not entitle the magistrate to an immediate three-year evaluation.

**Administrative judgment
no. 00-2025-2559 (91), of
27.02.2025**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that when there are compensation decisions specified in monetary value and still unexecuted, pursuant to Article 6(7) of the amended Law no. 133/2015, the calculation of the financial value is based on two elements:

- (i) indexation according to the official inflation rate, and*
- (ii) the bank interest rate based on the annual average published by the Bank of Albania.*

The calculation period runs from the date the right to compensation is recognized until the date of publication by the Property Treatment Agency (ATP). The law does not recognize the application of these elements beyond this date.

**Administrative judgment
no. 00-2025-3176 (342), of
18.09.2025**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that the 30-day time limit for filing a lawsuit against the financial assessment issued by the Property Treatment Agency (ATP) begins 10 days after the publication of the act in the Official Notification Bulletin. When the administrative act does not clearly indicate the right and the time limit for appeal, the notification is considered deficient, and the time limit for filing the lawsuit is one year, pursuant to Article 18/2 of Law no. 49/2012, interpreted in favor of the party in order to guarantee access to court.

**Administrative judgment
no. 00-2025-2391 (266), of
19.06.2025**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber determined that in the issuance of the execution order for administrative fines, the court of fact has the obligation to calculate late payment interest pursuant to Article 30 of Law no. 10279/2010 "On Administrative Offenses", as this provision sets no exceptions and is clear, applicable, and consistent with the purpose of the law. The decision on the administrative offense constitutes an enforceable title at the moment the final decision is issued by the administrative authority. The burden of proof regarding the notification of the debtor, as well as the method of calculating interest, lies with the requesting party.

**Administrative judgment
no.00-2024-5431(435), of
23.10.2024 i KAGJL**



In this case, the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court has unified judicial practice by establishing that the status of State Police employees, as adopted upon the entry into force of Law no. 108/2014, grants State Police employees the right to seek judicial reinstatement in cases where the illegality or invalidity of the act of dismissal or discharge from the State Police is established.

Civil Judgments

Essential elements addressed

Unifying civil judgment no. 00-2024-5438(191), of 18.04.2024



In this case, the Civil Chamber determined that the electricity bill, for the portion representing the economic damage invoiced by the electricity distribution company under Law no. 9072, dated 22.05.2003 “On the Power Sector”, as amended by Law no. 10362, dated 16.12.2010, and the one issued under Law no. 43/2015 “On the Power Sector”, as well as the sublegal acts of the Energy Regulatory Entity (ERE) issued pursuant to each respective law in this field, has the status of an enforceable executive title.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-792(123), of 26.02.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber determined that when the claimant raises objections regarding the validity of the decision of the Commission for the Verification of Property Titles (KKKP), treating it as a “quasi-judicial” act, and seeks recognition of the right to property by presenting supporting evidence, the court is required to conduct a substantive adjudication concerning the ownership title of all parties to the dispute. The court may not dismiss the claim solely on the grounds that the appropriate legal remedy would be to challenge the decision of the KKKP.

Civil judgment no. 00-2024-4573(643), of 14.11.2024



In this case, the Civil Chamber examined a compensation claim filed by the Albanian Insurance Bureau in relation to a fatal maritime accident involving a motorized watercraft. The Court concluded that the absence of specific legislation on the mandatory insurance of motorized watercraft does not automatically shift the burden of compensation onto the Albanian Insurance Bureau.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-779 (114), of 26.02.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber reviewed the judicial division of joint property following the dissolution of marriage. The Court emphasized that valid dispositions of joint property carried out during the marriage with the mutual consent of the spouses (such as the sale of land through a contract signed by both parties and with a clear specification of who benefits from each installment) are excluded from the judicial division after divorce, as they constitute a dispositive act of one spouse’s ideal share in favor of the other.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-765(80), of 12.02.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber addressed the statute of limitations for claims by an employer against an employee for unjustly received salary payments. The Court reasoned that the 3-year limitation period begins ipso jure from the date the damage occurred, regardless of when the employer became aware of it; therefore, upon the expiry of this period, the employer loses the right to seek compensation through judicial proceedings.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-657(94), of 12.02.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber clarified that claims and allegations not addressed in the first-instance decision and not reiterated in the appeal are considered waived. They may not, under any circumstances, be examined ex officio by the court, as they are subject to forfeiture, and pursuant to the principle governing due legal process, the case may not be reviewed beyond the scope of the appeal.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-404(69), of 05.02.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber addressed the validity of a will that disposes of the estate in a disproportionate manner among heirs. The Court reasoned that the bequest of items with merely symbolic value, with the intent to circumvent the statutory reserve of minor or incapacitated heirs, may be considered a tacit exclusion from the inheritance and an infringement of the statutory reserve under Article 379 of the Civil Code.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-1400(178), of 09.04.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber determined that the right to compensation for infringement of copyright is a personal subjective right of the author and may be exercised independently of the publisher's rights; the failure to summon the publisher of the literary work does not automatically affect the author's right.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-1381, of 09.04.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber held that, under the Montreal Convention, family members who suffer pecuniary or non-pecuniary damages due to the injury or death of a relative may not bring a claim in their own place of habitual residence if the direct damage did not occur there.

Civil judgment no. 00-2025-2270(294), of 04.06.2025



In this case, the Civil Chamber addressed the retroactive effect of Constitutional Court Decision no. 27/2010, which annulled the competence of the General Director of the Agency for the Restitution and Compensation of Property (AKKP) to annul the decisions of local offices. The Court concluded that the constitutional decision has retroactive effect only for cases that were pending judicial review at the time of the entry into force of the decision (05.07.2010) or for the unexhausted legal consequences of the repealed provision.

Criminal cases

Essential elements addressed



Unifying Criminal Judgment no.00-2024-2155(107), of 24.04.2024

*In this case, the Criminal Chamber has unified judicial practice by determining that Article 334, although a provision of the Criminal Code, is not a standalone criminal offense in relation to paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 28 of the same Code, but rather constitutes an aggravated penalty added to the sentence imposed by the court for the specific criminal offense committed by the organizer or participant in a criminal organization or structured criminal group. The criminal offenses provided for in Articles 333 and 333/a of the Criminal Code are formal offenses, meaning that a person is punishable for committing these offenses (in the form of creation, organization, leadership, or participation), regardless of whether they commit a specific underlying criminal act. The application of Article 334 of the Criminal Code in conjunction with Articles 333 and 333/a does not violate the principle of *ne bis in idem* (non bis in idem) — the prohibition against being tried twice for the same criminal act, as provided in Article 7 of the Criminal Procedure Code because Article 334 represents an enhanced punishment that applies only when members of a criminal organization or structured criminal group commit a specific criminal offense. The offenses of “Criminal Organization” and “Structured Criminal Group” are committed through actions such as creation, organization, leadership, or participation and are classified by the Criminal Code as independent offenses. The Criminal Code punishes not only the commission of specific criminal acts within the framework of a criminal organization or structured criminal group but also the mere creation, organization, leadership, or participation in such entities, as criminal offenses in themselves, pursuant to Articles 333 and 333/a of the Criminal Code. Article 334 of the Criminal Code is not an independently applicable provision (it does not constitute a criminal offense *per se*), but rather an aggravated sentencing provision that accompanies the criminal provision setting out the specific offense committed by the criminal organization or structured criminal group.*

**Unifying Criminal Judgment
no.00-2024-2161(167), of
04.07.2024**



In this case, the Criminal Chamber unified judicial practice by determining that the prohibition provided for in Article 403(2) of the Criminal Procedure Code also applies to subjects with respect to whom the criminal law prohibits the imposition of life imprisonment. Where the charge concerns a criminal offence punishable by life imprisonment but classified as remaining at the stage of attempt, the abbreviated trial procedure shall not apply.

If the court, at the conclusion of the ordinary trial, grants the request referred to in point (a) of Article 403 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, accompanied by a request for a change in the legal classification of the facts, in respect of a criminal offence that does not provide for a sentence of life imprisonment. b) To decide that the case may be resolved on the basis of the state of the case file as it stands, taking into consideration point 7 of Article 405 of the Code of Criminal Procedure as well.

**Unifying Criminal Judgment
no.00-2025-2162(275), of
06.11.2024**



In this case, the Criminal Chamber unified judicial practice by determining that the provision of Article 427(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code does not oblige the appellate court, in every instance where an acquittal judgment is appealed, to repeat the judicial examination. When the court decides to repeat the judicial examination, it assesses this procedural option in relation to the need to verify the facts or evidence of the case under adjudication, where issues have been raised on appeal concerning the erroneous assessment of evidence by the court of first instance.

The decision of the appellate court to repeat the judicial examination is conditional upon the prosecutor's request on appeal alleging an erroneous assessment of evidence by the court of first instance; however, where the appellate court deems it necessary, it may also take additional evidence ex officio, for the purpose of guaranteeing an effective review control. During the proceedings at second instance, in accordance with Article 427(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code, the court is obliged to repeat the judicial examination by taking such testimonial evidence as is necessary for the determination of the defendant's guilt or innocence. Where the case has been adjudicated at first instance under the abbreviated trial procedure, the provision of Article 427(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code does not prevent the appellate court from repeating the judicial examination, including through the taking of new evidence.

The defendant is entitled to benefit from a reduction of one third of the sentence in the event that a judgment of guilt is rendered by the appellate court.

**Unifying Criminal Judgment
no. 00-2025-1007 (82), of
27.03.2025**



In this case, the Criminal Chamber unified judicial practice by holding that the participation of the prosecutor in the proceedings concerning the verification of security needs, pursuant to Article 246(6) of the Criminal Procedure Code, during the hearing before the court of first instance, is mandatory. The absence of the prosecutor during the examination of the appeal at the appellate level, where the prosecutor has been duly notified and has not presented any reasonable cause for non-appearance, does not prevent the appellate court from proceeding with the examination of the appeal against the decision disposing of the verification of security needs and the request for substitution or revocation of the security measure.

**Unifying Criminal Judgment
no. 00-2025-1733 (87), of
03.04.2025**



In this case, the Criminal Chamber unified judicial practice by holding that the adjudication of parties' applications during the phase of execution of a criminal judgment (disciplinary measures and other matters) falls within the criminal jurisdiction. Their examination shall be conducted by the criminal courts in accordance with the criminal procedural legislation governing the execution of criminal judgments. The Institutions for the Execution of Criminal Judgments and the General Directorate of Prisons do not have standing to lodge an appeal against the decisions of the criminal courts that have examined parties' applications during the phase of execution of a criminal judgment. This rule does not apply only in cases where the object of judicial review before the criminal courts is an administrative act (a decision of the prison administration), pursuant to the provisions of Law No. 81/2020, "On the Rights and Treatment of Prisoners Sentenced to Imprisonment and Detainees on Remand." In such cases, the Institutions for the Execution of Criminal Judgments and the General Directorate of Prisons are summoned as parties and are vested with standing to lodge an appeal. The conduct of the hearing without the participation of the prosecutor and/or the defense counsel of the interested party, as provided for in Article 471(4) of the Criminal Procedure Code, results in the absolute nullity of the act (decision).

Criminal judgment no. 00-2025-785 (116), of 13.05.2025



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that the form of complicity cannot be classified differently for co-defendants where the Supreme Court has previously determined the legal nature of the complicity for some of them who were tried separately, and the courts of fact fail to analyze the non-application of that determination in the concrete case.

Criminal judgment no. 00-2025-824 (123), of 22.05.2025



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that the failure to notify the prosecutor or the parties in the examination of a request for review of a final criminal judgment does not constitute a ground of nullity, since this procedural phase is conducted in chambers and does not involve adjudication on the merits of the case.

Criminal judgment no. 00-2025-797, of 13.05.2025



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that where a sentence of imprisonment, suspended in accordance with Article 59 of the Criminal Code, although formally deemed to have been executed from a temporal standpoint, the process of verifying the enforceability of that sentence from a substantive perspective requires judicial examination and adversarial debate between the parties to the proceedings.

Criminal judgment no. 00-2025-883, of 29.05.2025



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that an application which, by its content or nature, pertains to the phase of preliminary investigations, such as an application for the substitution of a personal security measure, shall be examined by the judge of the preliminary investigations only if the criminal proceedings at that level of jurisdiction are still at that procedural phase. Where such an application is submitted at a time when the case at that level of jurisdiction has moved to another procedural phase, such as the preliminary hearing or the trial on the merits, it shall be examined by the competent court of the procedural phase in which the case file is situated at the time the application is lodged.

***Criminal judgment no.
00-2025-894 (138), of
29.05.2025***



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that a person who has a concrete and current interest in proceedings in which, in addition to the dismissal of the case, the falsity and destruction of forged documents are also declared (with civil-law consequences in another set of proceedings), must be notified and guaranteed the right to be heard, in order to ensure due process of law.

***Criminal judgment no.
00-2025-1402 (221), of
23.09.2025***



In this case, the Criminal Chamber determined that the prohibition of the abbreviated trial procedure for criminal offences punishable by life imprisonment is absolute and is linked solely to the nature and dangerousness of the criminal offence, and not to the status of the offender or the offender's personal characteristics. This prohibition is not affected by statutory provisions that exclude women from life imprisonment.

THE ACTIVITY OF THE SUPREME COURT IN STATISTICS

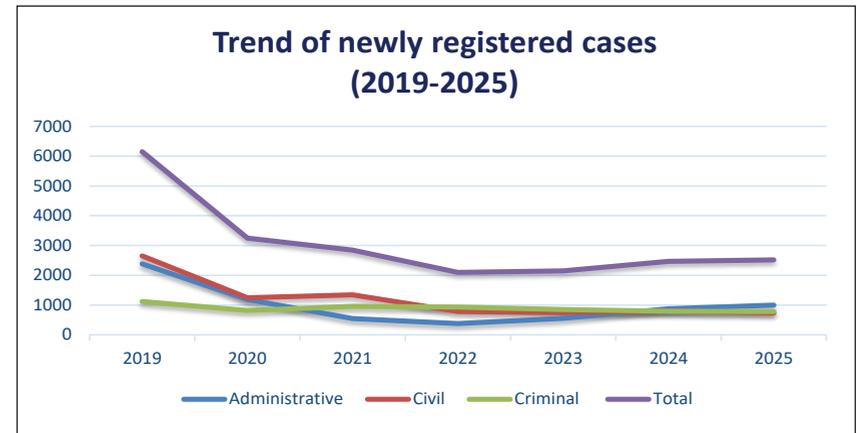
The large number of cases accumulated over the years at the Supreme Court remains a matter of serious concern and a challenge to its functioning, with a direct impact on the progress of the process of ensuring the swift and effective administration of justice. Notwithstanding the difficulties encountered in completing staffing levels with legal advisers whether seconded magistrates or otherwise as well as administrative personnel, the quantitative indicators used to assess the judicial activity of the Supreme Court demonstrate a marked shift in trend compared to the period prior to 2020. These quantitative indicators for the period 2020–2025 reflect promising results for the future and confirm the substantial efforts undertaken by the Court’s panels to reduce the backlog of pending cases.

Incoming cases in the Supreme Court

As regards the number of cases registered with the Supreme Court, a downward trend over the years is observed. This trend, which cannot yet be considered to have reached the expected level, is a consequence of changes in the Court’s jurisdiction under the new procedural legislation, as well as the decrease in the number of cases concluded by the courts of appeal. Although in 2025 there were 2% more cases registered than in 2024, the number of newly registered cases continues to display a downward trend when compared with the new cases registered in the years 2019–2022.

The last three years, 2023–2025, show a stable trend in the inflow of new cases

submitted to the Supreme Court, with a slight increase during the most recent year. Accordingly, during 2023 a total of 2,145 new cases were registered, in 2024 a total of 2,469 new cases were registered, and in 2025 a total of 2,513 new cases were registered, marking a 1.8% increase compared to the previous year.



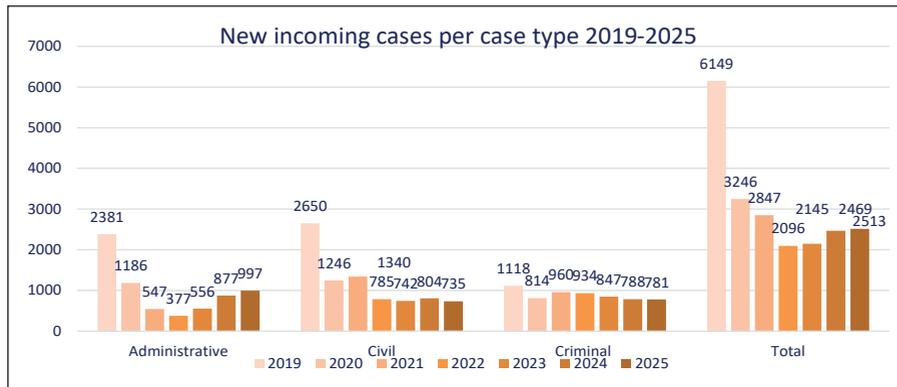
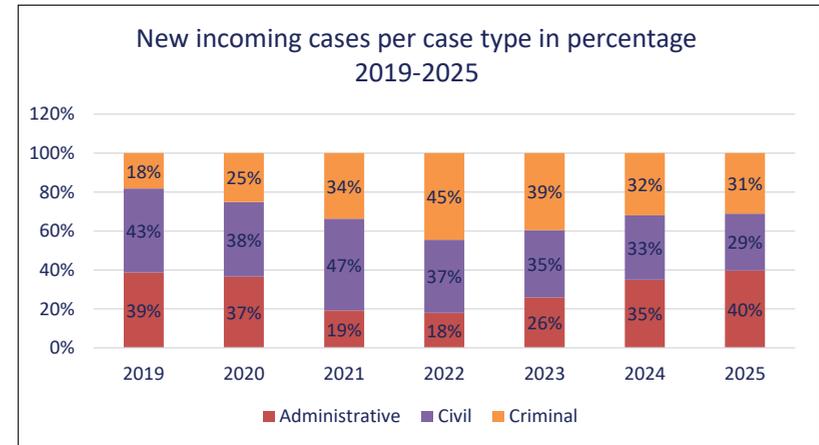
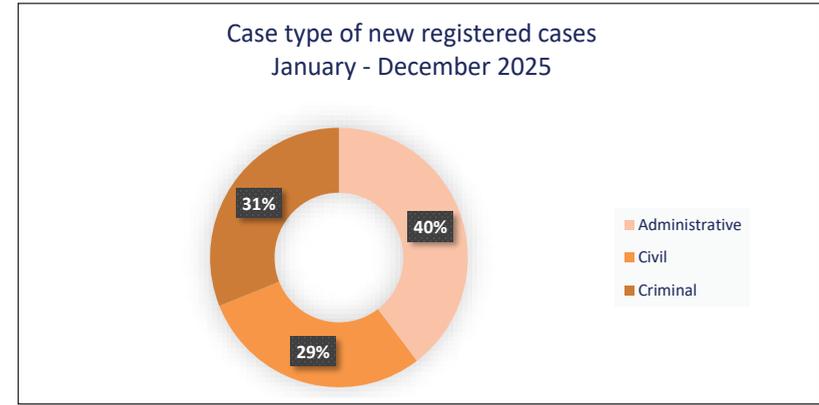
During 2025, an upward trend is observed in the number of administrative cases registered with the Court, amounting to a 14% increase compared to 2024. Although, in comparative terms, these figures remain lower than the inflows recorded in 2019—by approximately 58%—a consolidated upward trend is now evident in the number of new administrative cases referred to the Supreme Court. When compared with 2022, which represents the year with the lowest number of

newly registered administrative cases, this increase is calculated at 164%, approaching the level recorded in 2020. Such an increase may be attributed to the now fully operational Administrative Court of Appeal, with a full judicial composition of 13 judges, and to the increased volume of adjudication carried out by that court.

The civil cases registered in 2025 show a slight decrease of 9% compared to the previous year, 2024. When compared with 2023, the number of newly registered cases in 2025 is almost identical and is 6% lower than in 2022. Compared with 2019 and 2020, this percentage is respectively 72% and 41% lower. It may therefore be stated that over the past four years (2022–2025), the trend in the number of newly registered civil cases has remained broadly stable, but is significantly lower in comparative terms than in the years 2019–2020.

By contrast, criminal cases remain broadly constant in trend, predominantly declining, with an inflow almost identical to that of 2024 and a decrease of 8% compared to 2023. In comparison with 2019, the decrease is calculated at 30%.

Administrative cases registered in 2025 accounted for 40% of the Court’s caseload, civil cases accounted for 29%, while criminal cases accounted for 31%.



As can be observed from the trend over the three years 2019, 2020, and 2021, civil cases predominantly constitute the largest share of cases submitted to the Supreme Court. During the period 2022–2023, criminal cases accounted for the greatest volume, whereas in the period 2024–2025 an upward trend is observed in the number of administrative cases, while civil cases show a slight downward trend.

Adjudicated cases in the Supreme Court

With regard to the number of cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court, a clear upward trend is observed over the years. Compared to 2019, the number of cases adjudicated has increased fourteenfold. Although in 2025 the Court adjudicated 10% fewer cases than in 2024 and 13% fewer than in 2023, this figure nevertheless represents an increase of 9% compared to 2022, 91% compared to 2021, and respectively 365% compared to 2020. The reductions in adjudicated cases constitute an expected consequence of the decrease in the Supreme Court’s adjudicatory capacity over the past two years.

The same trend is also evident when cases are disaggregated by nature. Thus, compared to 2019, adjudicated administrative cases have increased elevenfold, civil cases twenty-fivefold, and criminal cases elevenfold.

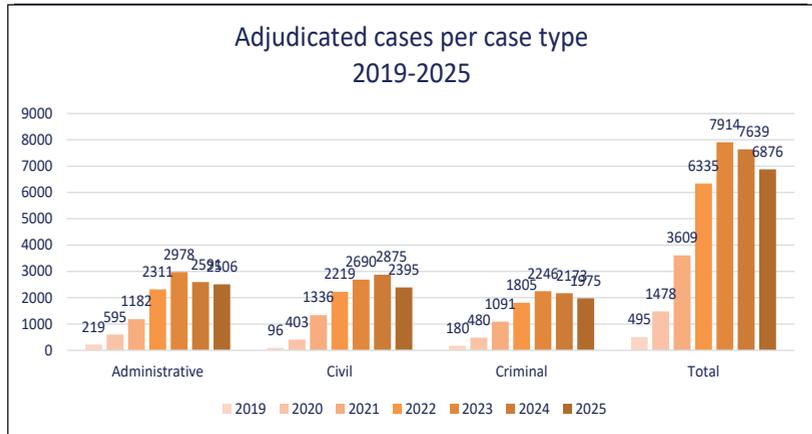
Administrative cases adjudicated in 2025 show a slight decrease of 3% compared to 2024 and a decrease of 16% compared to 2023, although they remain increased by 8% compared to 2022, by 112% compared to 2021, and by 321% compared to 2020.

Civil cases adjudicated in 2025 have experienced a decrease of 17% compared to 2024 and 11% compared to 2023, while at the same time increasing by 8% compared to 2022, by 79% compared to 2021, and by 494% compared to 2020.

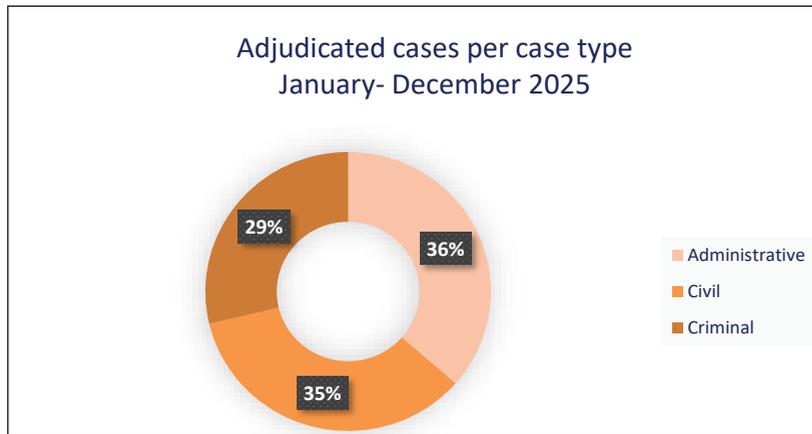
Criminal cases adjudicated in 2025 have recorded a decrease of 9% compared to 2024 and 12% compared to 2023, notwithstanding increases of 9% compared to 2022, 81% compared to 2021, and 312% compared to 2020.

The above figures demonstrate that, notwithstanding changes in adjudicating panels or judicial capacity, the Supreme Court has managed to maintain a stable pace in the adjudication of cases. However, the situation concerning cases pending adjudication in recent years differs significantly from that of the early 2020–2021 period, when the focus of adjudication was the clearance of the backlog, primarily consisting of inadmissible cases.

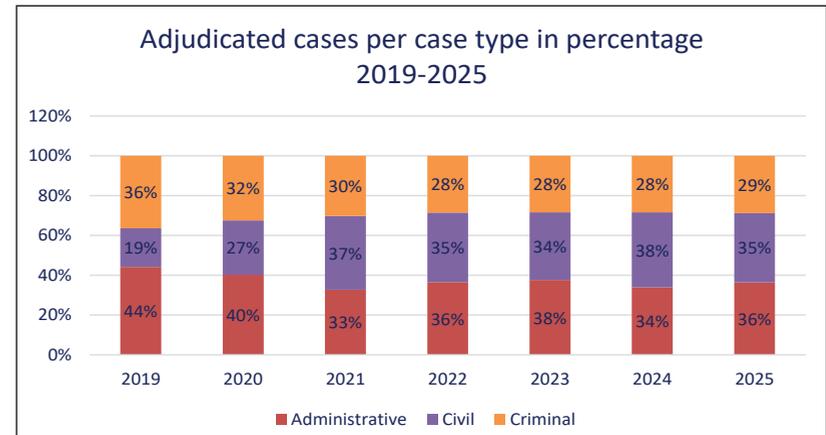
In 2025, the totality of cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court consists predominantly of cases decided on the merits, which are clearly admissible and require heightened attention in addressing the legal issues involved. Owing also to the time of their registration, these cases present challenges related to contemporaneity and legal overlap. In these circumstances, it is important to emphasize that, beyond the continuing numerical pressure, the Supreme Court’s current challenge lies in the careful and thorough handling of cases on the merits, which constitute the very basis for identifying potential cases suitable for unification.



Administrative cases adjudicated in 2025 account for 36% of the Court’s caseload, civil cases account for 35%, while cases of a criminal nature account for 29%.



When examining the distribution of adjudicated cases by nature, it is observed that, overall, the volume has remained broadly consistent for criminal, administrative, and civil cases adjudicated over the past four years.

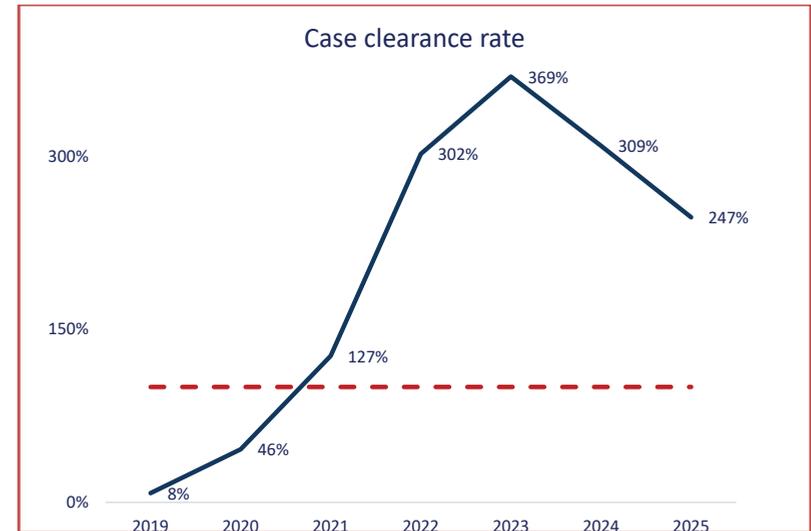
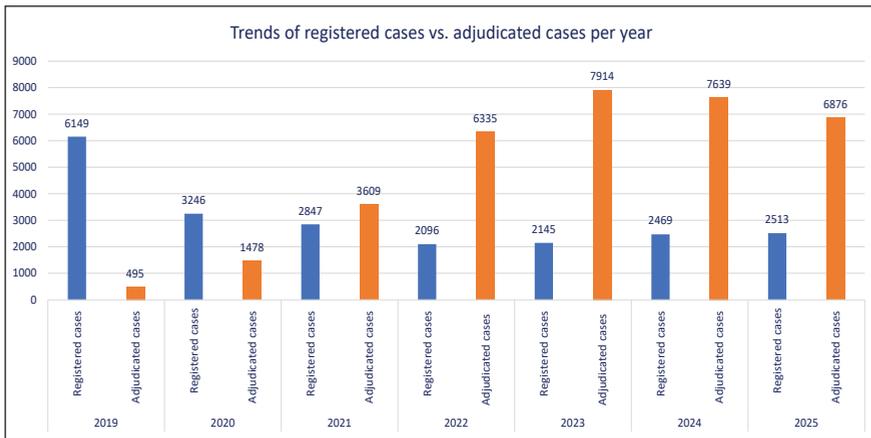
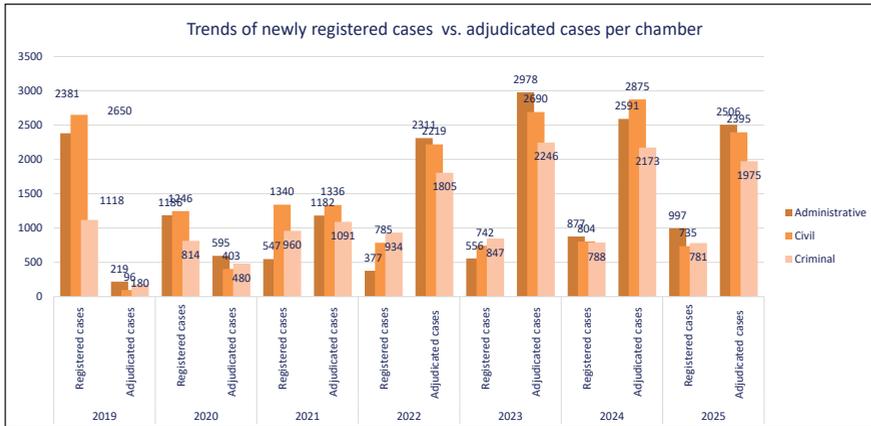


Adjudicated cases in comparison to registered cases

International best practices require that an analysis of court performance also include a comparative assessment between cases adjudicated and cases registered with the court. In this overall overview as well, a downward trend in newly registered cases and an upward trend in the court’s decision-making activity are observed. The change is clearly evident when comparing the two ends of the chart illustrating the ratio between registered and adjudicated cases in 2019 and in 2025.

Case Clearance Rate

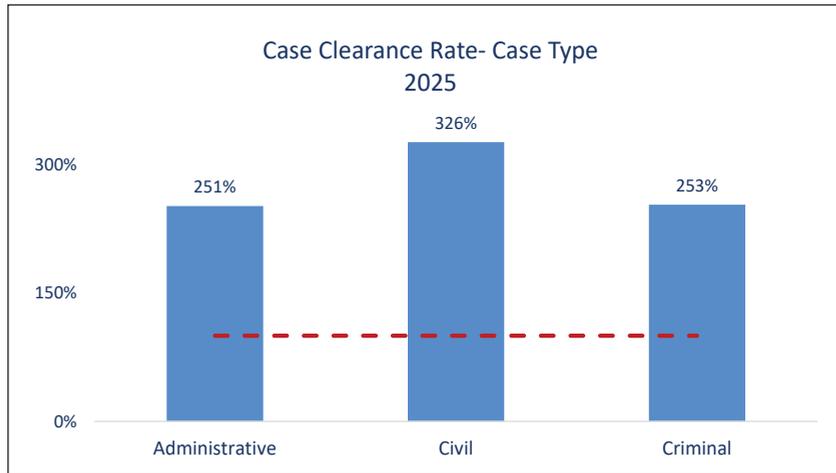
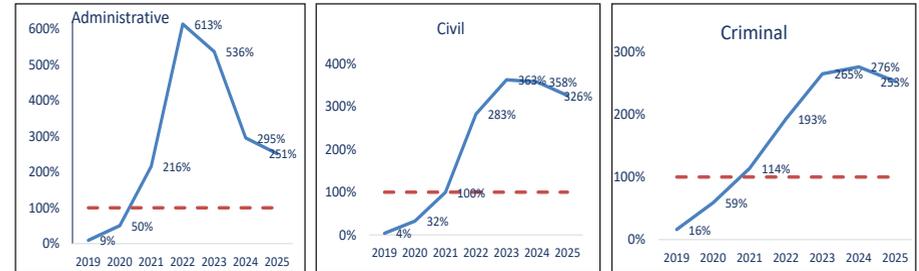
According to CEPEJ standards and best practices, one of the key indicators of court efficiency is the Case Clearance Rate, which is determined by the ratio between cases disposed of within a given period and newly registered cases, expressed as a percentage. This indicator provides a comparative measure of whether courts have succeeded in maintaining a balance between the inflow of new cases and the number of cases resolved. It also serves as an indicator of trends in changes to the backlog.



In 2025 as well, the Supreme Court succeeded in exceeding the internationally accepted standard of 100%, achieving a Case Clearance Rate of 247%. This means that the Court adjudicated a significantly higher number of cases than the number of cases filed with it in 2025. Such a clearance rate demonstrates a clear trend toward a reduction in the number of backlog cases.

With regard to the Case Clearance Rate by nature of cases, the indicator stands at 326% for civil cases, 253% for criminal cases, and 251% for administrative cases. The data show that all three panels not only exceed the international standard of a one-to-one ratio between registered and adjudicated cases, but also operate at a very high pace in reducing the backlog of pending cases.

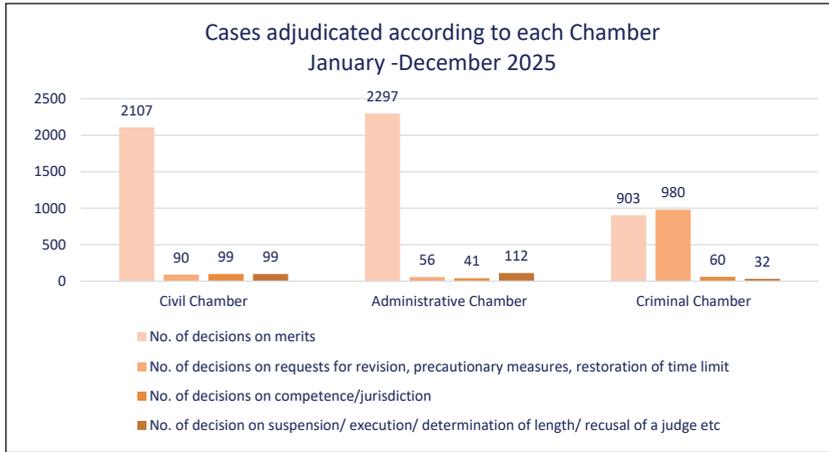
Clearance rate per case type 2019 – 2025



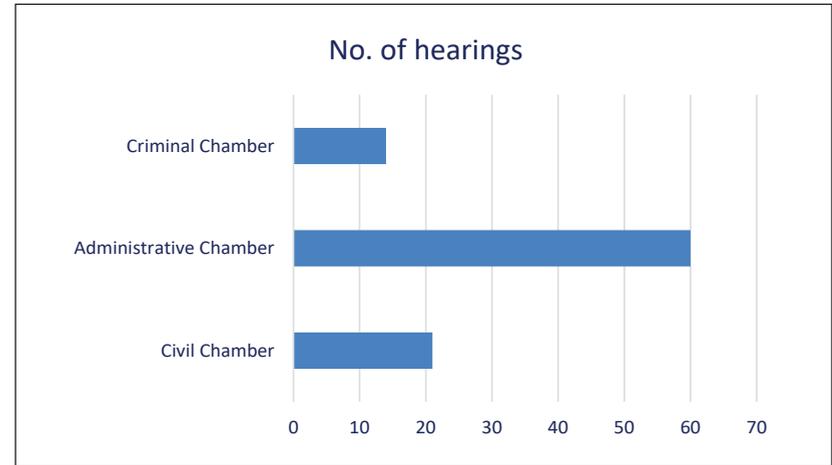
Number of adjudicated cases based on case type, decision-making and status

In the table and chart below, an overview of decision-making by colleges, categorized into specific categories, is presented.

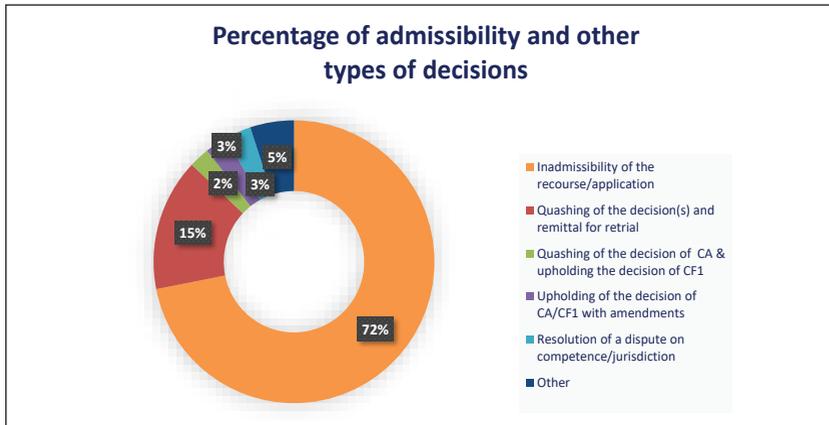
Chambers	No. of decisions on merits	No. of decisions on requests for revision, precautionary measures, restoration of time limit	No. of decisions on competence/ jurisdiction	No. of decision on suspension/ execution/ determination of length/ recusal of a judge etc.	Total
Civil Chamber	2107	90	99	99	2,395
Administrative Chamber	2297	56	41	112	2,506
Criminal Chamber	903	980	60	32	1,975
TOTAL					6,876



The number of court hearings conducted by the Court in the presence of the parties in 2025 was 95, accounting for 1.5% of decision-making, while overall adjudication is dominated by decisions taken in chambers. Specifically, for the Administrative Panel, adjudication in chambers accounts for 97% of decision-making, whereas for the Civil and Criminal Panels, adjudication in chambers accounts for 99% of decision-making, broken down by the nature of cases in the chart below:

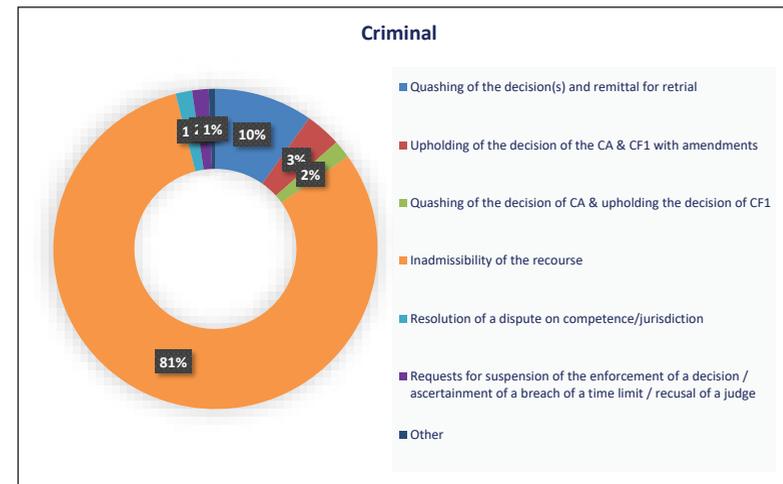
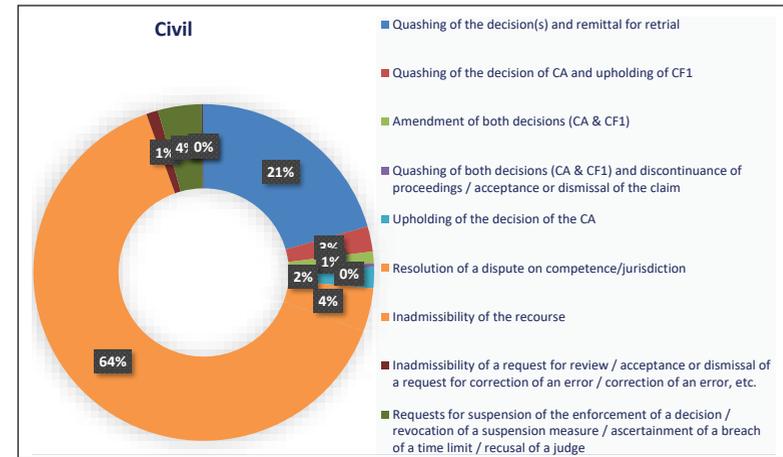
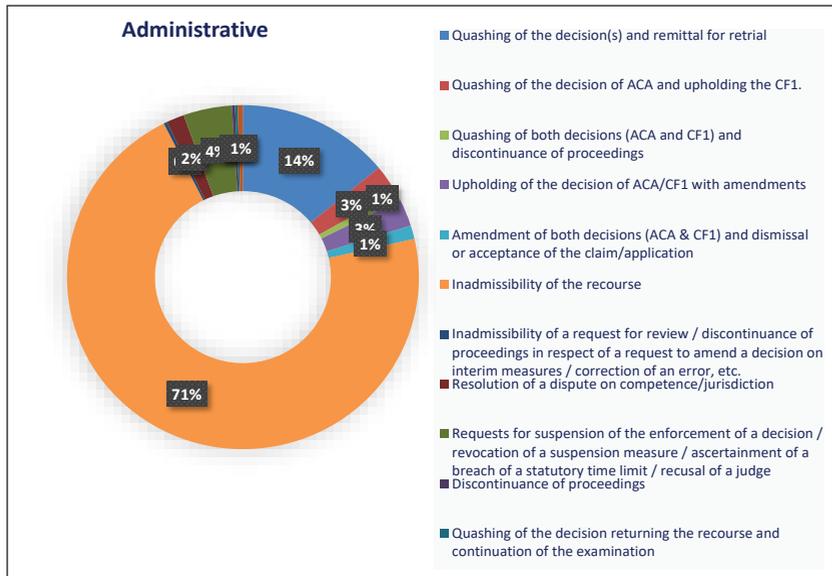


Admissibility of cassation appeals and main types of decisions



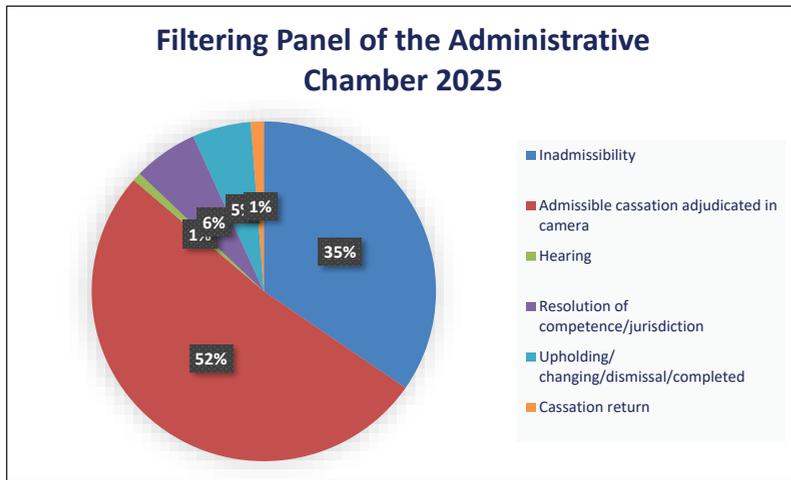
Decisions of inadmissibility rendered in chambers account for 72% of the Court’s overall decision-making. When disaggregated by the nature of the cases, they constitute 71% in administrative cases, 64% in civil cases, and 81% in criminal cases.

The next highest proportion among the types of decisions is observed in cases where the decision(s) of the court of appeal or the court of first instance are quashed and the case is remitted for retrial, accounting for 15% of cases. In only 2% of the Court’s decisions has the Court quashed the decision of the court of appeal and upheld the decision of the court of first instance, and in only 3% of cases has the Court upheld the decision of the court of appeal.



Filtering Panel

The Administrative Chamber continued the preliminary examination of appeals lodged during 2025 for the purpose of their selection. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the registered appeals were not admitted as manifestly unfounded, while 52% of the cases reviewed by the screening panel will proceed to adjudication in chambers, in chronological order.



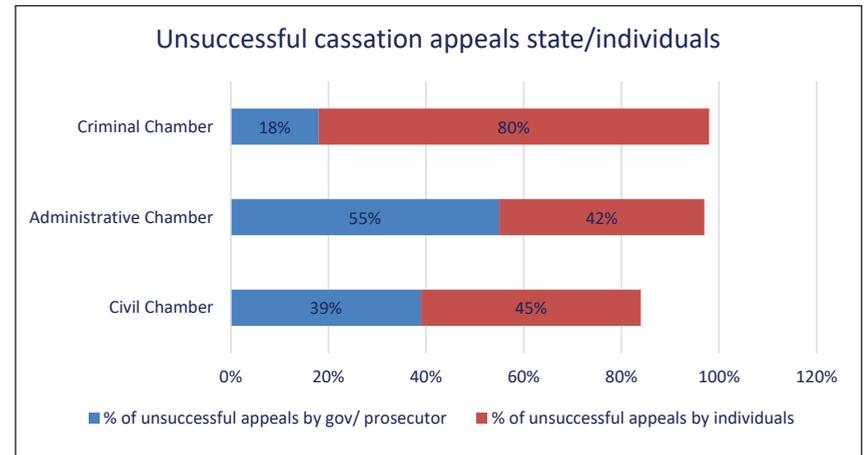
Success rate of cassation appeals in disputes between the State and individuals

During 2025, the Supreme Court also compiled statistical data on the number of cassation appeals that proved unsuccessful, disaggregated between individuals and the State in administrative and civil cases, as well as between the prosecutor

and the individual in criminal cases—namely, the instances in which public authorities and individuals respectively were unsuccessful parties.

In criminal cases, cassation appeals proved unsuccessful in 80% of instances where the appeal was lodged by the individual, and in only 18% of instances where this remedy was lodged by the prosecutor. In administrative cases, cassation appeals were unsuccessful in 55% of cases where they were lodged by the State and in 42% where they were lodged by the individual.

In civil cases, cassation appeals were unsuccessful in 45% of cases when lodged by individuals and in 39% when lodged by the State. Disputes between private individuals in civil cases, as well as cases in which both the State and the individual are appellants, are not reflected in the chart below.



Statistical data have also been compiled regarding the number of cassation appeals that proved successful, disaggregated between individuals and the State in administrative and civil cases, as well as between the prosecutor and the individual in criminal cases—namely, the instances in which public authorities and individuals respectively prevailed. Civil cases involving disputes between private individuals, administrative cases in which both the State and the individual are appellants, and criminal cases in which both the prosecution and the individual have lodged cassation appeals are not reflected in the chart below.

remedy was lodged by the prosecutor.

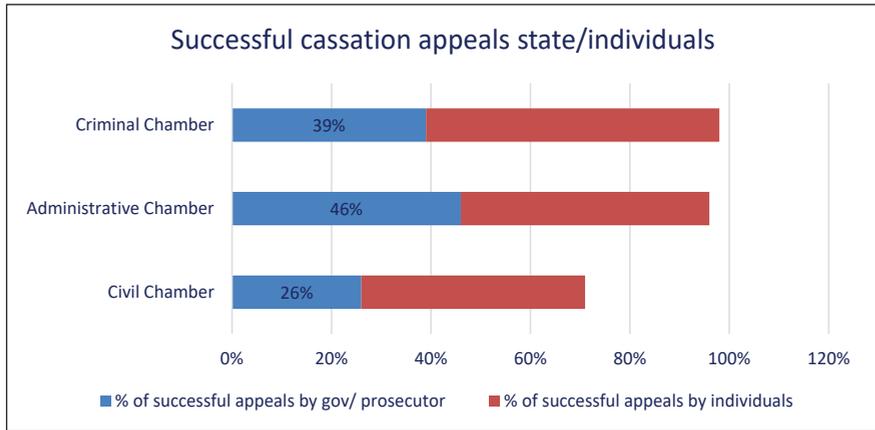
In administrative cases, cassation appeals proved successful in 50% of cases where the appeal was lodged by the individual and in 46% where it was lodged by the State.

In civil cases, cassation appeals proved successful in 45% of cases when lodged by individuals and in only 26% when lodged by the State.

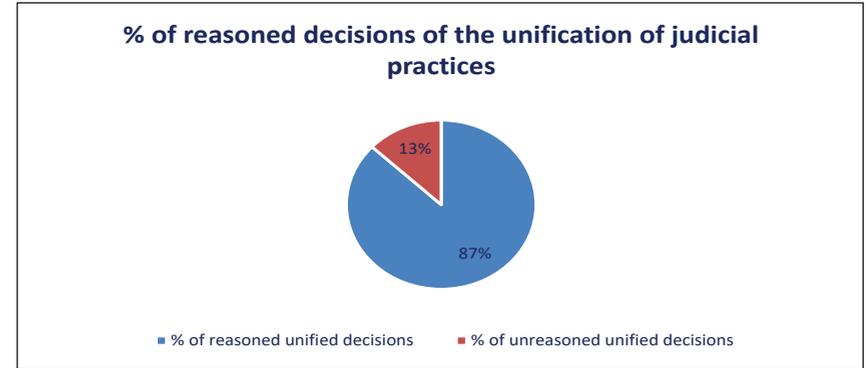
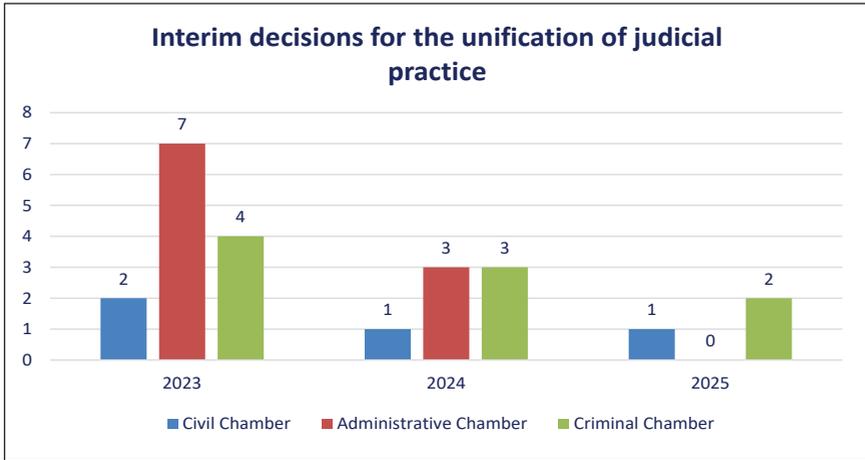
Interim decisions for the unification of judicial practice

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of interim decisions issued by its panels for the unification of judicial practice over the period 2023–2025. In addition, particular attention has been given to distinguishing the percentage reflecting the level of reasoning in such decisions.

The data show that during 2025, three interim decisions for the unification of judicial practice were issued, of which two concerned criminal cases and one concerned a civil case. During 2024, the Court issued a total of seven interim decisions for the unification of judicial practice, of which three concerned criminal cases, three administrative cases, and one a civil case. During 2023, the Court issued a total of thirteen interim decisions for the unification of judicial practice, of which four concerned criminal cases, seven administrative cases, and two civil cases.



In criminal cases, cassation appeals proved successful in 59% of instances where the appeal was lodged by the individual and in 39% of instances where this



During the period 2023–2025, of the 23 interim decisions for the unification of judicial practice issued by the Court, a total of 87%—or 20 unifying decisions—have been drafted with full reasoning (3 civil, 10 administrative, and 7 criminal), while two unifying decisions have not yet been reasoned, namely one decision adopted in 2024 in a criminal matter and one decision adopted in 2025 in a civil matter¹⁵. In 2025, the Court adopted four unifying decisions, two by the Administrative Panel and two by the Criminal Panel.

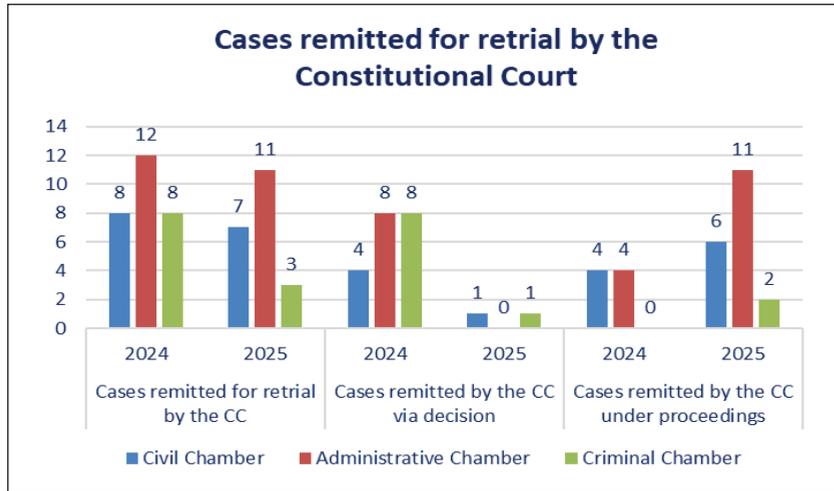
Cases remitted for retrial by the Constitutional Court

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of decisions remitted for retrial by the Constitutional Court, disaggregated by the nature of the cases, for the period 2024–2025. Particular attention has also been given to the level of their examination by the respective panels.

The data show that in 2025 the Constitutional Court remitted 21 cases to the Supreme Court for retrial, of which 7 were civil cases, 11 administrative cases, and 3 criminal cases. This figure is comparatively lower than the number of cases remitted for retrial by the Constitutional Court in 2024, which totaled 28 cases (8 civil, 12 administrative, and 8 criminal).

Of the cases remitted in 2024, the Supreme Court retried 71% of them (or 20 cases), whereas the percentage of retrials for cases remitted during 2025 is significantly lower, at approximately 10%.

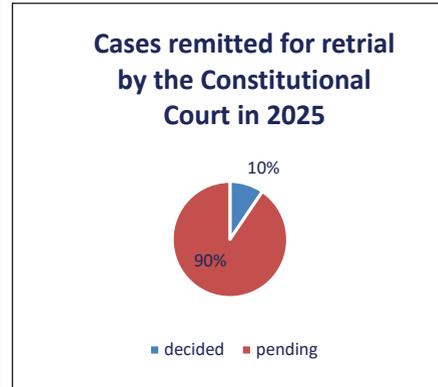
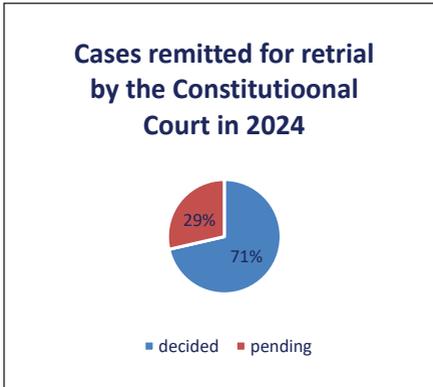
15. Interim Decisions on the Unification of Judicial Practice and Decisions on the Unification of Judicial Practice



Applications for a finding of a violation of the reasonable time requirement

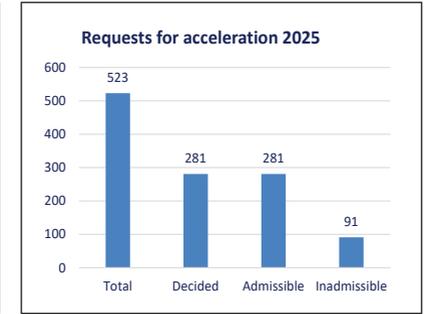
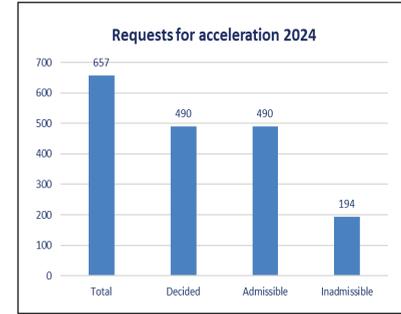
The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of applications seeking a finding of a violation of the reasonable time requirement in proceedings before the Supreme Court, disaggregated by the nature of the cases, for the period 2024–2025. Particular attention has also been given to the level of their examination by the respective panels, as well as to the rate of inadmissibility.

The data show that during 2025 a total of 65 applications for a finding of a violation of the reasonable time requirement were lodged with the Supreme Court, of which 37 applications were lodged with the Civil Panel, 24 with the Administrative Panel, and 4 with the Criminal Panel. This number is comparatively lower than the number of such applications lodged in 2024, which totaled 88 applications, namely 30 before the Civil Panel, 51 before the Administrative Panel, and 7 before the Criminal Panel.

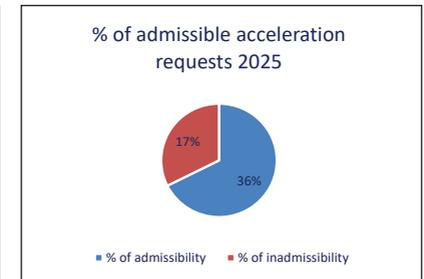
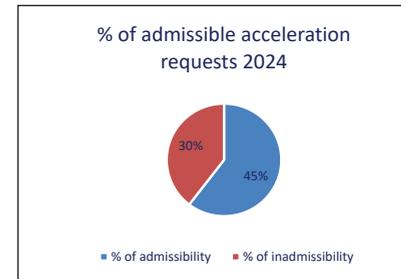


The Supreme Court examined 100% of the applications seeking a finding of a violation of the reasonable time requirement that were lodged during 2024, whereas with respect to the applications lodged during 2025, 78% have been decided by the Supreme Court and 22% remain pending review. The Supreme Court’s decision-making indicates that, of the applications lodged during 2024, 93% were not upheld, while the percentage of applications lodged during 2025 that were not upheld by the respective panels is 72%.

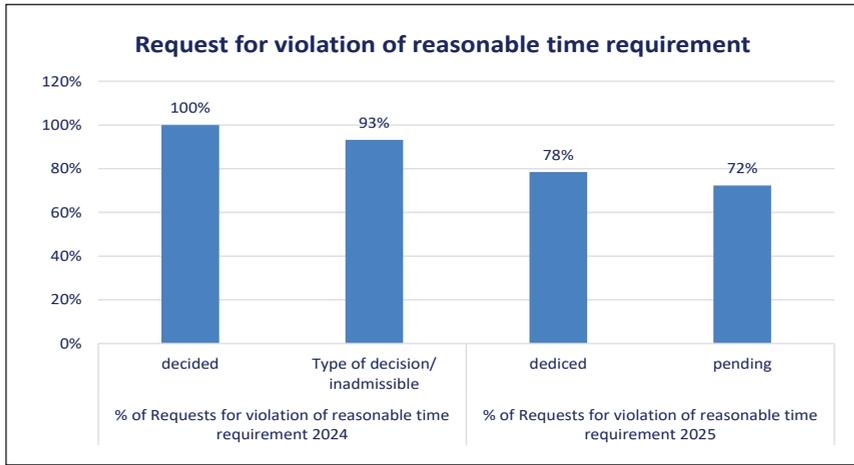
figure is comparatively lower than the number of requests for the acceleration of proceedings lodged during 2024, which totaled 657 requests.



The Supreme Court upheld 45% of the applications for the acceleration of proceedings lodged during 2024 and 36% of the applications lodged during 2025.



Twenty-five percent (25%) of the requests lodged in 2024 remain unexamined by the respective panels, whereas the percentage of requests lodged during 2025 that have not yet been examined by the respective panels is 46%.



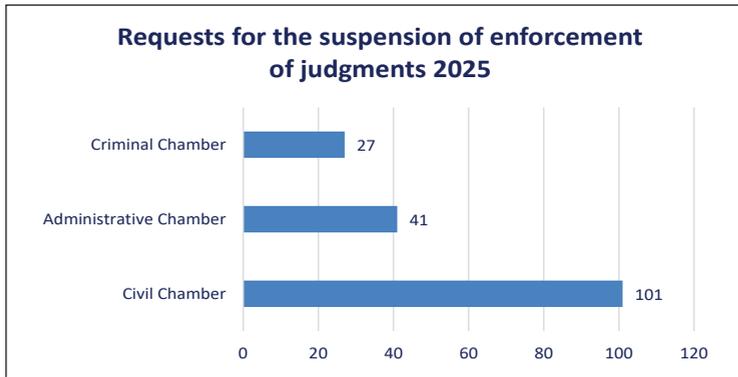
Requests for the acceleration of proceedings

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of requests seeking the acceleration of proceedings before the Supreme Court for the period 2024–2025. The data show that during 2025 a total of 523 requests for the acceleration of proceedings were lodged with the Supreme Court. This

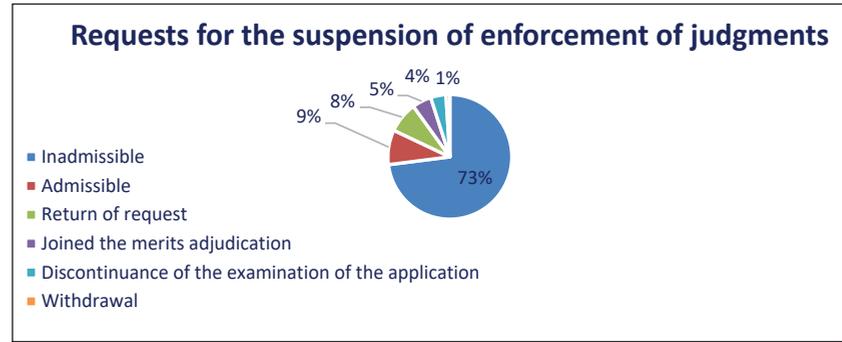
Requests for the suspension of enforcement of judgments

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of requests for the suspension of the enforcement of judgments lodged with the Supreme Court for the year 2025. Particular attention has also been given to the level of their examination by the Court, as well as to the rate of inadmissibility.

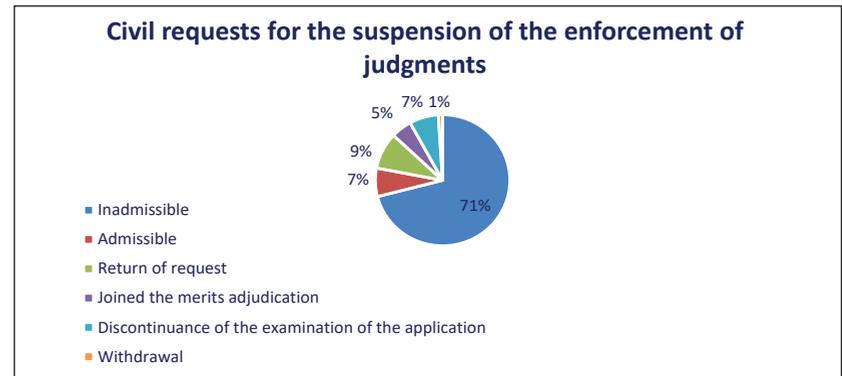
The data show that during 2025 a total of 169 requests for the suspension of the enforcement of judgments were lodged with the Supreme Court (101 civil, 41 administrative, and 27 criminal).



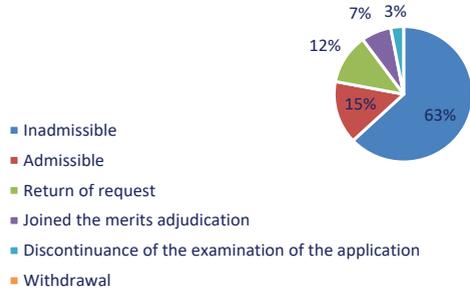
Seventy-three percent (73%) of the requests for the suspension of the enforcement of judgments lodged during 2025 were not upheld by the Supreme Court. Broken down by the nature of the cases, 71% of civil requests were not upheld, 63% of administrative requests were not upheld, and 93% of criminal requests were not upheld by the Court.



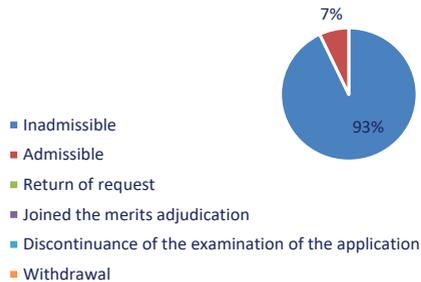
The percentage of requests for the suspension of the enforcement of judgments upheld by the Supreme Court in 2025 is very low, amounting to only 9%. Broken down by the nature of the cases, only 7% of civil applications were upheld by the Court, 15% of administrative requests were upheld, and 7% of criminal requests were upheld.



Administrative requests for the suspension of enforcement of judgments



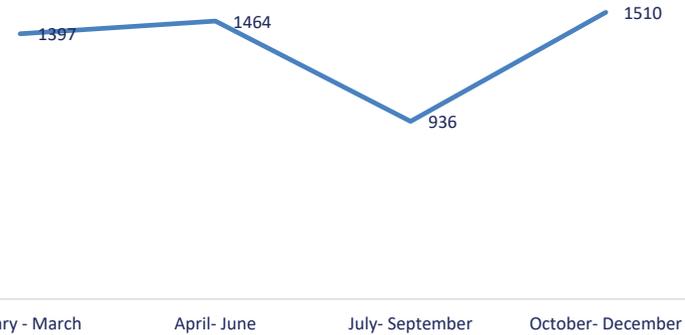
Criminal requests for the suspension of enforcement of judgments



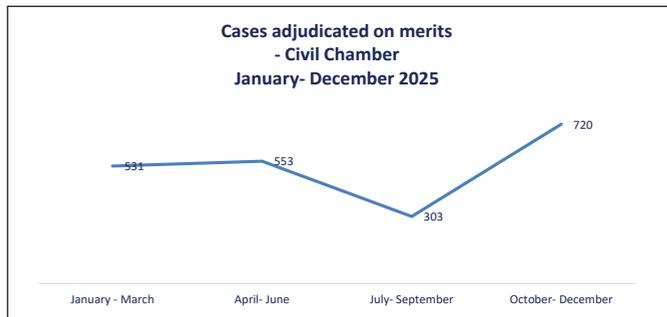
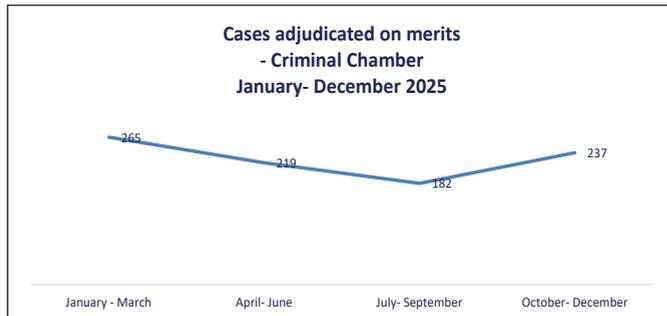
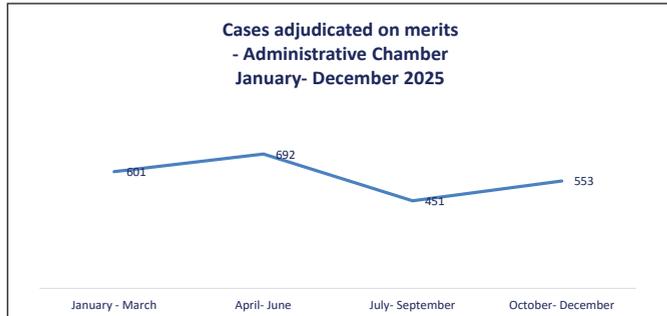
Decision-making on cases decided on the merits

In the charts below, the Court's decision-making on cases decided on the merits is presented by quarter for the year 2025, as well as by panel.

Cases adjudicated on merits by the Supreme Court January- December 2025



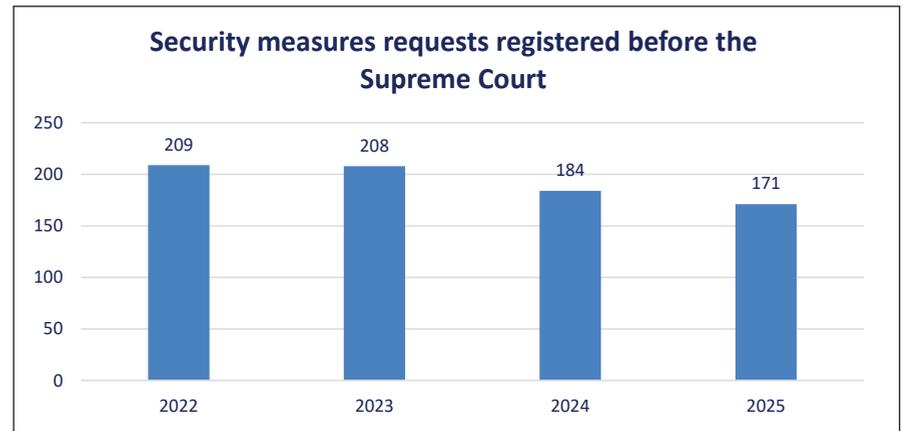
On average, the Supreme Court adjudicated 482 cases on the merits per month. The Administrative Panel adjudicated an average of 209 cases on the merits per month, the Civil Panel 192, and the Criminal Panel 82 cases on the merits per month.



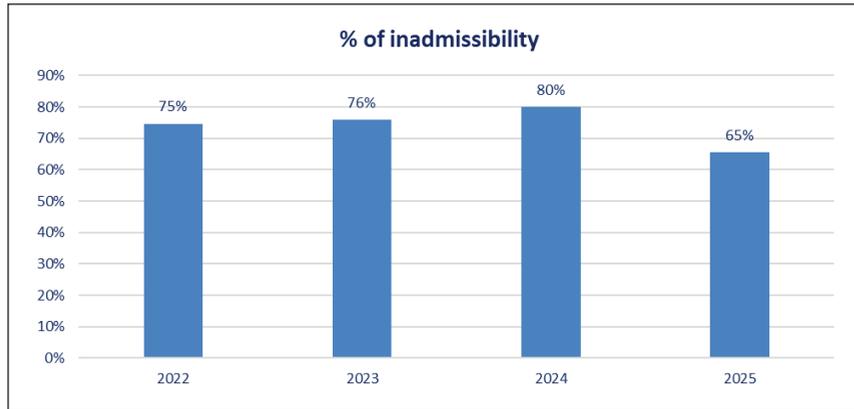
Decision-making on security measures in criminal cases

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of requests for security measures lodged with the Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court for the period 2022–2025. Particular attention has also been given to the rate of inadmissibility of such requests.

The data show that during 2025 a total of 171 requests for security measures were lodged with the Supreme Court, of which 157 were examined (92%). The statistical data indicate a downward trend in the number of requests for security measures lodged with the Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court. This figure is 19% lower than the number of requests lodged in 2022 and 7% lower compared to 2024.



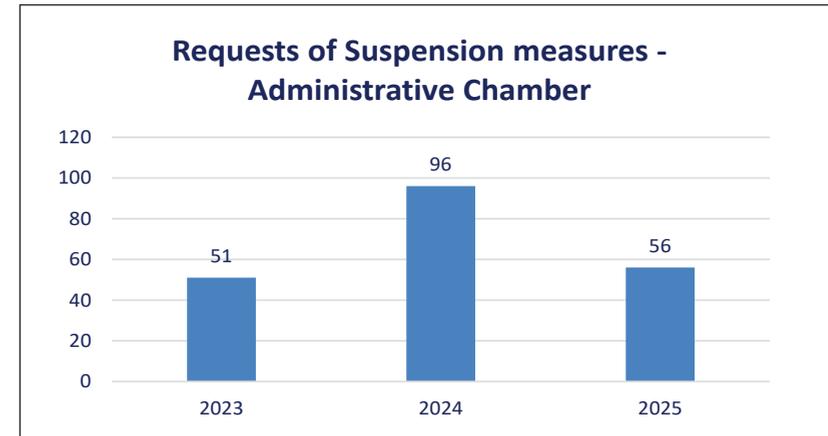
The statistical data indicate a consistently high rate of inadmissibility of requests for security measures by the Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the requests for security measures lodged during 2025 were not upheld by the Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court. Beyond inadmissibility decisions, the Criminal Panel issued a further 45 decisions, of which 22 concerned the resolution of jurisdictional issues and only 23 were decisions other than inadmissibility. Of these, 9 decisions were rendered in favor of the defense counsel and 14 in favor of the prosecution. Meanwhile, the rate of inadmissibility stood at 80% in 2024, 76% in 2023, and 75% in 2022.



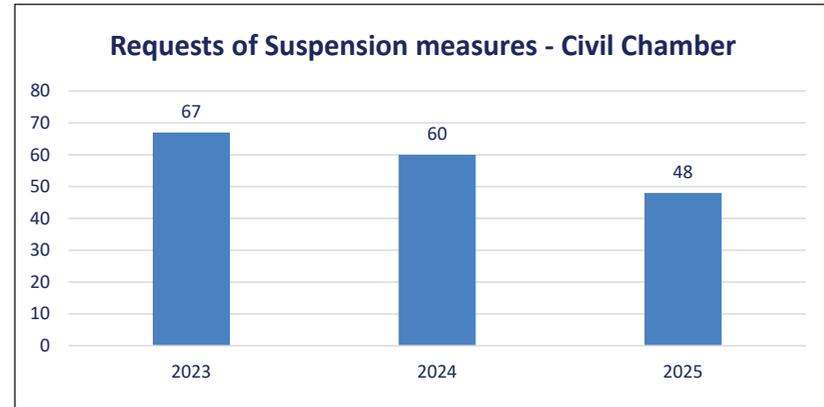
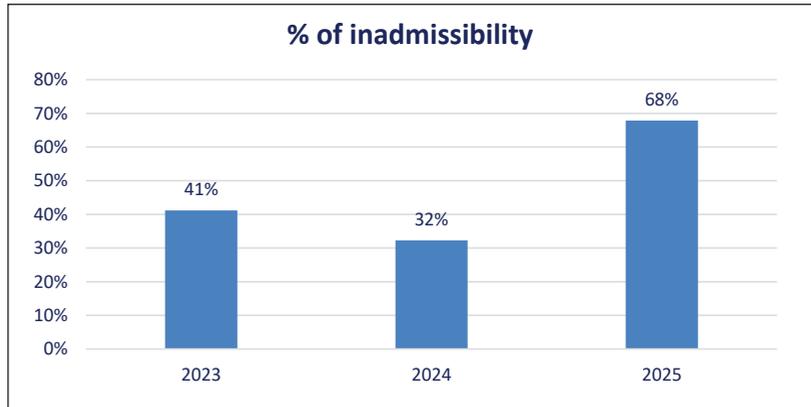
Decision-making on suspension measures in administrative cases

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of requests for suspension measures lodged with the Administrative Panel of the Supreme Court for the period 2023–2025. Particular attention has also been given to the

rate of inadmissibility of such requests. The data show that during 2025 a total of 56 requests for suspension measures were lodged with the Supreme Court, of which 50 were examined (89%). This figure is 42% lower than the number of suspension measures lodged with the Administrative Panel in 2024, but almost identical to the number lodged in 2023.



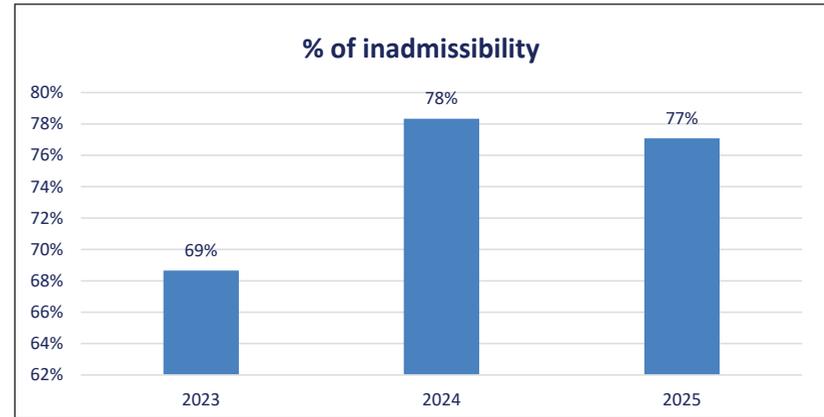
The statistical data for 2025 indicate a high rate of inadmissibility of requests for suspension measures by the Administrative Panel of the Supreme Court, amounting to 68%, whereas the rate of admissibility was higher in previous years, namely 68% in 2024 and 59% in 2023.



Decision-making on suspension measures in civil cases

The Supreme Court has also compiled statistical data on the number of requests for suspension measures lodged with the Civil Panel of the Supreme Court for the period 2023–2025. Particular attention has also been given to the rate of inadmissibility of such requests. The data show that during 2025 a total of 48 requests for suspension measures were lodged with the Supreme Court, of which 47 were examined (99%). This figure is 20% lower than the number of suspension measures lodged with the Civil Panel in 2024.

The statistical data indicate a consistently high rate of inadmissibility of requests for suspension measures by the Civil Panel of the Supreme Court, amounting to 77% in 2025, 78% in 2024, and 69% in 2023.



Workload per judge

The table and chart below present the workload per judge during 2025, disaggregated by panel.

Administrative Chamber

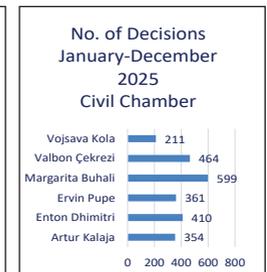
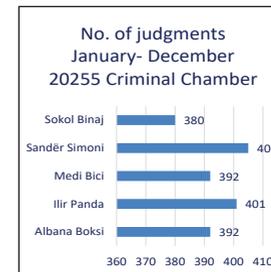
JUDGES	No. of judgments for 2025
<i>Arbena Ahmeti</i>	450
<i>Asim Vokshi</i>	341
<i>Enkelejda Metaliaj</i>	458
<i>Gentjan Medja</i>	464
<i>Sokol Ngresi</i>	489
<i>Sokol Sadushi</i>	305

Civil Chamber

JUDGES	No. of judgments for 2025
<i>Artur Kalaja</i>	354
<i>Enton Dhimitri</i>	410
<i>Ervin Pupe</i>	361
<i>Margarita Buhali</i>	599
<i>Valbon Çekrezi</i>	464
<i>Vojsava Kola</i>	211

Criminal Chamber

JUDGES	No. of judgments for 2025
<i>Albana Boksi</i>	392
<i>Ilir Panda</i>	401
<i>Medi Bici</i>	392
<i>Sandër Simoni</i>	405
<i>Sokol Binaj</i>	380



NR Indicator – Productivity Rate per Judge

The NR indicator, or Productivity Rate per Judge, is the core indicator of the average pace of work of a judge. For 2025, this indicator stands at 404 cases examined for 17 effective judges. However, when calculating only judges with full activity, excluding special health-related situations, the average workload amounts to 429 cases per judge. Taking both indicators into account, the weighted average workload for 2025 is estimated at approximately 417 cases per judge.

This indicator is calculated as the ratio between the number of cases resolved and the number of effective judges during the reporting period. When calculated by panel, the NR indicator amounts to 418 cases examined per judge for the Administrative Panel, 400 cases examined per judge for the Civil Panel, and 394 cases examined per judge for the Criminal Panel.

NR Indicator – Productivity Rate for the Legal Service Unit

The tables and charts below present the number of cases prepared by legal advisers. The Productivity Rate indicator for Legal Advisers stands at 229 case reports prepared per adviser. When calculated by panel, the NR indicator amounts to 278 cases per legal adviser in the Administrative Panel, 200 cases per legal adviser in the Civil Panel, and 220 cases per legal adviser in the Criminal Panel.

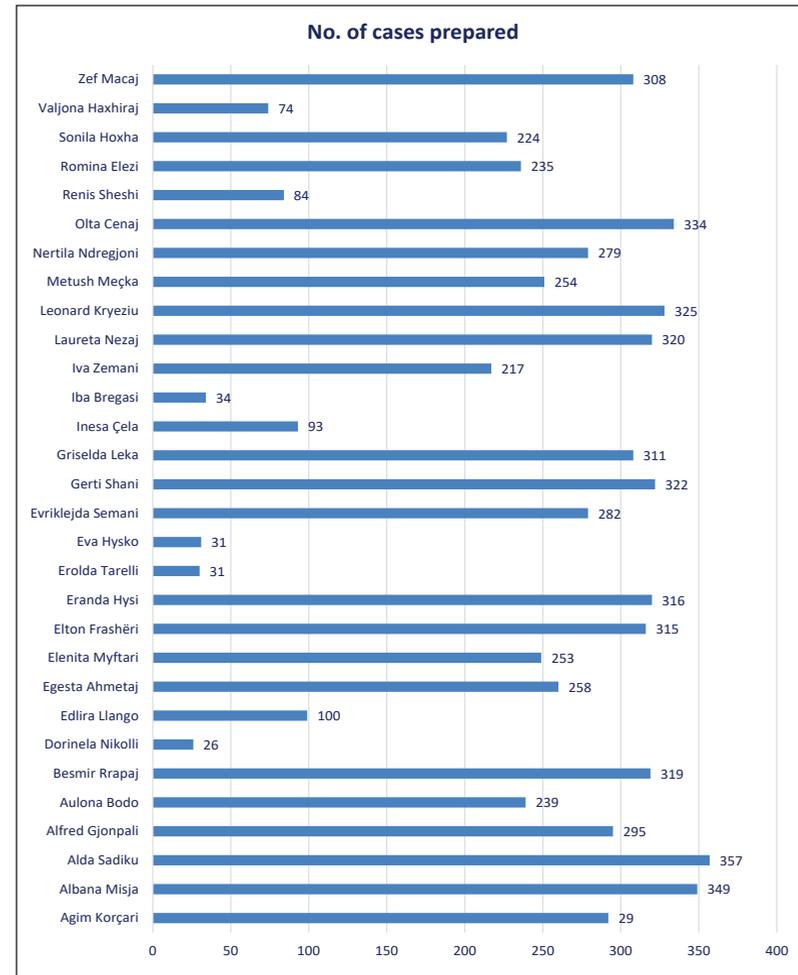
<i>Legal advisors at the Administrative Chamber</i>	Nr. of cases prepared
<i>Besmir Krapaj</i>	319
<i>Elton Frashëri</i>	315
<i>Eranda Hysi</i>	316
<i>Gerti Shani</i>	322
<i>Griselda Leka</i>	311
<i>Iva Bregasi</i>	34
<i>Iva Zemani</i>	217
<i>Leonard Kryeziu</i>	325
<i>Olta Cenaj</i>	334

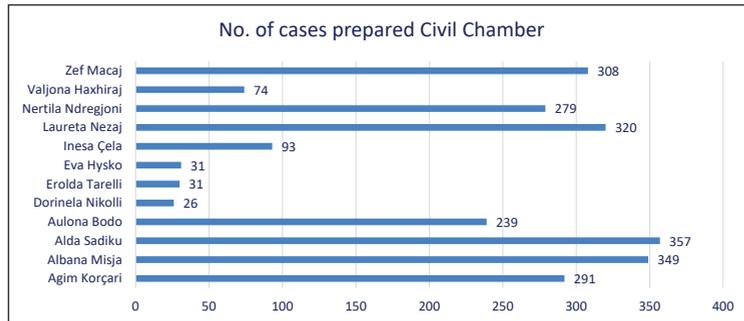
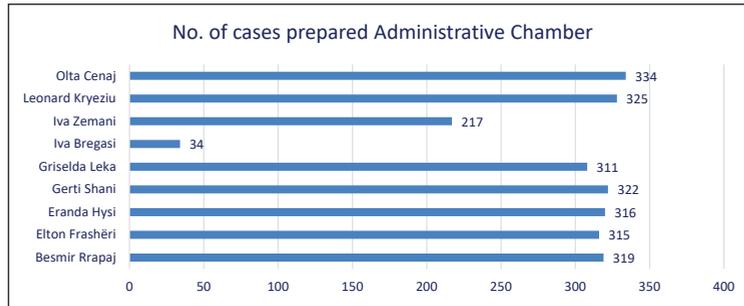
<i>Legal advisors at the Civil Chamber</i>	Nr. of cases prepared
<i>Agim Korçari</i>	291
<i>Albana Misja</i>	349
<i>Alda Sadiku</i>	357
<i>Aulona Bodo</i>	239
<i>Dorinela Nikolli</i>	26

Annual Performance Report
2025

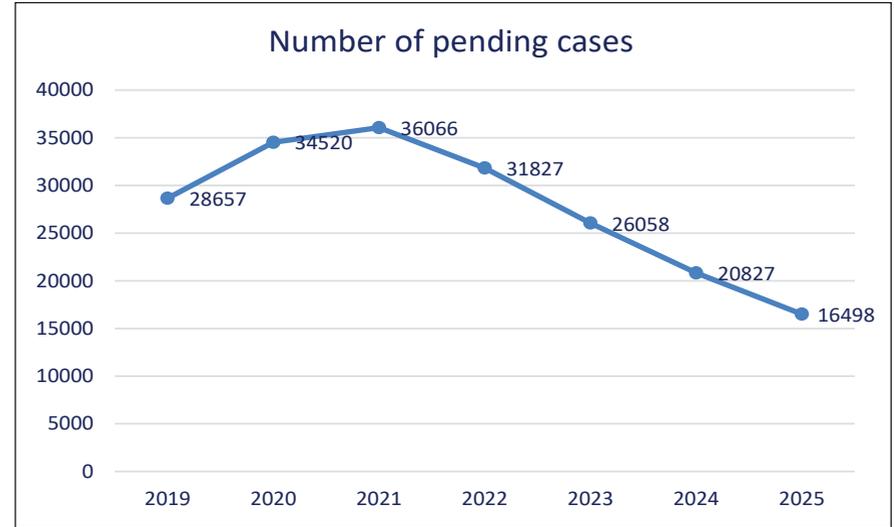
<i>Erolda Tarelli</i>	31
<i>Eva Hysko</i>	31
<i>Inesa Çela</i>	93
<i>Laureta Nezaq</i>	320
<i>Nertila Ndrejoni</i>	279
<i>Valjona Haxhiraj</i>	74
<i>Zef Macaj</i>	308

<i>Legal advisors at the Criminal Chamber</i>	Nr. of cases prepared
<i>Alfred Gjonpali</i>	295
<i>Edlira Llango</i>	100
<i>Egesta Ahmetaj</i>	260
<i>Elenita Myftari</i>	253
<i>Evriklejda Semani</i>	282
<i>Metush Meçka</i>	254
<i>Renis Sheshi</i>	84
<i>Romina Elezi</i>	235
<i>Sonila Hoxha</i>	224





Carried-over cases and backlog cases (backlog/stock)



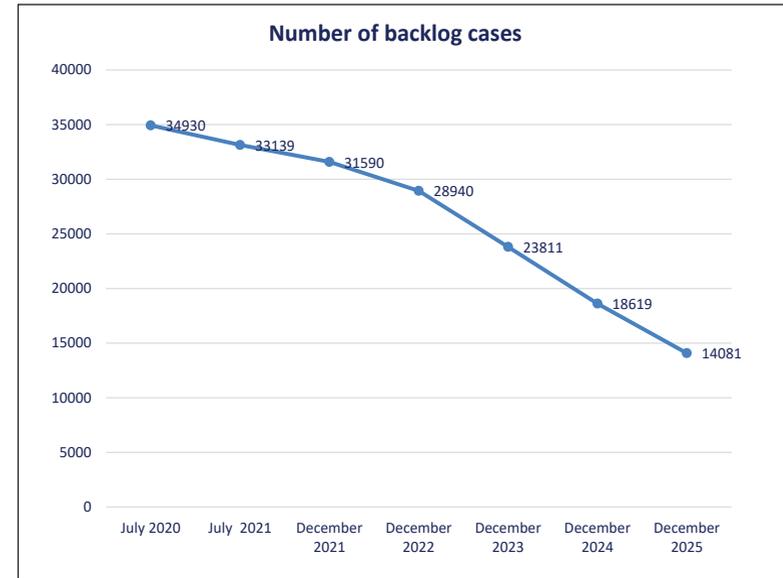
Since 2021, a downward trend in the number of carried-over cases has been observed, which continues to persist in 2025. Carried-over cases include all cases registered with the Court up to 31 December 2025 that have not yet been adjudicated. Not all carried-over cases are considered backlog cases. As of 31 December 2025, there are a total of 16,498 carried-over cases pending adjudication, of which 4,416 are administrative cases, 11,606 civil cases, and 476 criminal cases.

In 2019, the volume of carried-over cases increased significantly, by 20% in 2020 and by a further 4% in 2021. For the first time, this indicator declined in 2022, by 12% compared to 2021, followed by an 18% decrease in 2023 and a further 20% decrease in 2024. In 2025, the number of carried-over cases shows continued stability in its downward trend, with a reduction of 21% compared to 2024. If the 2025 indicator is compared with the peak level recorded in 2021, the reduction amounts to 54%.

For the purpose of calculating backlog cases, it is estimated that as of December 2025 a total of 14,081 cases qualify as backlog cases, namely those cases which, as of 31 December 2025, are older than 24 months in civil and administrative matters and older than 12 months in criminal matters. Backlog cases account for 85% of the total volume of carried-over cases.

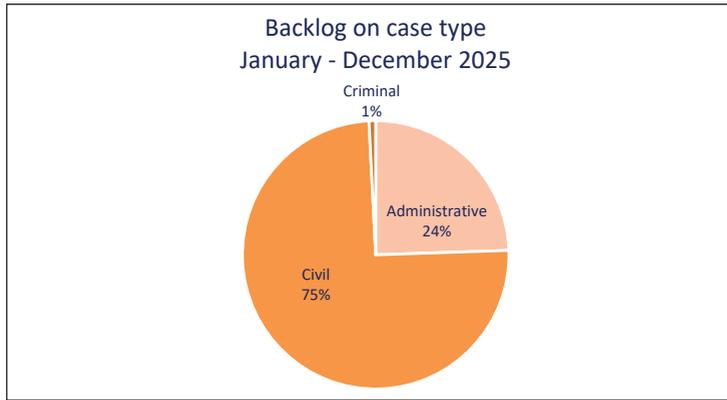
Type of cases	Backlog cases (older than 24 months for civil and administrative cases and older than 12 months for criminal cases)
Administrative	3446
Civil	10,521
Criminal	114
Total	14,081

The volume of pending cases has undergone a significant reduction compared with the calculations made in July 2020, July 2021, December 2021, December 2022, December 2023, December 2024, and December 2025.

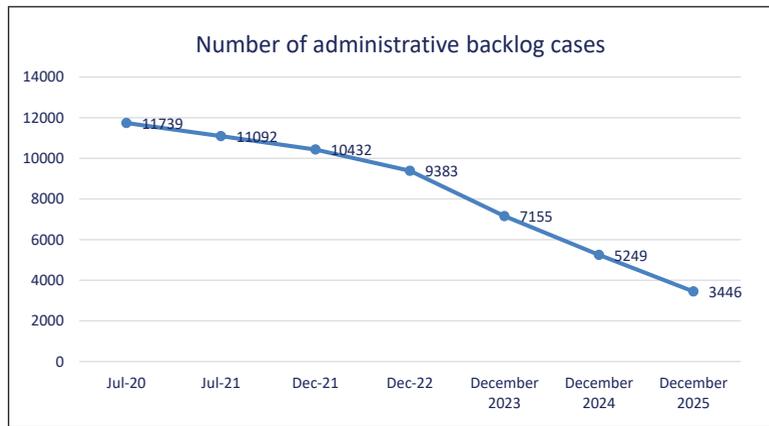


Starting from July 2020, the volume of backlog cases (stock) began to decline, decreasing by 5% in July 2021, by a further 5% in December 2021, by 8% in December 2022, by 18% in 2023, and by 22% in 2024. In 2025, the number of backlog cases continues to show a stable downward trend, with a reduction of 24% compared to the same indicator in 2024. Taken together, from July 2020—when the highest number of backlog cases was recorded—through December 2025, the volume of backlog cases has decreased by 62%.

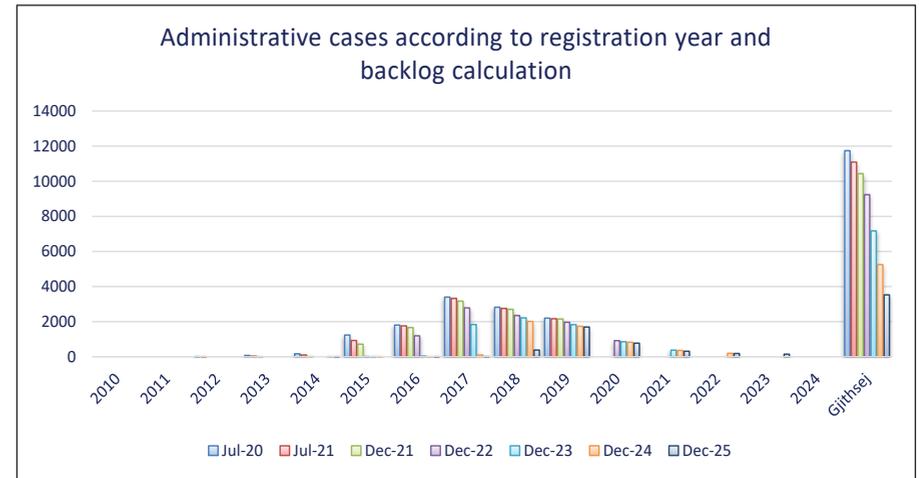
By their nature, backlog cases are categorized as follows: 75% civil, 24% administrative, and 1% criminal.



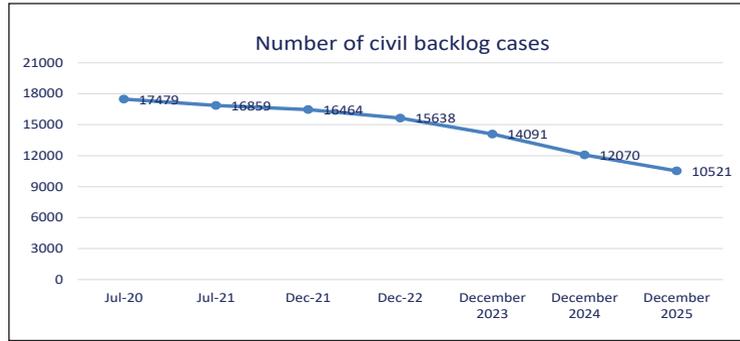
The volume of administrative backlog cases as of December 2025 decreased by 71% compared to the volume of administrative backlog cases recorded in July 2020.



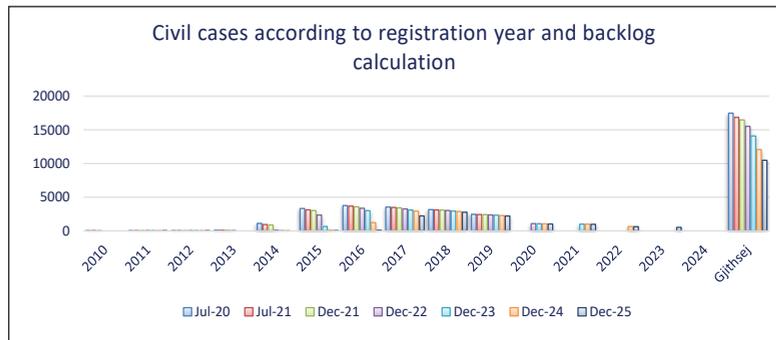
The following chart illustrates the number of administrative backlog cases by year of registration and by stock measurement periods—July 2020 and July 2021, December 2022, December 2023, December 2024, and December 2025. As the chart shows, in the December 2022 measurement, cases registered in the years 2010–2015 no longer appear as part of the backlog. In the December 2025 measurement, cases registered in the years 2017–2018 have been almost entirely adjudicated, with the backlog now extending into cases registered in 2019.



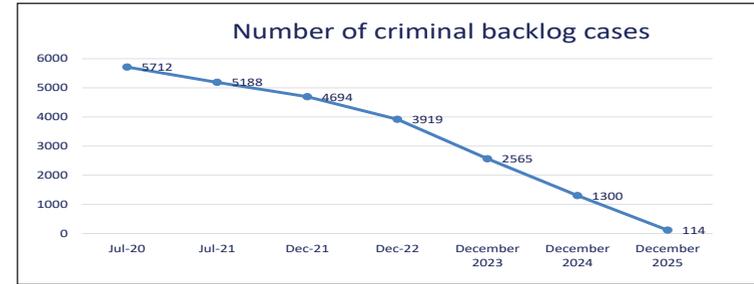
The volume of civil backlog cases as of December 2025 decreased by 40% compared to the volume of civil backlog cases recorded in July 2020.



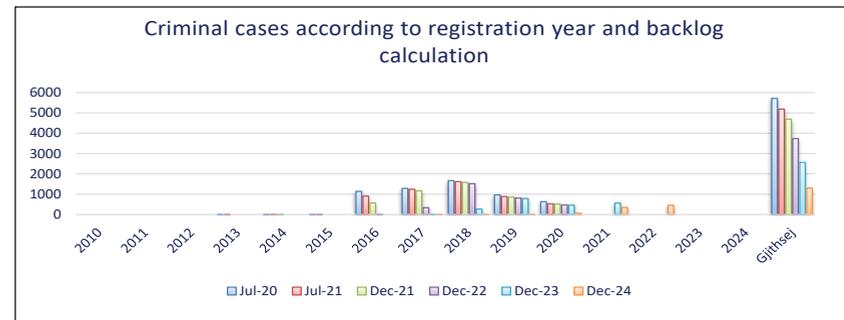
The chart below illustrates the number of civil backlog cases by year of registration and by stock measurement periods—July 2020 and July 2021, December 2021, December 2023, December 2024, and December 2025. As shown in the December 2025 measurement, cases registered in the years 2010–2014 no longer appear as part of the backlog, while cases registered in 2015 have been almost fully concluded. At present, the Civil Panel is adjudicating cases registered in the years 2016–2017.



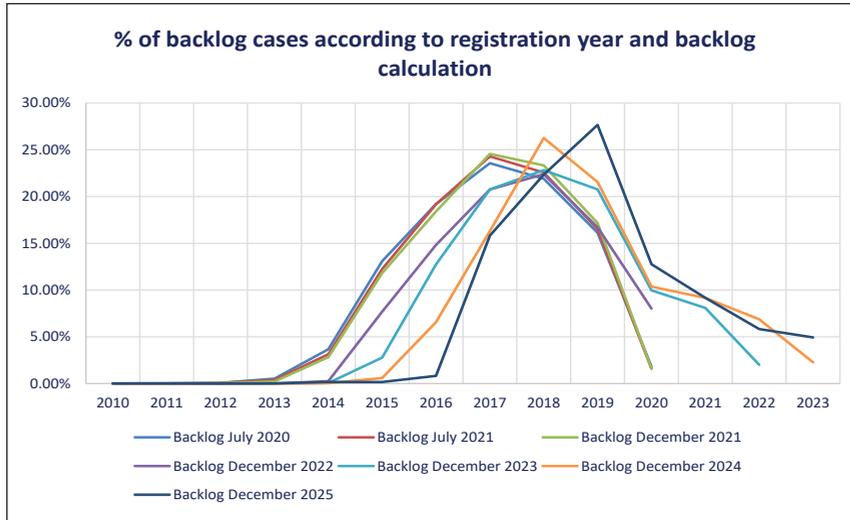
The volume of criminal backlog cases as of December 2025 decreased by 98% compared to the volume of criminal backlog cases recorded in July 2020.



The following chart illustrates the number of criminal backlog cases by year of registration and by stock measurement periods—July 2020 and July 2021, and December 2022, December 2023, December 2024, and December 2025. As shown in the December 2025 measurement, cases registered in the years 2010–2021 no longer appear as part of the backlog, while cases registered in 2022 have been almost entirely eliminated. At present, the Criminal Panel is adjudicating cases registered in the years 2023–2024.



The largest share of the backlog continues to consist of cases registered in 2019, while cases with earlier registration years are clearly and progressively decreasing.



In July 2021, the Supreme Court drafted the Action Plan for the Reduction of Backlog Cases, based on the High Judicial Council’s strategic plans for 2019–2020 and 2021–2023, as well as the “Roadmap for the Functioning of the Supreme Court.” Within this Action Plan, through Objective 3 “Prioritizing the reduction of backlog cases and preventing the accumulation of new stock, as a focus of the Supreme Court’s leadership structures” and with the support of the High Judicial Council and the continuous assistance of international partners, a methodology was developed to define the steps to be undertaken to reduce the number of backlog cases.

Following the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding between the High Judicial Council and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and subsequently with the support of the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Embassy in Albania, the Supreme Court has been supported with human resources aimed at reducing the number of backlog cases since 2020. Due to changes in United States policy in January 2025, the aforementioned project was discontinued as a result of the lack of funding.

This interruption had immediate consequences for the operational capacities of the Supreme Court, significantly increasing the workload in adjudication and filtering processes, which had previously relied on the project’s technical and logistical assistance. As a result, the Court was faced with the need to reabsorb substantial volumes of work within its existing structures, once again highlighting the importance of sustainable institutional support and adequate resources for the effective fulfillment of its constitutional functions.

With the aim of mitigating the immediate effects of the loss of project-based capacities, and in light of the experience developed by these capacities over the preceding years, the Supreme Court submitted a request to the High Judicial Council for the allocation of emergency funds. This request sought to finance these capacities for a period of several months, until the establishment of an appropriate mechanism that would enable the Court to cope with the workload related to case filtering. As of the end of 2025, this request had not been met with budgetary funds, which further affected the workload borne by the existing structures.

PERFORMANCE OF MANAGEMENT BODIES

General Assembly of Judges

The General Assembly of Judges has been oriented toward contributing to essential matters related to the judicial activity of the Supreme Court and its governing bodies, by holding periodic meetings during which judges discussed the progress of the process of reducing the backlog at the Supreme Court and the organizational measures to be taken for its reduction, issues of a legal nature, as well as other non-judicial decision-making matters that, by law, fall within its competence. This body of the Court also convened to discuss the Draft New Criminal Code, as a result of which a document containing the Supreme Court's suggestions and criticisms was prepared. This document was forwarded to the Minister of Justice for information.

By Decision No. 3, dated 26.11.2025, the General Assembly of the Supreme Court decided to declare the termination of the mandate of Judge Asim Vokshi, due to his election as a judge of the Constitutional Court.

By Decision No. 4, dated 9 December 2025, the General Assembly of the Supreme Court approved the organization of the ceremony for the *Opening of the 2026 Judicial Year*.

Special Assembly of Judges

Via Decision No. 2, dated 30.09.2025, the Special Assembly of Judges approved the election of Mr. Asim Vokshi as a judge of the Constitutional Court.

The Supreme Courts Council

During 2025 as well, the Council of the Supreme Court held several meetings at which important discussions were conducted and decisions were adopted, in accordance with its statutory competences, concerning the administrative activity of the structures of the Supreme Court, as follows:

- Decision No. 6, dated 10.04.2025, on the approval of Phase I of the Supreme Court's Draft Budget for the years 2026–2028;
- Decision No. 7, dated 10.04.2025, on the approval of the structure, staffing plan, job descriptions, and classification of positions of the employees of the Supreme Court;
- Decision No. 10, dated 27.06.2025, on the establishment of a temporary adjudicating panel within the Civil Chamber and the appointment to its composition of two judges from the Administrative Chamber;
- Decision No. 15, dated 10.10.2025, on certain amendments to Decision No. 6, dated 21.03.2024, "*On the designation of judges to the composition of the Chambers of the Supreme Court and the designation of judges to the composition of adjudicating panels of each chamber.*"
- Decisions on the recruitment of judicial civil servants and the granting of judicial civil servant status.

In accordance with the legal provisions governing the transparency of the proceedings of the Council of the Court, the relevant decision, as well as the summarized version of the minutes of the meeting, have been published on the official website of the Supreme Court.

The President of the Court

In fulfilment of his statutory obligations, the President of the Supreme Court carried out all leadership functions with the aim of ensuring the proper conduct of the Court's judicial and administrative activities, as well as representing the institution in its relations with domestic and international bodies. Through the orders issued by him, efforts were made to improve the work processes of the Court's administrative structures and to achieve better coordination among them, with a view to enhancing the quality of judicial services.

Within the framework of the proper administration of justice at the Supreme Court, the President addressed the HJC on several occasions, requesting an increase in the number of contract-based employees. Immediately following the completion of the INL project, which assisted the Court with the preliminary processing of backlog case files by staff who were trained on the job for this purpose, the Court requested an assessment of the possibility of contracting part-time specialists pursuant to DCM No. 39, dated 24.01.2024. Furthermore, placing emphasis on the increasingly aggravated situation in the courts of appeal as well as in the Supreme Court, the Chair addressed an additional request, supported by the two courts of appeal in the country, seeking the undertaking of a legislative initiative aimed at increasing the capacity of the courts through the addition of administrative staff for a period of one year, with the purpose of reducing the number of pending cases (tens of thousands at the appellate level) and the average workload per judge, objectives that cannot be achieved other than through emergency measures.

These emergency measures are necessary in order to improve the length of proceedings and to prevent violations of the right to a trial within a reasonable time, the ultimate aim of which is to increase public confidence in the justice system.

Also during 2025, in fulfilment of the obligations arising from the legal framework governing the Justice Appointments Council (JAC), the President of the Supreme Court provided continuous administrative, organizational, and human resources support with a view to ensuring the performance of the functional duties of the JAC. During 2025, the President also chaired the activity of the JAC, alongside his responsibilities at the Supreme Court and the Administrative Chamber.

Furthermore, the President of the Supreme Court, in his *ex officio* capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the School of Magistrates, convened and chaired the meetings of the School's Governing Council, during which a number of decisions were adopted on various matters related to the proper functioning of the School.

The Chancellor

The Acting Chancellor, as the structure responsible for the management of judicial administration, has taken all administrative and organizational measures to fulfil the functional duties related to coordinating the work of the Court's structures in addressing the workload, the allocation of cases by random assignment, the supervision of the collection and processing of judicial statistics, the performance of tasks delegated by the President, the maintenance of the Court building—including authorizing the adaptation of its internal premises and the creation of appropriate working conditions—and the ongoing liaison with the HJC on matters related to the functioning of the Court's structures, among others.

The Chancellor continues to serve in this position on an acting basis. The President of the Supreme Court has consistently expressed interest in accelerating the recruitment and selection process for this position, to be conducted by the HJC and the School of Magistrates respectively, with the aim of finalizing the appointment of a permanent Chancellor, in accordance with the criteria prescribed by law for this purpose.

PERFORMANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES

Documentation Centre

The Documentation Centre is an essential support structure to the Supreme Court, whose tasks consist of systematically analysing case law, by carefully selecting the most important judicial decisions and publishing them in various forms, preparing materials and conducting legal research to support the decision-making of the Court.



Systematic jurisprudence analyses



Selection of the most important decisions



Publication of the decisions



Legal Research

The work of the Documentation Centre continued in 2025 with a focus on the analysis of the Supreme Court's case-law and the ongoing enrichment and dissemination of the bulletin with important judicial decisions. During 2025, thematic bulletins were also published for each chamber, structured according to the most frequent or most significant issues arising from the Supreme Court's decision-making¹⁶.

16. Thematic Bulletin No. 12 – Financial valuation of property by the Agency for the Treatment of Property (ATP) and notification deadlines pursuant to Law No. 133/2015, as amended; Thematic Bulletin No. 11 – Security instruments in contractual obligations.

Throughout 2025, the Documentation Centre operated with a staff structure consisting of eight specialists, pending the completion of its managerial structure, which is expected to result in improved performance and enhanced administrative activity. To date, the Centre's activity has been guided and carried out in close cooperation with Ms. Arta Vorpsi, Director of the President's Cabinet at the Supreme Court. With the aim of completing the Centre's managerial structure—namely the positions of sector head and director—a request was submitted to the High Judicial Council for an increase in the number of staff allocated to this unit, which is in clear need of better organization following a four-year period of functioning in line with expectations. The appointment of the respective managers would provide a qualitative boost to this unit, which may now be considered consolidated and ready to advance to a higher level of professionalism, in order to respond more effectively to the needs of the judicial bodies.

The staff of the Centre were trained in accordance with the annual training plan, through specialized seminars organized in cooperation with international partners with whom the Supreme Court has established agreements, such as the Council of Europe and EU4Justice. As a result of these activities carried out throughout 2025, an improvement in the quality of work has been observed, as well as more efficient responses to requests from the judicial bodies for

Thematic Bulletin No. 10 – Application of the conditions for authorising extradition;

the identification of the case-law of the Albanian Supreme Court and its counterpart courts. The assistance of international partners has contributed to capacity-building and to the enhancement of the technological skills of the Documentation Centre.

A particular focus of the Centre's work during 2025 was the monitoring of the case-law of the Albanian Constitutional Court and the European Court of Human Rights, which were carefully analysed with regard to their impact on adjudication before the Supreme Court. Overall, an increased use of information technology tools has been noted in the performance of the daily tasks of the Centre's staff, including the research of case-law, preparation of research materials, enrichment of the institution's library, and publication of judicial decisions. Nevertheless, the need for access to additional research resources in online libraries and archives remains.

The database of indexed Supreme Court decisions, "JUDIX", continued to be populated by the specialists of the Centre. This electronic archive of Supreme Court decisions—where judgments are categorized according to specific criteria and data in order to facilitate case-law research for both internal and external users—is now fully operational. Ownership of the database was definitively transferred to the Supreme Court by the German IRZ Foundation on 22 January 2025. The database allows searches of decisions by title, keywords, legal basis, reporting judge, adjudicating panel, parties, date of decision, decision number, holding, and summary. JUDIX is continuously updated with decisions and is currently used by both internal and external users of the Court.

As of the end of 2025, approximately 2,000 Supreme Court decisions have been uploaded, marking a significant increase compared to 2024, which concluded with approximately 600 decisions. The objective of the Documentation Centre is to further increase this number to approximately 3,000 decisions by the end of 2026, thereby making database searches more comprehensive and exhaustive for the needs of the institution, as well as for external users who may wish to remain continuously informed of selected Supreme Court decisions over the years. In addition, a dedicated e-library section is being developed, which will include supporting and research materials prepared by the Centre, for reference by judges and legal advisers of the Court.

Currently, as of the end of 2025, the "JUDIX" database has 633 registered users, who may access the necessary decisions by completing the relevant search fields.

A new initiative aimed at accelerating the population of the database involved a three-month attachment of selected students from the Faculty of Law to the Documentation Centre. These students contributed to the selection of a portion of decisions over the years, as well as to the extraction of key metadata from decisions under the continuous supervision of the Centre's specialists. This practice yielded positive results and was followed by the issuance of certificates and positive evaluations regarding both the level of engagement and the outcomes achieved in relation to expectations. Based on this highly positive experience, among the objectives planned for 2026, the Documentation Centre aims to continue the existing program through the implementation of a structured training curriculum.

🔍 Kërko

↻ Pastro Kërkimin

Totali i Vendimeve - 1902

Numri i Aktit	Fusha e së Drejtës	Titulli Vendimit	Veprimi
11217-04049-00-2017	E drejtë civile E drejtë procedurale civile E drejtë kontraktore.	Riçelja e pjeshme e shqyrtimit gjyqësor në fazën e gjykimit në apel për të marrë provë e re në mungesë të njoftimit të palëve.	
31003-02153-00-2017	E drejtë administrative.	Në rastin e mosrimbursimit të tepriçës kreditore të njohur pala paditëse nuk mund të konsiderohet se ka qenë në vonesë për mospagimin e detyrimeve në afat.	
11243-01576-00-2017	E drejtë civile E drejta e pronësisë. E drejtë procedurale civile	Anullimi i pjesëshëm të vendimit të ZRKKP për shkak mbivendosje pasurie	

During 2025, the activity of the Documentation Centre in disseminating the case-law of the Supreme Court was not limited to the preparation of annual publications of the most prominent decisions in the form of physical editions produced by this structure, but also extended to electronic mechanisms, through the distribution of the Supreme Court's electronic informational bulletin. In this way, legal practitioners and any interested individual are given the opportunity to become acquainted with the most recent selected case-law of the Supreme Court and of the European Court of Human Rights against Albania, as well as with the most significant activities of the institution. During 2025, the Documentation Centre prepared and distributed to readers eight Periodic Bulletins and three Thematic Bulletins. It is worth noting that, in total, forty-one issues have been published over the period 2022–2025. Currently, the number of subscribers to the

electronic bulletin stands at 2,820, while readers have been provided with 1,047 judicial decisions (of which 926 are decisions of the Supreme Court and 121 are judgments of the European Court of Human Rights against Albania).

Taking into account the increased interest shown by readers in the Thematic Bulletins, one of the focuses of the Documentation Centre for 2026 will be the more frequent publication of such bulletins for each chamber, as well as the updating of the existing ones. Starting from December, the Periodic Bulletin has also begun to be updated with the case-law of the Italian Court of Cassation and the French Court of Cassation. This practice is expected to continue throughout 2026 and to be expanded to include decisions of courts from other European countries.

Publications and Statistics Unit

The process of publishing judicial decisions is specific in nature and of great public importance, as it is not only related to increasing the level of transparency of the Supreme Court's activity, but also to educating legal professionals and the public at large with regard to familiarity with judicial practice. Currently, the judicial decisions of the Supreme Court are published in full on its official website, which is easily accessible. In this regard, the Publication and Statistics Sector aims to draft and continuously update the database of judicial decisions in both full-text and abbreviated (summarized) form, in accordance with scientific criteria.



This sector of the Centre enabled the distribution of the Court’s electronic informational bulletin by selecting the most important decisions in the following order:

- decisions of the Joint Chambers of the Supreme Court;
- unifying decisions of the three chambers of the Supreme Court;
- decisions introducing novel interpretations (for the development of judicial practice) issued by the three chambers of the Supreme Court;
- decisions of the three chambers of the Supreme Court addressing the most frequent issues identified in the decision-making of lower courts;

- decisions of a diverse nature as to subject matter and object, issued by the three chambers of the Supreme Court;
- jurisdictional/competence decisions of the three chambers of the Supreme Court;
- decisions of the three chambers concerning special proceedings;
- decisions concerning incidental review initiated by the Supreme Court.

An important area of activity of this sector of the Centre relates to statistics. During 2025, the Supreme Court processed and transmitted the following statistical data:

Thematic statistics addressed to the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council, and the Institute of Statistics. These statistics were transmitted to these institutions regarding incoming cases, adjudicated cases, and pending cases, broken down by specific categories. Such statistics are produced four times per year, for quarterly periods, as well as on an annual basis;

Statistics on track records of criminal offences related to corruption and organized crime addressed to the Ministry of Justice, produced every three months throughout 2025.

Furthermore, within the framework of the “Peer Mission” related to Organized Crime and Corruption for 2025, data were transmitted concerning eight cases involving high-level corruption (including corruption in public procurement), abuse of office, organized crime, and money laundering, which were adjudicated by the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court during the period 2022–2025.

Legal research and Library Unit

This sector focuses its activity primarily on the study of the Court's case-law, the research and identification of legal literature and doctrine, in physical or electronic form, and the identification of similar cases addressed by foreign jurisprudence, in support of the Court's Chambers and the Joint Chambers in matters relating to the unification and modification of judicial practice. Likewise, concise summaries of the judgments of the Strasbourg and Luxembourg Courts have been prepared, with the aim of keeping the Supreme Court updated on their case-law, as well as facilitating the development of, or participation in, scientific conferences.

Constitutional and legislative amendments have redefined the role of the Supreme Court with regard to the unification of judicial practice. In this context, legal research, the study, analysis, and processing of judicial decisions constitute an important activity for the unification of judicial practice, the guarantee of legal certainty through the uniform interpretation of the law, and the dissemination of legal information and legal culture in general. This sector has reflected the state of the Court's jurisprudence on specific issues, thereby contributing to increased effectiveness, consistency of judicial practice, and the reduction of the number of judicial disputes brought before the Supreme Court.

During 2025, a quantitative and qualitative increase in the materials prepared by this sector has been observed. Some of these works are presented as follows:

- summaries of decisions of the Constitutional Court that have identified issues related to the decision-making of the Chambers of the Supreme

Court, for the period 2016–2025 (material under update);

- summaries of decisions of the Constitutional Court related to the institute of incidental review, provided for in Article 145 of the Constitution, for the period 2016–2025 (material under update);
- material concerning the procedural status of the applicant in review proceedings;
- material concerning personal security measures, domestic case-law, and an overview of European practice;
- material concerning the participation of the prosecutor in proceedings for the verification of security needs;
- material on the application of the principle of reciprocity between States Parties to conventions, in extradition relations and procedures;
- material on the criminal offence of false reporting by a public official;
- material on EncroChat, its origin, and related judicial practice;
- material on aspects of jurisdiction, applicable law, recognition, enforcement, and cooperation in matters relating to parental responsibility, measures for the protection of children, and the habitual residence of minors;
- summaries of unifying, modifying, and interpretative decisions of the Supreme Court concerning the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, including those related to the Constitutional Court's case-law on such provisions;
- case-law research on a wide range of institutes of administrative, criminal, and civil law.

It is worth noting that several research works were carried out in relation to the questions posed by the Network of Supreme Courts, established within the framework of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights, of which the Supreme Court is a member.



Likewise, one of the tasks of the Legal Research and Library Sector has been the enrichment of the Supreme Court's library with contemporary legal literature. During this year, additional book titles were acquired in physical format, and the legal database was updated to meet operational needs. It

should be emphasized that the current environment and space of the library are not fully suitable for the preservation of the book collection, nor for its full use by users. The enrichment of the collection with contemporary foreign-language publications in the fields of civil, administrative, and criminal law—primarily of a comparative nature—remains a priority for 2026 as well.

The reorganization of the institution's library, initiated in 2025 with the aim of improving physical conditions and facilitating access for all interested users, continued during 2026. As a result, the possibility has been created to access titles physically available in the library according to requests or needs. In addition, several of the most important titles, as well as some of the most significant older legal acts, have been scanned. It is recommended that consideration be given to the creation of an online library or a digitized archive, in which scanned titles would be organized according to their nature, and that efforts continue to expand this archival collection with older legal acts serving as a means of preserving the legal heritage of the Supreme Court.

With the support of international institutions with which the Documentation Centre cooperates, and with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of this administrative unit, the following trainings and conferences were attended:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Training/ Activity</i>	<i>Knowledge and skills gained</i>
<i>February 2025</i>	Practical training on improving legal research and the drafting of judicial decisions, delivered by Mr. Gianluigi Pratola, Deputy Prosecutor General at the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy, made possible by the Council of Europe;	This training enhanced judicial harmonization and highlighted advanced research methodologies inspired by the model of the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy. The program encouraged the application of best practices within the Supreme Court with regard to improving techniques for drafting holdings (maxims), summaries, and keywords.
<i>September 2025</i>	Harmonization Forum, on the uniform and coherent application of domestic judicial practice in accordance with the standards of the European Court of Human Rights, made possible by the Council of Europe;	The Forum shared perspectives on the application of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights and European standards concerning due process of law, the length of proceedings, and effective legal remedies. This activity represented an important step toward a more unified and efficient judiciary, aligned with European human rights standards.
<i>October 2025</i>	Study visit to the Supreme Court of Portugal and the High Council of the Judiciary of Portugal, made possible by the Council of Europe;	The aim of the study visit was to improve case management practices and judicial research, in line with European standards.
<i>November 2025</i>	Webinar entitled “Protecting the Rights of Others Online”, organized by the Network of Supreme Courts attached to the European Court of Human Rights;	The webinar addressed topics such as protection against hate speech, the right to private life, and the balancing of the right to private life with freedom of expression.

<i>November 2025</i>	Training on the writing and reasoning of judicial decisions, made possible by EU4Justice.	This interactive training, grounded in best practices of the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation, focused on judicial harmonization, research methodologies, and structured approaches to producing clear and coherent judicial decisions.
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Linguistic editor

The Documentation Centre also includes a language editor, who is tasked with editing the judicial decisions of the Supreme Court and its other acts. In light of the editor’s duties, and with the support of the Cabinet of the President of the Supreme Court, roundtable discussions have been organized with legal advisers for the purpose of exchanging ideas on improving the language used in the content of judicial decisions. A number of standard rules have been established, compliance with which must be ensured by judges, legal advisers, the language editor, and the registry, prior to the reasoned decision being served on the parties or published.

The language editor also contributes to the proper functioning of the Supreme Court’s library. For 2026, an increase in the capacity of judicial editors is envisaged, in view of the high volume of decisions issued by the Chambers of the Supreme Court. Furthermore, following the updating of the Albanian language through the new Albanian–Albanian dictionary published in 2024 by the Academy of Sciences of Albania, it is intended to organize various awareness and familiarization activities to update court staff (legal assistants and judicial registry staff) on the changes introduced by the dictionary.

Directorate of Public and External Relations

During the period January–December 2025, the Directorate of Public Relations and External Relations carried out its activities in full compliance with the assigned duties, in accordance with its functional objectives. Throughout this period, public and media relations services were delivered with professionalism, accuracy, and responsibility, ensuring the implementation of the right to information, enhancing the transparency of the institutional activity of the Supreme Court of Albania, and ensuring compliance with legislation on the protection of personal data.

The Directorate maintained continuous and structured contact with the media and the public through various institutional communication channels, ensuring equal, objective, and non-discriminatory treatment for all interested parties. Informative meetings and communications were held with media representatives, who were regularly informed about the activities of the President of the Supreme Court, the work of the Criminal, Civil, and Administrative Chambers, court hearings, as well as the activities of the Justice Appointments Council (JAC).

Institutional information was reflected in real time on the official website of the Supreme Court (www.gjykataelarte.gov.al), under the section dedicated to Public and Media Relations, thereby strengthening transparency and public access to official information. With a view to fostering closer engagement with the public, the official social media channels of the Supreme Court (Facebook, LinkedIn, and YouTube) were used actively and consistently throughout 2025 for the publication of announcements, activities, decisions, and information of public interest, contributing to increased speed of information dissemination and enhanced institutional interaction with citizens.

Particular importance was given to the continuation and consolidation of the “Open Court” initiative, which aims to expand public access to the institution of the Supreme Court. This initiative enabled citizens, researchers, legal practitioners, students, and school pupils to attend court hearings or visit the institution through a simple electronic application process. During 2025, public interest in this initiative continued to grow, reflecting increased trust and a greater demand for transparency and understanding of the functioning of the judicial system.

Public Relations and Media Unit

In 2025, the Public Relations Sector focused on maintaining close relations with the public. The processing of requests and information constituted one of the main objectives of the Sector’s daily work, encompassing not only the provision of information requested by the public, but also a serious commitment to educating and guiding users regarding the ways of accessing information. Another important aspect was guiding users in the use of the Supreme Court’s official website, with the aim of facilitating access to information by promoting constructive suggestions.

The Public Relations and Media Sector functioned as a key contact point for the public, providing information and support during the designated working hours. It guided court users by responding in writing or via electronic mail to requests from individuals and institutions, and by accurately directing them to other offices of the judicial administration of the Supreme Court, as appropriate.

One of the concerns identified during the annual activity relates to the high level of emotional burden and tension with which users of court services often approach the Public Relations Sector. This situation, dictated by the sensitive nature of judicial proceedings, high expectations for information, and the lack of specialized legal knowledge, creates ongoing challenges in communication with citizens and increases the need for heightened professional and human engagement on the part of staff. These situations, which are not isolated cases, have been addressed by the responsible staff not only with professional and procedural competence, but also with well-developed communication skills, empathy, and increased attentiveness, with the aim of ensuring correct, dignified service in line with the Court's institutional standards. Nevertheless, in light of the growing number of such cases, the need arises to strengthen support capacities, both in terms of human resources and specialized training in communication and the management of emotionally charged situations.

During 2025, a total of 852 requests, complaints, and submissions were handled (up to 04.12.2025), more than half of which were submitted via electronic mail. This fact highlights the increased use of this communication platform, which has ensured faster and cost-free access for users, reinforcing trust in this mode of communication as effective and reliable. Close cooperation between the Public Relations Office and other sectors of the administration particularly the Directorate of Judicial Administration and the Directorate of Information Technology and Security enabled the provision of more comprehensive services and more efficient follow-up of requests and complaints. This cooperation contributed to service improvement and facilitated case follow-up, ensuring an uninterrupted and transparent flow of information and requests.

In addition, it was observed that some users encountered difficulties in locating information on the official website of the Supreme Court, an issue that has been addressed in cooperation with the Directorate of Information Technology and Security. As a result, efforts are underway to improve the website by adding more user-friendly options and enabling easier and more efficient access in the future.

In an effort to provide even more advanced services, it is planned that by the end of the first half of 2026, information for each judicial case will be centralized in a designated location, to be updated in line with developments in the case. This step will facilitate the process for interested litigating parties, enabling easier and faster access to the required information concerning their cases, while broader information for other interested groups, such as lawyers and researchers, will continue to remain available.

The Coordinator for the Right to Information at the Supreme Court also processed requests based on Law No. 119/2014, "On the Right to Information," as amended, providing responses within the statutory deadlines and free of charge. During 2025, a total of 33 requests were handled (up to 04.12.2025) in accordance with this law, ensuring that users had prompt and accurate access to information. In an effort to provide careful and efficient service, measures were also taken to assist users coming from distant cities, by guiding them to use the telephone as an alternative means of obtaining the information they require. This ensured that no user was left without support, regardless of potential technological limitations.

Public interaction with the Public Relations Office, and the trust built as evidenced by verbal and written feedback, not only serve as indicators of effective performance but also as motivation for future challenges and continuous service improvement. The Public Relations Sector made visible progress in 2025, providing careful, prompt, and cost-free services to the public. The work of this office encompassed not only improved communication and access to information, but also a sustained commitment to meeting the needs of citizens and institutions. This commitment and inter-institutional cooperation will continue to be a key factor in enhancing service quality and ensuring the provision of appropriate information to all users.

External Relations Unit

The External Relations Sector successfully fulfilled its duties and objectives during 2025, supporting the functioning and mission of the Supreme Court with a view to ensuring the dignified representation of the institution at the international level. The Sector was active in organizing international activities, both domestically and abroad, and in strengthening cooperation with counterpart institutions and international organizations, thereby contributing to the expansion of the Supreme Court's international cooperation network.

Among the most important activities in which the Supreme Court participated during 2025 are the following: the Opening Ceremony of the Judicial Year of the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, 31 January 2025); the 16th Meeting of the Task Force on Access to Justice under the Aarhus Convention, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for

Europe (Geneva, 18–19 February 2025); the Third Gender Equality Forum for the Western Balkans, organized by the AIRE Centre (Skopje, 7 March 2025); the XV Congress of the International Association of Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions (IASAJ) (Santiago, Chile, 2–4 April 2025); the World Law Congress (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 4–6 May 2025); the Forum of the Network of Supreme Courts of the European Court of Human Rights (Strasbourg, 5–6 June 2025); the VIII Congress of AHJUCAF, organized in partnership with the Supreme Court of Morocco and the World Organization of La Francophonie (Rabat, 2–4 July 2025); the Harmonization Forum on the uniform and coherent application of domestic judicial practice in accordance with the standards of the European Court of Human Rights, organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe (Durrës, 18–19 September 2025); the Annual Conference of the European Law Institute (ELI) (Vienna, 22–24 September 2025); the study visit to the Supreme Court of Portugal, supported by the Council of Europe (Lisbon, 6–9 October 2025); the Annual Conference of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Courts of the European Union (The Hague, 13–15 November 2025); and the Second International Justice Conference, held at the invitation of the Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh, 23–24 November 2025), among others.

With a view to exchanging experience and strengthening international cooperation among judicial institutions in the region, one of the most significant achievements of 2025 was the revival—after a ten-year hiatus—of the Conference of Presidents of the Supreme Courts of Central and Eastern Europe. This conference was held in Vlora on 9–10 June 2025, under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Albania, in cooperation with the CEELI

Institute, and recorded the participation of eleven delegations from countries of the region and beyond.

A landmark event of 2025 was the participation of the Supreme Court, with a comprehensive delegation, in the World Law Congress held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 4–6 May 2025, at the invitation of the President of the World Jurists Association, Mr. Javier Cremades. During this event, the President of the Supreme Court, judges, and legal advisers actively contributed to several panels of the Congress, presenting the experience and developments of the Albanian justice system. Through this participation, the Supreme Court affirmed its role as an active and contributing actor in the international debate on challenges and developments in the field of justice, while simultaneously strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and the exchange of experiences with other legal systems.

Furthermore, within the framework of further strengthening cooperation with the ACA-Europe, a significant contribution was made to the organization of and participation by the Supreme Court in a number of international activities, including: a seminar organized in cooperation with the Council of State of the Netherlands and the Council of State of Belgium (The Hague, 17–18 March 2025); the General Assembly and Seminar of ACA-Europe, organized in cooperation with the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland (Helsinki, 25–27 May 2025); and the ACA-Europe Seminar organized in cooperation with the Council of State of Greece (Athens, 10–11 November 2025).

Within the framework of its membership in the Network of Supreme Courts of

the European Court of Human Rights, the Supreme Court participated in the publication of the Network’s anniversary book¹⁷ in which the contributions of the Supreme Court’s Focal points reflected the experience gained and the benefits derived from membership in the Network. Within the same framework, the Supreme Court undertook, for the first time, an initiative to research best practices among the supreme courts participating in the Network concerning the legal consequences arising from Articles 6, 8, and 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights in cases relating to the habitual residence of children in another State. This initiative stemmed from cases submitted for unification before the Civil Chamber and resulted in responses from approximately thirty different member States of the Council of Europe. Beyond its contribution to the harmonization of domestic jurisprudence with that of Council of Europe member States, this initiative also aims to enhance horizontal exchange and cooperation among supreme courts.

With regard to supporting the representation of the Supreme Court in international activities, correspondence with organizers and partner institutions, official communications, letters of cooperation, and the relevant documentation were carefully prepared and followed up in order to ensure the successful participation of the President, judges, and staff of the Supreme Court. The Sector was also fully engaged in the translation of the necessary documentation, as well as legal materials, in accordance with requests. In particular, the Sector made a significant contribution to the translation of questionnaires and studies, in line with the requirements of counterpart European courts and partners.

17. The Superior Courts Network - A community of practice in the service of justice (2025)

The Sector planned and successfully implemented all necessary logistical arrangements, including air and ground travel, accommodation, transportation, and visa procedures, in order to ensure maximum facilitation for participants. The Sector undertook all necessary measures and actions to strengthen cooperation with counterpart courts at the regional and international levels, with the aim of developing and exchanging best practices and raising common standards in the field of justice.

Particular note should be made of the strengthening of cooperation with the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy. The President, accompanied by a delegation, participated in the Opening Ceremony of the Judicial Year of the Supreme Court of Cassation of Italy and held other official meetings (Rome, 23–24 January 2025), during which a historic bilateral memorandum of cooperation was signed. As a follow-up, a Cooperation Round Table with the participation of Italian judges will be organized in Albania in 2026.

In continuation of cooperation with the British judiciary, a joint training was held for the Legal Unit of the Supreme Court in cooperation with the British Embassy and the Judiciary of England and Wales, under the guidance of British judges. The training focused on improving the quality of judicial decision drafting through the exchange of best practices and the use of an analytical approach to legal reasoning (Tirana, 10 April 2025).

The External Relations Sector played an important role in strengthening regional cooperation through the organization of high-level activities. In particular, the Sector contributed to the organization of the official visit of

the delegation of the Supreme Court of the Netherlands, led by its President, Dineke de Groot. This constituted the first official visit of this level to Albania, marking a historic moment in relations between the two courts. The visit not only affirmed mutual institutional respect and interest, but also opened a new chapter of cooperation, laying the foundations for regular professional exchanges and continuous judicial dialogue. This cooperation is expected to deepen significantly during 2026, with a focus on the exchange of judicial experience, comparative analysis of decision-making standards, and the sharing of best practices, thereby contributing to the enhancement of the quality of justice and the strengthening of European inter-judicial ties.

Within the framework of preparations for the organization of the World Law Congress in Albania in 2027, as an important forum for discussing global justice issues and promoting international cooperation through new initiatives in this field, the Supreme Court envisages co-organizing a preliminary event in the spring of 2026, which will serve as the Opening Session of the Congress. Preparatory work for this event, as well as for other activities leading up to the final hosting of the Congress in Tirana, has been carefully followed by the Sector in order to ensure dignified representation and organization.

Throughout 2025, the External Relations Sector also provided assistance in the organization, coordination, and conduct of meetings with ambassadors and foreign diplomatic missions in Albania, with the aim of building and strengthening international relations and promoting cooperation in the field of justice. Among the main activities were meetings with the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Albania, the Ambassador and representatives of the

OSCE, as well as meetings with the President of the World Jurists Association and the Chair of the World Law Foundation.

The development of sustainable and long-term relationships with international partners, including regional, European, and global institutions remains a top priority. The objectives for 2026 include the successful implementation of international activities that promote high professional and institutional standards, the identification of new opportunities for cooperation, and the advancement of existing projects and partnerships.

Directorate of Human Resources and Services

By Decision No. 1, dated 21.01.2021, the new structure of the Supreme Court was approved. This structure was subsequently amended by later decisions of the Court Council, specifically Decision No. 84, dated 11.03.2021, Decision No. 72, dated 23.02.2022, Decision No. 4, dated 02.03.2022, Decision No. 20, dated 27.09.2023, and Decision No. 16, dated 19.09.2024. Pursuant to these decisions, the Supreme Court has a total staff of 151 employees (judicial civil servants and other employees), within an organizational structure approved by the High Judicial Council. The organization of the administrative structures of the Supreme Court has been carried out on a directorate-based model. Each directorate includes, depending on its scope, a head and a defined number of specialists (with the status of judicial civil servants) and/or a number of service staff (employed under employment contracts). This approach enabled the integration of two or more sectors within a single directorate, based on criteria relating to the proximity and similarity of the nature of activities performed

by the sectors providing legally prescribed services, as well as the grouping of similar or related services within one unit, thereby allowing for more efficient use of human resources. Specifically, this structure has fulfilled the following functions and duties:

- the preparation of job descriptions for judicial civil servants and administrative staff of the Court, in accordance with the standard job descriptions approved by the HJC;
- the publication and announcement of open competitions for vacant positions in the judicial civil service, as well as the initiation of procedures for promotion and parallel movement, which have been considerable in number due to vacancies remaining unfilled over the years;
- the monitoring, in accordance with the Code of Ethics of the Supreme Court, of compliance with working hours and leave by employees; the performance of duties of the Responsible Authority pursuant to Law No. 9367, dated 07.04.2005, “On the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in the Exercise of Public Functions,” as well as of the Responsible Unit pursuant to Law No. 60/2016, “On Whistleblowing and the Protection of Whistleblowers,” inter alia
- the monitoring of the implementation of the status of judicial civil servants with regard to recruitment, in accordance with the relevant procedures based on Decision No. 622, dated 10.12.2020, of the HJC “On parallel movement, promotion, and admission to the judicial civil service,” as well as disciplinary measures and the administration of personal files of court employees, inter alia.

Recruitments carried out during 2025 were conducted in compliance with the legal provisions based on Decision No. 622, dated 10.12.2020, and Decision No. 643, dated 23.12.2020, of the High Judicial Council, in accordance with the relevant procedures, respecting the criteria established for each announced vacancy pursuant to standard norms on organizational charts, job descriptions, and duties and responsibilities for each category of Supreme Court employees, and in observance of the principles of the judicial civil service, namely equal opportunities, non-discrimination, transparency, professionalism, integrity, and accountability. Recruitments carried out by the Court Council during 2025 with regard to judicial services, administrative services, and support services included: judicial civil servants in the middle managerial category; judicial civil servants in the executive category – specialists; and support staff.

Based on the recruitment procedures, the following recruitments were carried out:

<i>Procedure</i>	<i>No. of recruitments</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Department/ Directorate</i>
<i>Entry to judicial civil service</i>	4	Archive specialist Supporting services specialist Security specialist	Directorate of Judicial Administration Directorate of Human Resources and Supportive Services Directorate of IT and Security
<i>Promotion</i>	1	Head of Sector for Supportive services	Directorate of Human Resources and Supportive Services

In addition to the recruitment of judicial civil servants during 2025, two (2) support staff members were also recruited within the Support Services and Procurement Sector, Directorate of Human Resources Management and Support Services (DBNJSHMB), namely: cleaning staff member; judge’s driver.

In 2025, a matter worth highlighting is the secondment to the Legal Service Unit of five (5) assistant magistrates by the High Judicial Council (HJC), through the respective decisions, bringing the total number of Legal Advisors in this Unit to thirty (30) legal advisors/assistant magistrates, of whom eleven (11) are assistant magistrates and nineteen (19) are legal advisors. A challenge for 2026 is the filling of eight (8) vacancies in the Legal Service Unit with assistant magistrates seconded by the HJC, as, pursuant to Decision No. 1, dated 12.09.2024, of the General Meeting of Judges, it was decided that the number of Legal Advisors in the Legal Service Unit shall be thirty-eight (38) legal advisors/assistant magistrates. (Pursuant to Decision No. 15, dated 21.01.2025, “On the approval of the detailing of additional employees for the year 2025 in the judicial system” of the HJC, the approved organizational structure of the Legal Service Unit provides for thirty-five (35) Legal Advisors.)

At the end of 2025, the Supreme Court faces twenty-three (23) vacancies expected to be filled during 2026, vacancies both within the Judicial bodies and in other organizational units, as presented below.

Judges	Chancellor	Legal Service Unit	Directorate of Judicial Administration	Directorate of Public and External Relations	Directorate of Human Resources and Supportive Services	Directorate of Budget Management
2	1	8	3	2	4	3

The Directorate of Human Resources, Finance, and Services, and in particular the Human Resources Sector, among the tasks envisaged for 2025, will also be responsible for completing the performance evaluation of employees pursuant to Article 65 of Law No. 98/2016, “On the Organization of the Judicial Power in the Republic of Albania,” as well as for the continuous informing of the Court Council regarding the needs and necessity for filling vacancies within the organizational units, with a view to ensuring the most efficient possible administrative and administrative-judicial activity.

Directorate of Budget Administration and Financial Management

During 2025, the Supreme Court carried out the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the approved budget indicators in line with the established objectives, while strictly applying the legislation in force. Ongoing assessment analyses and performance monitoring of budget execution served the planning and budgeting process. The funds made available to the Supreme Court for this period amount to ALL 431,797 thousand. In addition, during this period a

budget allocation was opened under Article 606, “Transfers for household budgets and individuals,” in the amount of ALL 717 thousand. The funds allocated for the functioning of the Supreme Court’s activities, as well as their execution, amount to ALL 380,453 thousand, detailed as follows:

Item.	Description	Facts 2024	Budget 2025		Factual expenditure 2025	Difference	Utilisation %
			Initial plan	Revised plan			
600	Salaries	292868	320000	292123	292123	0	100%
601	Social insurance	33881	44800	34791	34791	0	100%
602	Other goods and services	54755	60400	48400	47036	1364	97%
606	Budget transfer Fam & IND	1306	240	718	630	88	91%
	<i>Current expenditure</i>	382810	425440	376032	374580	1452	
230	Unamortized capital expenditures					0	
231	Amortized capital expenditures	3487	5880	4421	4421	0	100%
	Capital expenditures	3487	5880	4421	4421	0	
	<i>Revenue expenditure</i>					0	
	In total (Current + capital + Revenue expenditure)	386297	431320	380453	379001	1452	99%

By referring to the table, it is evident that during this period there was an under-execution of ALL 1,452 thousand compared to the planned budget, which indicates a very efficient use of funds. By budget articles, 100% execution was achieved under Article 600 “Salaries” and Article 601 “Social Security Contributions.” Under Article 602, there is an under-execution difference amounting to ALL 1,452 thousand.

Under the category “Expenditure on goods and services,” during 2025 expenditures were planned and executed through procurement procedures, namely “low-value purchases” conducted electronically, as well as procedures “below ALL 100 thousand,” including: maintenance of electrical and hydraulic equipment in the amount of ALL 213 thousand, car washing services ALL 864 thousand, elevator maintenance ALL 294 thousand, purchase of printing materials ALL 1,282 thousand, purchase of uniforms ALL 284 thousand, cleaning materials ALL 396 thousand, vehicle insurance ALL 1,570 thousand, building maintenance ALL 97 thousand, purchase of vehicle tires ALL 294 thousand, etc., for which the respective contracts were concluded with validity until 31 December 2025.

Expenditures for honoraria for members of the Justice Appointments Council (KED) during 2025 amounted to ALL 4,905 thousand.

With regard to the execution of expenditures under the other items of Article 602, the following were incurred: fuel expenses amounting to ALL 6,402 thousand, vehicle circulation tax ALL 195 thousand, spare parts ALL 2,527 thousand, and printing services ALL 2,858 thousand.

Expenditures for services—electricity ALL 3,102 thousand, water ALL 1,778 thousand, telephone ALL 2,373 thousand, postal services ALL 2,046 thousand, etc.—were executed in accordance with the approved budget plan.

Likewise, expenditures for receptions, travel and per diem allowances, membership fees, etc., were executed as follows: reception expenses ALL 92 thousand, membership fees ALL 738 thousand, travel and *per diem* expenses ALL 5,954 thousand, and legal representation expenses ex officio ALL 43 thousand.

During this year, contracts under the “framework agreement” procedure continued as follows:

1. Vehicle maintenance, with the successful bidder being the operator “Auto Servis 2000”;
2. Printing services, with the successful bidder being the operator “Infosoft Office”;
3. Fuel supply, with the successful bidder being the operator “Gega Oil.”

Under Article 606, during this period funds were opened under “transfers to individuals” in the amount of ALL 718 thousand, for “economic and financial assistance” to the institution’s employees, as well as compensation for mobile phone expenses. An amount of ALL 653 thousand was expended.

Under Article 231 “Tangible fixed assets,” the following were planned:

– Purchase of equipment: ALL 5,880 thousand.

Execution under the item “Purchase of Equipment” amounted to ALL 4,421 thousand.

The contracts were fully implemented within the statutory deadlines, and the settlement of obligations arising from these contracts was carried out within the legally prescribed time limits. During 2025, an exceptionally significant effort was made to ensure the efficient use of funds and their management in compliance with the applicable rules and legislation. For 2026, budget planning will depend on the assessment of requests submitted by each directorate. Such requests must be as objective as possible, and any funds requested must be effectively utilized by the respective directorates. Furthermore, during 2026, due to the high level of responsibility and workload, staff vacancies within the Directorate of Budget Administration and Financial Management should be filled. Budget execution stands at 99%, a positive indicator demonstrating the effective use of the budgetary funds made available to the institution.

Directorate of Information Technology and Security

During 2025, the Directorate carried out its activities in accordance with the Internal Regulation and the work plans, ensuring the fulfilment of its functions. In a summarized overview, the following tasks were performed:

Information Technology Sector

The Information Technology Sector is engaged in several core tasks aimed at the digitalization of work processes within the Supreme Court. In cooperation with other directorates, the Sector worked jointly to carry out specific tasks

assigned by the President and the Chancellor, in addition to those provided for in the Internal Regulation of the Supreme Court. The Sector’s work continued to focus on research and analytical activities related to developments in the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS), as well as on providing support services to other sectors. In the daily activity of the Information Technology Sector, a significant component also consisted of the monitoring and implementation of procurement procedures for the IT department. Specifically, during this period, the following activities were carried out:

- maintenance of the telephony system;
- maintenance of the computer network;
- maintenance of security equipment;
- maintenance of the data center;
- printing services;
- maintenance of the website;
- hosting of the Supreme Court’s website;
- maintenance of the generator and UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) systems.

Integrated Information System for Judicial Case Management

During 2025, significant changes were implemented with regard to the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS). In cooperation with the High Judicial Council, a contract was concluded at the beginning of the year with the company responsible for maintaining the system. Based on requests from various

users, the necessary adjustments were carried out, including the following:

- the addition of an “export” button, both before and after the re-allocation (re-draw) process;
- the completion of the minutes of deliberation chambers for all three chambers by the judicial registry;
- the introduction of statistical calculation capabilities based on new dynamic search filters (decision date, registration date, combined filters);
- the addition of functionalities for registration and random allocation for the Justice Appointments Council (JAC) section;
- the functionality for generating a specific report aimed at producing statistical data related to “hate speech”;
- the functionality for generating a specific report aimed at producing statistical data on judicial cases categorized as “urgent.”

Relevant users—judges, legal advisers, and new judicial registry staff—were added to the system. Throughout the year, support was provided to all system users, and data-entry errors were corrected in the system, based on orders issued by the Chancellor. Daily backups of server data are performed. In addition, a server replicating in real time with the current server (disaster recovery plan) has been established.

Update of the official website of the Court

During the year, the website was updated with new categories, in accordance

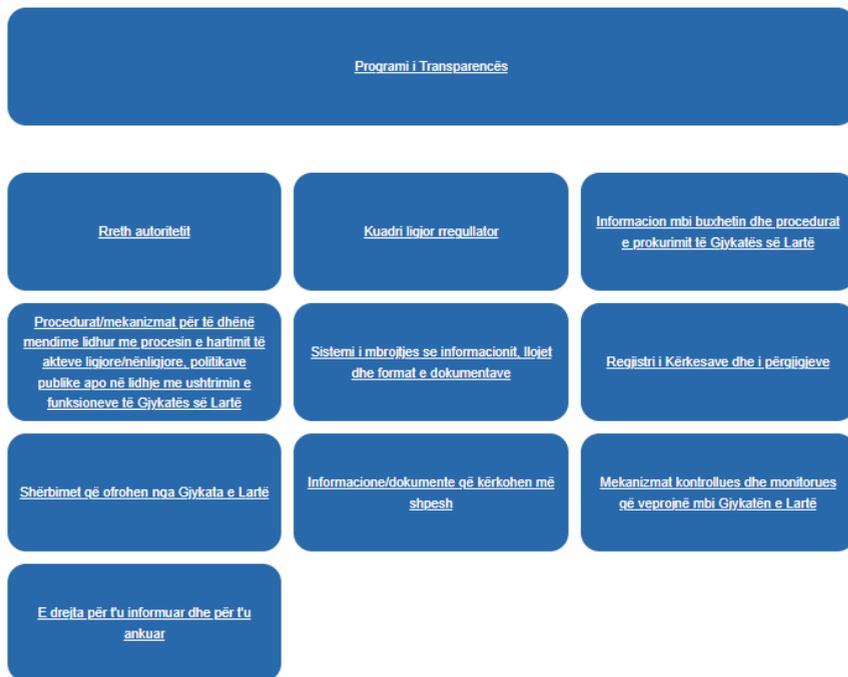


with the needs of each Chamber. All decisions of the Chambers are reflected in real time as soon as they are finalized in written form.

All media and public notices regarding activities carried out at the Supreme Court throughout the year have been published on the website. Cases registered by the judicial registry are automatically displayed on the website, as the site is updated daily with data from the system. In addition, the website records a monthly average of 245,200 unique visitors and 22,475 visits per day. This demonstrates that the Supreme Court’s website effectively supports the public in obtaining timely information regarding cases that have been registered and are being examined in deliberation chambers or court hearings.

On the official website of the Supreme Court, dedicated sections for the Justice Appointments Council (JAC) have also been added and periodically updated. Every decision of this body, as well as minutes or announcements, is reflected in this section in real time by the specialists of this sector. The Transparency Programme constitutes a separate section of the Supreme Court’s official website, occupying a substantial space with information and requiring continuous time, commitment, and updating.

Throughout 2025, assistance was provided to all employees who encountered various issues during their daily work related to electronic equipment and the software installed on their computers. Employees were also assisted during the reorganization and reformatting of offices within the Court.



A dedicated JUDIX section was added to the official website of the Supreme Court of Albania, serving as the electronic archive of selected judicial decisions of the Court, with the aim of facilitating their search by all interested users. The registration and identification of the administration within the system were made possible by the IT staff.

In 2025, the Court's information systems were modernized and upgraded in

order to ensure a more stable and efficient infrastructure. Investments in system security enhanced protection against potential threats and cybercrime attacks. The use of encryption technologies increased the level of security and safeguarded judicial data from unauthorized access. The process of digitizing documents and data across the courts continued, accelerating judicial procedures, facilitating administrative work, and increasing overall efficiency.

Throughout 2025, all employees who experienced various issues in their daily work related to electronic equipment and installed software were assisted. Support was also provided during the reconfiguration of offices within the Court. The configuration of internal and external telephone numbers in the switchboard system was carried out as needed, including following relocations to new offices, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the system.

For 2026, one of the main objectives is to strengthen the professional capacities of human resources through the creation and implementation of a structured annual training program. This program will focus on the use of artificial intelligence in legal work, increasing the level of cyber hygiene, and the effective and standardized use of the Court's digital systems. In parallel, the modernization of the technological infrastructure will continue through the replacement of depreciated and outdated equipment, as well as the standardization of equipment and work tools according to functional profiles, with the aim of enhancing efficiency, security, and service quality.

Another priority objective for 2026 remains the enhancement of the level of cybersecurity of judicial systems. In this context, the implementation of

a comprehensive security audit for critical systems is envisaged, along with the improvement of data backup protocols and disaster recovery plans, and the development of periodic staff training related to phishing risks and best practices in cyber hygiene. At the same time, the establishment of continuous 24/7 system monitoring mechanisms and automated alert systems for the identification and prevention of potential cyberattacks is planned, with the aim of ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of judicial data.

Security Sector

Ensuring internal security
Enforcement of rules governing the solemn conduct of proceedings
Daily records of attendance at work
Registration of entries and exits
Secure handling and movement of court case files

During 2025, the Security Sector diligently carried out its functional duties, monitored and implemented the rules ensuring internal security, and safeguarded the orderly and solemn conduct of public court hearings, overseeing the presence of the parties from the moment of their arrival until the

conclusion of the hearing and their escort outside the court premises. The Sector was also engaged in the performance of various services within the institution.

During this year, the establishment of improved conditions for the Security Sector was made possible, and the electronic card-based entry and exit system for court employees, as well as for all individuals accessing the premises for

various services, was brought into full operational efficiency.

For 2026, the main objectives in the field of security aim at the further strengthening of the Court's physical, technological, and operational security through the modernization of infrastructure and the enhancement of management processes. In this context, planned measures include the modernization of entry and exit systems through electronic and biometric technologies, increased coverage with security cameras, improved lighting and the installation of physical barriers at access points, as well as the digitalization of file monitoring and surveillance systems. At the same time, the upgrading of electronic access control systems and the implementation of integrated alarm mechanisms are envisaged, with the aim of ensuring rapid and effective responses to risk situations.

In parallel with infrastructural and technological improvements, the objectives for 2026 focus on strengthening human and procedural capacities. This includes the recruitment and training of security staff in conflict management, emergency situations, fire safety, evacuation, and risk management, as well as the drafting and updating of internal protocols for public management, crowd flow during hearings, and incident handling. Concurrently, efforts are directed toward strengthening cooperation with other competent security institutions, with the aim of enhancing inter-institutional coordination and ensuring a safe, functional, and sustainable environment for the exercise of judicial activity.

Directorate of Judicial Administration

Case registration sector



A total of 2,525 judicial cases were registered and reviewed for deficiencies in the cassation appeal.

For the year 2025, the Case Registration Office registered 2,401 judicial case files (936 administrative, 719 civil, and 746 criminal), for which deficiencies in the cassation appeals were also verified and identified, as an innovation introduced by the legislative amendments of

May 2021. All applications for the acceleration of proceedings were listed and distributed in a timely manner to legal advisers and reporting judges (a total of 526 applications).

Judicial Secretariat



A total of 6876 judicial cases were administratively processed.

The Judicial Secretariat handled a substantial workload, administratively closing 6,876 judicial cases and fulfilling all statutory duties, including the drafting of minutes, nominal notifications for adjudication both in chambers and in public hearings, the transmission of case

files to lower courts, and the service of decisions on the parties, regardless of the date of registration, among others.

During the year 2025, approximately 879 official communications were issued concerning the return of cassation appeals, counter-appeals, special appeals,

applications for withdrawal of cassation appeals, applications for review, as well as responses and provision of information to the parties, etc.

One issue that continues to persist in 2025 is the receipt of case files involving cassation appeals lodged in the years 2021–2022 (primarily from the Gjirokastër and Vlorë Service Offices), some of which are again returned administratively, thereby denying the parties the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time.

Another issue concerns the administrative return of case files submitted for registration, mainly due to the failure to notify cassation appeals to the opposing parties, the absence of a decision admitting the appeal, etc. During 2025, a total of 205 case files were administratively returned for the completion of administrative actions.

Pursuant to the legislative amendments of 2021, deficiencies in cassation appeals were identified in 87 administrative and civil judicial cases (lack of signature or absence of a power of attorney for counsel). The Registration Sector fulfilled all its duties in a timely and accurate manner; however, if the full list of required amendments related to registration criteria addressed to the IT Sector were reflected in the system, the case registration process would be shortened and statistical data would be generated more quickly and accurately. A number of staff members of the Judicial Secretariat and the Case Registration Sector were also involved during this year in the activities of the Justice Appointments Council (KED), in accordance with the duties set out in the regulations approved by the KED.

With regard to the generation of statistical data, the further enhancement of the electronic system is considered essential in order to improve access to all required data.

CONCLUSIONS

The year 2025 continued to present significant challenges for the Supreme Court, reflecting a complex reality in which the dynamics of caseload pressure, public scrutiny, and the need to strengthen public trust in the justice system intersected with the obligation to ensure independence, impartiality, and efficiency in the exercise of its constitutional adjudicatory function. The high stock of cases carried over from previous years remained one of the Court's central concerns, further exacerbated by the sudden discontinuation of support from certain international projects as a result of changes in the policies of strategic partners. This development placed immediate strain on the Court's internal adjudication and filtering capacities, making even more urgent the need to strengthen human resources, particularly within the Legal Service Unit, where reinforcement with an adequate number of legal advisers is essential for the timely preparation of cases and the acceleration of decision-making.

In this context, the need to increase the overall number of legal advisers towards a ratio of one judge to three advisers is once again emphasized, as is the possibility of a temporary increase in the number of judges, as necessary measures to cope with the workload and to prevent the accumulation of new backlogs. Moreover, successful international practices demonstrate that the establishment of sustainable filtering mechanisms, either through dedicated structures or within existing panels, constitutes an important instrument for the strategic management of cases, the enhancement of jurisprudential coherence, and the identification of cases of particular public or legal importance. Nevertheless, the implementation of such an undertaking would require tangible support in expanding the administrative

staff and providing specialized training, in order to ensure high-quality assistance in work processes related to the registration of cassation appeals.

Beyond the professional dimension, during the year the Supreme Court also faced a climate of intense media and public pressure, which required a cautious institutional approach and enhanced transparency. The protection of judicial integrity and the renewal of the relationship of trust with citizens remain fundamental challenges, necessitating sustainable measures to strengthen judicial security, transparency, and institutional communication.

From an infrastructural perspective, addressing deficiencies accumulated over the years and adapting working tools to the requirements of modern technology remain essential priorities for the effective functioning of the Supreme Court. The creation of dignified working conditions for judges and support staff is not only a functional necessity but also an integral part of the constitutional role the institution fulfills as the highest judicial authority in the country.

In summary, 2025 was characterized by significant challenges, but also by clear steps toward institutional modernization, capacity building, and the consolidation of international cooperation. The achievement of strategic objectives requires continued institutional support, the strengthening of human resources, investments in infrastructure, and a sustained approach grounded in integrity, independence, and accountability. The Supreme Court remains committed to addressing these challenges with professionalism and to continuing its role as a guarantor of legality and the rule of law in Albania.

JANUARY 2026