

Auxiliary Structures, Facilities and Assistance for Judges and Courts

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The immediate purpose of the operations of the courts is the administration of justice, i.e., the handing down of proper, legal, well-founded decisions. Although the judge who administers justice must strive for the idealized mountain tops of the law, he, as a human being, inevitably remains in the humdrum flatland of day-to-day life; hence, the quality of the administration of justice would seem to depend on peripheral matters, i.e., on the circumstances under which the courts function and the judges must work.

This aspect of the administration of justice has taken on an urgent character in the Lithuanian Republic as a result of the court reform which was initiated six years ago and is still in progress at present. The two-rung court system which existed previously is being replaced with a four-rung system. This reform not only has significantly modified the functions of the former appellate courts and Supreme Court but also has *ab ovo* founded totally new courts - regional courts and the Court of Appeals.

This original creation, like God's creation, started with the word - i.e., with the preparation of the legislative basis for the courts, auxiliary structures and facilities.

Legislative Basis For Auxiliary Structures And Facilities For Judges And Courts

The fundamental issues in the determination of the numbers of courts and judges and the functional support for them were settled in Decree 11-331 of the Sejm of Lithuania, December 14, 1993; in the "Foundations for Court Reform," approved by Decree 11-331 of the Sejm of Lithuania, December 14, 1993; in the Program for Reform of the Judicial System (referred to hereinafter as the Program), confirmed by Decree 455 of the government of Lithuania, June 9, 1994; in three laws concerning the courts of the Lithuanian Republic adopted since 1990, the latest of which was adopted on May 31, 1994, as Law 1-480; by Law 1-558, June 19, 1994, concerning "The establishment of territorial administrative units of the Lithuanian Republic and the determination of their boundaries"; and by other legal acts.

As early as the section of the Program entitled "Supply and equipment resources for the courts necessary for the accomplishment of judicial reform," provision was made

