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Velykodnyi D.V.

*Doctor of Philosophy in specialty 081 Law,  
Master of Public management and administration  
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2489-3929*

## LEGAL CULTURE AND PROSECUTION: ASPECTS OF INTERACTION

**Formulation of the problem.** The effectiveness of prosecutorial bodies is influenced by numerous factors, among which legal culture holds a significant place. Legal culture determines society's attitude towards law, the level of legal awareness among citizens, and the professional ethics of prosecutors. In the context of contemporary reforms and changes in Ukraine's legal system, the question of how legal culture impacts the functioning of the prosecution becomes particularly relevant.

A lack of high legal culture can lead to low public trust in legal institutions, increased corruption, human rights violations, and insufficient transparency in the prosecution's activities. Conversely, a developed legal culture promotes the professionalism of prosecutors, ensures fair justice, and strengthens public trust in the legal system.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Analysis of the latest research and publications on the impact of legal culture on the effectiveness of the prosecutor's office shows significant scientific interest in this topic. A number of scientists, including Almqvist J., Antonioz N., Billings K., Christiano R., Chyorch T., Falkovskiy A., Gunarto G., Hodgson J., Kuhn A., Montana R., Schweitzer M., Shapovalova I., Wahuningsich S., Wij J., Winkelman M., Yang K., focused their research on various aspects of this issue.

In general, the analysis of the scientific works of these authors confirms the importance of legal culture for ensuring the effective work of the prosecutor's office. They offer a variety of strategies and approaches aimed at increasing

the level of legal awareness, transparency and accountability, which contributes to strengthening the legal system and citizens' trust in it.

The aim of this article is to explore the impact of legal culture on the efficiency of prosecutorial bodies. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to define the concept and main components of legal culture, analyze its role in the activities of the prosecution, and investigate how legal culture affects the efficiency of the prosecution's work, particularly in terms of public trust in legal institutions, the professionalism of prosecutors, and the assurance of fair justice. It is also important to outline the main problems associated with an insufficient level of legal culture in the prosecution and to propose recommendations for improving the level of legal culture to enhance the effectiveness of prosecutorial bodies. Accomplishing these tasks will provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between legal culture and the efficiency of the prosecution, as well as practical recommendations for reforming and improving the legal system.

**Presenting main material.** Legal culture is a fundamental element of any legal system, as it defines citizens' attitudes towards the law, the level of legal awareness, and the ethical standards of professional activity. It encompasses both formal and informal aspects that influence the legal behavior of individuals and institutions. The formal aspects of legal culture include laws, rules, and procedures, while the informal ones cover traditions, moral norms, and values established in society. The functioning of the prosecution, as a key component of the legal system, largely depends on the level of legal

culture in society. The prosecution supervises the observance of laws by bodies conducting operational-search activities, inquiry, pre-trial investigation, supports public prosecution in court, and represents the interests of citizens or the state in court. A high level of legal culture contributes to more effective execution of these functions by ensuring appropriate legal awareness and ethical standards among prosecutors.

One of the key aspects of the influence of legal culture on the effectiveness of prosecutorial bodies is the level of public trust in legal institutions. Lack of trust in the legal system can lead to non-compliance with laws, increased corruption, and other negative phenomena. Conversely, high public trust in the prosecution promotes more effective execution of its functions, as citizens are more willing to cooperate with law enforcement agencies, report offenses, and support legal initiatives.

Legal culture also affects the professionalism of prosecutors. High ethical standards, respect for human rights, and adherence to legislation are the main components of legal culture that contribute to improving the quality of prosecutors' work. In countries with a developed legal culture, prosecutors undergo thorough professional training, constantly upgrade their qualifications, and adhere to high ethical standards in their activities.

Prosecutors play an important role in ensuring justice in the criminal process, but changes in the role of prosecutors may affect their autonomy and professional status. Standardization and simplification of procedures can lead to de-professionalization of the prosecutor's office, which has significant consequences for the legal system [1]. Another important aspect of legal culture is its influence on the application of restorative justice. The application of the principles of restorative justice in the prosecutor's office can contribute to the effective resolution of criminal cases, provided that the interests of victims and other interested parties are taken into account. Restorative justice avoids negative consequences, such as stigmatization

and revenge, and promotes harmony in society [2]. The role of legal culture in the formation of an effective justice system is growing along with changes in society and legal practice. A change in the model of criminal prosecution, where the prosecutor takes over the functions of the investigating judge, can lead to bias against the defendant. The results of the study show that defense rights are better protected in the model with an independent investigating judge [3].

It is important to note that the formation and development of legal culture requires a comprehensive approach and coordinated work at both the state and societal levels. One of the main directions is educational programs that contribute to raising the legal awareness of citizens. Educational initiatives should cover not only the professional training of employees of legal institutes, but also secondary schools, higher educational institutions and public organizations. In countries with a high level of legal culture, prosecutors adhere to high ethical standards, actively cooperate with the public and other legal institutions. They also undergo regular training and professional development, which allows them to maintain a high level of professionalism. This contributes to the effective performance of their functions and the strengthening of the legal system as a whole. A high level of legal culture is a key factor in ensuring the effective work of the prosecutor's office. Educational programs, professional development of employees, appropriate organizational culture and implementation of standards of transparency and accountability are all important components to achieve this goal. The experience of other countries shows that the development of legal culture contributes to the strengthening of the legal system and increasing the trust of citizens in legal institutions.

One of the key recommendations is the introduction of a system for assessing the effectiveness of the prosecutor's office, which would be based on clear criteria and indicators. This will allow not only to control the quality of the prosecutors' performance of their duties, but also

to determine directions for further improvement. It is important that such an evaluation system be transparent and accountable, with the possibility of involving independent experts and representatives of the public. In addition, mechanisms should be introduced to protect the rights of whistleblowers of corruption and other illegal actions. This will contribute to the creation of an atmosphere of trust and security for those who wish to report violations, and will allow to fight corruption and other negative phenomena more effectively.

Popularization of legal knowledge among the population is also an important component of the development of legal culture. Information campaigns, educational programs and access to legal information contribute to raising the level of legal awareness of citizens and their participation in the legal life of the country. Citizens who are well aware of their rights and responsibilities are better protected against offenses and can interact more effectively with legal institutions.

When considering the issue of the development of legal culture, it is worth paying attention to the importance of internal communications and management in the prosecutor's office system. Effective management involves not only a clear organizational structure, but also the management's ability to motivate and support employees, create conditions for their professional development, and ensure appropriate standards of ethics and professional behavior.

The use of cultural capital has a significant impact on legal awareness, which affects the dynamics of interaction between citizens and law enforcement agencies. Individuals with a high level of cultural capital have greater confidence in their interactions with the police, which allows them to more effectively defend their rights. On the other hand, persons with limited cultural capital are more vulnerable to investigative actions and, as a result, are more likely to be arrested and prosecuted [4].

Local legal culture, which includes norms and practices common to lawyers in specific courts, has a significant impact on case proceedings and

the behavior of litigants. In particular, there is general agreement among lawyers and judges on procedural issues such as the length of time for cases and the need for a trial to resolve issues. However, on issues related to the essence of cases, such as the appropriateness of plea agreements or the appropriate punishment, there is much more intra-judicial disagreement [5].

When considering the issue of improving legal culture, it is necessary to pay attention to the importance of institutional memory and succession in the prosecutor's office. Institutional memory ensures preservation and transfer of accumulated experience and knowledge from one generation of employees to another, which contributes to stability and consistency in the work of the prosecutor's office. Implementing a system of documenting and preserving important precedents, decisions and methodologies is an important step to ensure institutional memory.

Cultural diversity significantly affects international criminal trials, which can lead to limited understanding, alienation, and disagreement among trial participants. If these factors are ignored, they can seriously undermine the effectiveness of international criminal tribunals and their value to participants such as accused, witnesses and victims, as well as to the communities concerned. National courts operating in more culturally homogeneous settings may provide more appropriate forums for the trial of serious crimes under international law [6].

The resistance of Italian prosecutors to certain legal changes is explained by the specificity of their legal culture. Analyzing the legal culture in a comparative perspective allows us to understand the true scope of powers of prosecutors and how these powers can be balanced with the rights of the accused. This study emphasizes the importance of taking cultural aspects into account when implementing legal reforms [7].

An anthropological understanding of cultural factors influencing behavior can significantly assist in the development of criminal defenses to establish extenuating, mitigating, or mitigating

circumstances. Although cultural protection is not recognized as a separate type of protection, cultural factors may be admitted within traditional protections. Thus, consideration of cultural aspects can become an important element during defense in criminal cases [8].

When making specific decisions, a prosecutor must be independent and guided only by the requirements of the law, the assessment of received information, the moral and ethical principles of the profession, and their own convictions. They should distance themselves from any selfish and private interests, political influence, public pressure, and are obligated to carry out their official duties in a politically impartial and neutral manner. They must not use their powers in the interests of political parties or individual politicians, public associations. A prosecutor should treat racial, national affiliation, language, traditions, and customs of others, as well as their political and religious beliefs, with tolerance and respect, provided that these beliefs do not incite racial, national, political, or religious hostility [9, p.72].

One of the key problems prosecutors face in their work is emotional and professional burnout. Working in conditions of constant stress, large volumes of cases and difficult moral dilemmas can lead to a decrease in the efficiency and motivation of employees. To prevent this, it is necessary to implement mental health support programs, provide opportunities for rest and recovery, and create a friendly and supportive work environment.

The development of technologies and the introduction of modern information systems can also significantly improve the efficiency of the prosecutor's office and raise the level of legal culture. The use of electronic databases, case management systems, automated analytical tools and other technological solutions makes it possible to optimize processes, reduce the risk of errors and increase the transparency of the prosecutor's office.

Information technologies can also contribute to increasing the legal awareness of citizens. Online platforms, mobile applications, interactive sites and other digital resources allow citizens

to receive information about their rights and obligations, submit complaints and appeals, and participate in the legal life of the country. This helps to strengthen trust in the legal system and increase the legal culture in society.

In conclusion, the development of legal culture is a multifaceted process that requires the efforts of state bodies, educational institutions, public organizations and international partners. Implementation of educational programs, improvement of qualifications of prosecutor's office employees, anti-corruption measures, ensuring transparency and accountability, use of modern technologies and consideration of external factors - all this contributes to increasing the efficiency of the prosecutor's office and strengthening the legal culture in society.

**Conclusions and suggestions.** As a result of the study on the impact of legal culture on the effectiveness of prosecutorial bodies, the following conclusions can be drawn. A high level of legal culture is an essential condition for the effective operation of the prosecution. Combating corruption is a key direction for ensuring the efficiency of the prosecution's work. Implementing control systems, strict punishment for corrupt actions, and creating safe conditions for whistleblowers are necessary steps. Ensuring transparency and accountability in the prosecution's activities helps increase public trust. Open hearings, public reports, and the possibility of public oversight are important for achieving this goal. Information technologies can significantly improve the efficiency of the prosecution's work. The use of electronic databases, case management systems, and analytical tools allows for process optimization and increased transparency. Preventing emotional and professional burnout of prosecutors is an important aspect of maintaining a high level of legal culture. Adhering to international standards and recommendations fosters the development of legal culture. The implementation of UN principles and those of other international organizations into national legislation and prosecutorial practice is a crucial step.

It is proposed to develop and implement a national strategy for the development of legal culture, which includes educational programs, awareness initiatives, and measures to increase citizens' legal awareness. The use of modern information technologies to optimize processes and ensure transparency in prosecutorial activities is also necessary. Active interaction

with civil society and the media will help increase trust in the legal system and citizens' legal awareness.

Implementing these proposals will enhance the efficiency of prosecutorial bodies and strengthen legal culture in Ukraine, which in turn will promote the development of a democratic society and ensure the rule of law.

### Summary

Legal culture is a key factor in the effective functioning of the prosecution, determining professional ethical standards, the level of legal awareness of citizens, and trust in legal institutions. The article examines the impact of legal culture on the activities of the prosecution, particularly through education, anti-corruption measures, transparency and accountability, the use of information technology, and support for the mental health of employees. A high level of legal culture contributes to increasing the efficiency of the prosecution's work, reducing corruption, and strengthening public trust in the legal system.

It is proposed to develop a national strategy for the development of legal culture, introduce compulsory legal studies courses in educational institutions, ensure regular professional development for prosecutors, and develop a code of ethical conduct with mechanisms for its enforcement. It is also important to create a system for evaluating the efficiency of the prosecution's work, introduce mechanisms for protecting the rights of whistleblowers, utilize modern information technologies to optimize processes and ensure transparency, and actively engage with civil society and the media. Ensuring gender equality and diversity, and implementing programs to support the mental health of prosecutors are also necessary steps. Implementing these measures will strengthen legal culture in Ukraine, enhance the efficiency of the prosecution, and ensure the rule of law.

The development of legal culture requires a comprehensive approach involving collaboration between government bodies, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, and international partners. It is important to consider international standards and recommendations, particularly the UN principles regarding the role of prosecutors, which emphasize the importance of adhering to ethical standards, independence, and accountability of the prosecution. Institutional memory and continuity, ensuring gender equality and diversity, effective conflict management, and fair working conditions are key aspects for maintaining a high level of legal culture. The proposed measures will enhance the professional level of prosecutors, reduce corruption, ensure transparency and accountability, and strengthen public trust in the legal system. All of this will ensure the effective functioning of the prosecution, the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms, and the development of a democratic society in Ukraine.

**Key words:** legal culture, effectiveness of the prosecutor's office, legal system, professional ethics, trust of citizens, justice, corruption, reformation, legal awareness.

### Великодний Д.В. Правова культура та прокуратура: аспекти взаємодії Анотація

Правова культура є ключовим чинником ефективної діяльності прокуратури, що визначає професійно-етичні стандарти, рівень правової свідомості громадян, довіри до правових інститутів. У статті досліджено вплив правової культури на діяльність органів прокуратури, зокрема через навчання, антикорупційні заходи, прозорість і підзвітність, використання інформаційних

технологій, підтримку психічного здоров'я працівників. Високий рівень правової культури сприяє підвищенню ефективності роботи прокуратури, зниженню корупції, зміцненню довіри громадян до судової системи.

Пропонується розробити національну стратегію розвитку правової культури, запровадити обов'язкові юридичні курси в навчальних закладах, забезпечити регулярне підвищення кваліфікації прокурорів, розробити кодекс етичної поведінки з механізмами його виконання. Також важливо створити систему оцінки ефективності роботи прокуратури, запровадити механізми захисту прав викривачів, використовувати сучасні інформаційні технології для оптимізації процесів та забезпечення прозорості, активно взаємодіяти з громадянським суспільством та ЗМІ. Необхідними кроками є також забезпечення гендерної рівності та різноманітності, впровадження програм підтримки психічного здоров'я прокурорів. Реалізація цих заходів сприятиме зміцненню правової культури в Україні, підвищенню ефективності прокуратури та забезпеченню верховенства права.

Розвиток правової культури вимагає комплексного підходу, який передбачає співпрацю органів державної влади, навчальних закладів, громадських організацій та міжнародних партнерів. Важливо враховувати міжнародні стандарти та рекомендації, зокрема принципи ООН щодо ролі прокурорів, які наголошують на важливості дотримання етичних стандартів, незалежності та підзвітності прокуратури. Інституційна пам'ять і спадкоємність, забезпечення гендерної рівності та різноманітності, ефективне врегулювання конфліктів, справедливі умови праці є ключовими аспектами підтримки високого рівня правової культури. Запропоновані заходи підвищать професійний рівень прокурорів, зменшать корупцію, забезпечать прозорість і підзвітність, зміцнять довіру суспільства до судової системи. Усе це забезпечить ефективну діяльність прокуратури, захист прав і свобод громадян, розбудову демократичного суспільства в Україні.

**Ключові слова:** правова культура, ефективність прокуратури, правова система, професійна етика, довіра громадян, правосуддя, корупція, реформування, правосвідомість.

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