

Judges and specialization.

Washington November 2012

Questionnaire 1st Study Commission

1. In your country, do you have
 - a) specialized courts dealing with certain types of cases
 - b) specialized judges for certain types of cases working in the general courts

Please describe the different types of specialized courts or judges.

2. Have there been arguments presented IN FAVOUR OF increased specialization of judges/courts in your country?

If the answer is affirmative, please state these arguments.

3. Have there been arguments presented AGAINST increased specialization of judges/courts in your country?

If the answer is affirmative, please state these arguments.

4. How is specialization in the judiciary obtained:

- a) by recruiting specialized persons to become a specialized judge
- b) by specialized training before/during office
- c) by "on the job" training by colleagues
- d) other means, please describe how.

5. Career:

a) Does a specialized judge remain in the same position during the judge's (lifetime?) career or is that judge's appointment only for a certain period, after which the judge is automatically appointed to another specialization/court?

b) can the judge move to another court/specialized function at his/her own demand?

6. In your view, could specialization have an impact on the independence of a judge or the judiciary? If so, in what way?