

ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



ΑΝΩΤΑΤΟ ΔΙΚΑΣΤΗΡΙΟ
YÜKSEK MAH
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JUDICIAL
SERVICE

“ The Supreme Court decided to initiate the publication of an Annual Review with the primary aim of better informing the public of the work of the court and the administration of justice over the year. ”

Persefoni Panayi
President, Supreme Court

GENERAL EDITING & COORDINATION

Andreas Y. Tserkezos

EDITORIAL

Andriani Shiakalli

Anna Miltiadous

Eleni Pavlidou

Maria Alexandrou Constantinou

PHOTOGRAPHY (BUILDING AND PORTRAITS)

Christos Pavlou

SUMMARY OF CASES

Supreme Court's Publications Department

Natasa Papanicolaou

Eleftheria Araliou

Penelope Demosthenous

PUBLISHING

Action Global Communications

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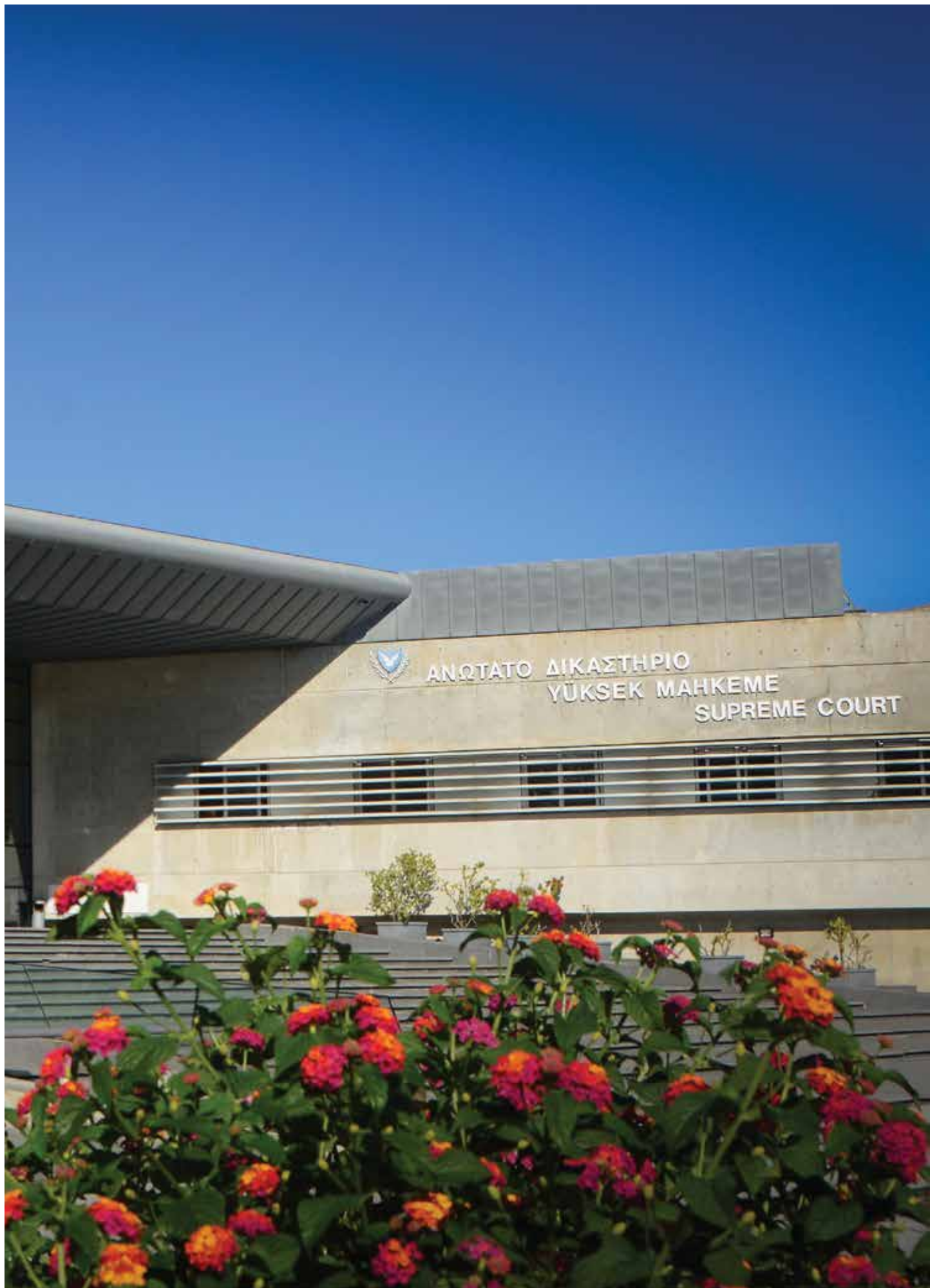
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Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the Republic. It is composed of thirteen judges, of whom one is the President.

MISSION

Ensuring fair and impartial justice, as it is defined by the constitution, the institutional rights and liberties, the Laws and the European and International Conventions.

VISION

The continuous upgrade of the mode of operation of justice for an impartial, effective, fast and responsible resolution of differences.

VALUES

- Impartiality
- Equality / Equity
- Integrity
- Reliability
- Efficiency
- Transparency
- Respect of the citizen
- Objectivity
- Independence



MESSAGE FROM THE President

Persefoni Panayi

*President,
Supreme Court*

In early 2021 the Supreme Court decided to initiate the publication of an Annual Review with the primary aim of better informing the public of the work of the court and the administration of justice over the year.

This first ever Annual Review in reader friendly format provides information on the Court's Justices and staff and its main activities during the year 2021. It also includes some statistics and short summaries of its major decisions and of on-going reforms.

The Cyprus court structure consists of a two-tier system with the Supreme Court, which is composed of 13 Justices one of whom is the President, at the apex. Since 1964, the Supreme Court exercises the jurisdiction of the Supreme Constitutional Court established under Article 133 of the Constitution and of the High Court established under Article 153 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to deal, inter alia, with admiralty cases and applications for prerogative orders. It also sits as an appellate court and hears election petitions and constitutional matters. In as much as the Supreme Court is a court of original and appellate jurisdiction, it is probably unique.



“In addition to its judicial competences, the Supreme Court is responsible for the efficient operation of the courts of first instance and for making rules regulating the practice and procedure of the courts.”

Unlike many other countries, there is an unrestricted right of appeal from final judgments and no second-tier court of appeal. This has been conducive to a very heavy case load in the Supreme Court and a backlog of cases. Clearance of the backlog of delayed cases is a crucial part of the current reform process undertaken by the Supreme Court with the support of the Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM) of the European Commission and the Council of Europe, with a view to accelerating the administration of justice and increasing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the civil justice process.

The year 2021 saw the approval by the Supreme Court of new Rules of Civil Procedure. The approval marked a significant milestone in the reform process and was followed by a training programme on the new rules, during the last quadrimester of the year, for judges, court staff and lawyers.

Other major reforms and initiatives such as the division of the Supreme Court in order to establish a Supreme Constitutional Court and a new Supreme Court – at a third-tier – the creation of a Court of Appeal, a Commercial Court and an Admiralty Court¹, are the subject-matter of Government Bills which are still pending before the House of Representatives.

In addition to its judicial competences, the Supreme Court is responsible for the efficient operation of the courts of first instance and for making rules regulating the practice and procedure of the courts. The COVID-19 pandemic continued to dominate much of 2021, thus necessitating the continued improvement of the interim technology (i-justice), adapted as a matter of urgency by the Supreme Court in order to keep the justice system going in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic, as well as the drafting of rules in order to meet the procedural requirements created by the new technology. On a positive note, i-justice serves as a forerunner to the e-justice project which was announced before the COVID-19 pandemic and is expected to be completed and implemented at the beginning of the year 2023.

The extra-judicial burden of the Supreme Court will be alleviated to a significant extent by the establishment of an independent court service responsible for the management and administration of the courts in Cyprus. The initiation of the project was marked by an online Kick-off meeting on 18 February 2021 and the final report is scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2022.

Justice in Cyprus is very much on the threshold of radical reform. It is manifestly apparent that the challenges facing the justice system, probably the greatest in the history of Cypriot Justice, can only be met successfully if the reforms are embraced by judges, lawyers and other stakeholders and are accompanied by a positive professional culture change.

In presenting this first Annual Review, which is an overview, it is hoped that it provides interesting reading and informative insights on the court and its activities during the previous year.

1 Since going to print, the Bill concerning the creation of a Commercial Court and Admiralty has passed into law.

MEMORANDUM OF

Chief Registrar

Irini Christodoulou

**Chief Registrar,
Supreme Court**

The Chief Registrar is in charge of the Judicial Service according to Law 1/90. She/he is the superior authority for the Registrars and all the employees of the Supreme Court, as well as every other employee of any other court that is subordinate to the Supreme Court. Therefore, the Chief Registrar has a wide spectrum and a difficult double role, which includes, simultaneously, institutional, and administrative tasks. She/he is responsible for the operation of the Supreme Court's Registries along with all First Instance Courts' Registries. Additionally, she/he has institutional duties deriving from the implementation of various laws, such as Admiralty Court Registrar, Senior Probate Registrar, Registrar for the Enforcement of Court Judgements etc.

At the moment, the main and primary mission of the Chief Registrar is to monitor the ongoing projects of Judicial Reform.

The need for Judicial Reform has been documented in a series of reports. The first report was drafted by former President of the Supreme Court Mr. G. Pikiş, which was followed by another Report in 2016 made by a three-member committee comprised of Judges of the Supreme Court. This was followed by a Report drafted by professionals from the IPA Ireland (Institute of Public Administration), which was adopted by the Supreme Court in 2018, and included 21 recommendations.



“At the moment, the main and primary mission of the Chief Registrar is to monitor the ongoing projects of the Judicial Reform.”

Among the ongoing projects, it is worth mentioning the following, which are considered to be essential for attaining the objectives of the Reform, but also for the proper functioning of the Judicial Service.

1. Planning and promoting the implementation of the construction of a new Courthouse that will meet the accommodation needs of both Nicosia District Court and other, Nicosia based, Courts of Special Jurisdiction.
2. Implementation of a new method for obtaining court minutes with the introduction of the D.A.R. (Digital Audio Recording) system, which is expected to replace both stenography and stenotyping, which are considered outdated.
3. The implementation of the electronic justice system is already underway and it is expected to be fully operational by the end of 2022.
4. Processing the high volume of the backlog of court cases.

It is generally accepted that the biggest challenge faced by the Judicial Service is the high volume of the backlog. The adjudication of the backlog is considered to be the primary objective for the Judicial Reform to succeed.

As Chief Registrar, it is my duty to contribute to the implementation of the program for the adjudication of the backlog, which has been prepared by the Supreme Court, ensuring that the necessary tools have been provided to the Judges to help them accomplish their goal. These tools concern mainly the practical aspect of their work and include among other things, the provision of appropriate court areas such as courtrooms and offices, appropriate equipment, together with the appropriate supporting personnel (stenographers / stenotypists, secretarial staff, messengers, etc.).

For the implementation of all the above, the contribution and aid of the competent governmental authorities for the respective needs are most definitely necessary. For example, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Electrical and Mechanical Services when it comes to suitable buildings, the Public Administration and Personnel Department regarding the appropriate personnel, the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy for promoting the digital reform (which also includes the implementation of the D.A.R. project etc).

At this point, I would like to emphasize the excellent cooperation with all the Ministries / Departments that are involved for the promotion / resolution of the issues that the Judicial System is facing, concerning the increased needs due to the current Reform.

5. Introduction of a new Independent Court Service management mechanism aiming at the effective organization and proper functioning of the courts and, at the same time, aiming to improve their overall performance and to ensure continuous advancement.

Once the Judicial Service is in place, it is expected that the efficiency of the courts will be improved, a factor that is anticipated to contribute to the development of the economy and at the same time will contribute to the consolidation of the Rule of Law, as its preservation is considered the crowning achievement of every democratic state.

Supreme Court Judges



ABOVE:

From left to right: Ioannis Ioannides, Dora Socratous, Androula Stylianidou Pouyourou, Tefkros Th. Economou, Katerina Stamatiou, Leonidas Parparinos, Persefoni Panayi, Antonis R. Liatsos, Yiasemis N. Yiasemis, Tasia Psara-Miltiadou, Charis Malachtos, Lena Demetriadou-Andreou, Nicholas Santis

Persefoni Panayi

Persefoni Panayi was born on 23.11.1954 in England. On completing her secondary school education, she read law at the London School of Economics, University of London.

After relocating to Cyprus, she practiced law for 10 years, until September 1988 when she was appointed as Acting District Judge. In September 1989 she was appointed District judge, a position held until December 1996 when she was promoted to Senior District Judge. Four years later she was appointed to the position of President, District Court.

She has served as President of the District Courts of Larnaca, Limassol and Nicosia and as Administrative President of the District Court of Larnaca-Famagusta and has also presided over the Permanent Assize Court.

Justice Panayi was appointed to the Supreme Court on the 29th August 2012 and took up appointment as President of the Court on 10th November 2020.

She was the chairperson of the Rules Committee, appointed by the Supreme Court to collaborate with an Expert Group under the guidance of the Rt. Hon. Lord Dyson for the purpose of reviewing and modernizing the Civil Procedure Rules.

She is also on the list of ad hoc judges of the European Court of Human Rights.



Leonidas Parparinos

Leonidas Parparinos, J., was born in Nicosia on 4.3.1954. He attended the Elementary School of Ayios Andreas in Nicosia (1960-1966) and subsequently the Kykkos A' Pancyprian Gymnasium for Boys (1966-1972). He then served in the National Guard for three (3) years with the rank of Second Lieutenant (1972-1975). In 1975, he enrolled at the Law School of the National and Capodistrian University of Athens, from which he graduated in 1978. He practiced law in Nicosia from 1979 and in 1981, he studied at University College London (UCL), from which he attained an LL.M Postgraduate Degree.

He returned to Nicosia in 1982, where he practiced law once again until September 1988, when he was appointed Temporary District Judge. In 1989, he was appointed District Judge, a position he held until 1997, when he was promoted to Senior District Judge. In 2002, he was promoted to President of the District Court. He has served in every District Court and Assize Court of Cyprus. He presided over the Assize Court of Paphos between 2003 - 2005 and he also served as Administrative President of the District Court of Larnaca in 2008 - 2009. In 2009, he was appointed Administrative President of the District Court of Nicosia, until October 2012, when he was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court. Between 2008 - 2010, he acted as President of the Cyprus Judges Association and took part in a large number of conferences in Cyprus and abroad.

Besides Greek, he also speaks English. He is married and the father of four children. He retired on the 1st of April, 2022.

Antonis R. Liatsos

Liatsos, J., was born in Nicosia in 1960. He studied Law at the Law School of Athens University, and practised law at the Kyriacos Michaelides Law Office, for eight years. He was appointed District Judge in 1991, promoted to Senior District Judge in 2000 and then President of District Court in 2004. He acted as President of the Larnaca Permanent Assize Court and as the Administrative President of the Nicosia/Kyrenia District Courts. He is, since September 2013, Justice of the Supreme Court of Cyprus. In 2010 he was elected as President of the Cyprus Judges Association, and served this position until his appointment as Justice of the Supreme Court. As of his appointment as a Justice of the Supreme Court, thus far, he presided over the Permanent, Civil and Criminal Court of Appeal, as well as the Full Bench Court of Appeal and, in some cases, over the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court. He is a member of the Council of the School of Judges, of the Reform Committee, of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of the OSCE, and ad hoc Judge at the European Court of Human Rights. As a representative of the Judiciary, he was a member of the Reformatory Policy Committee, and as a member of the Delegation of the Republic of Cyprus, he attended for many years, at the United Nations' offices in Vienna, the programme of the United Nations Committee for the Prevention of Crime and Criminal Justice. He is married to Eleni Liatsou, advocate, and he has a son, Alexandros.

Katerina Stamatiou

Katerina Stamatiou was born in Limassol in 1960 and graduated the E Gymnasium Limassol in 1977. She read law in London and was called to the Bar at the Gray's Inn. After her return to Cyprus she practiced law in a law firm in Limassol. She served for one term in the committee of the Limassol Bar Association. In 1993 she was appointed District Judge, in 2000 she was promoted to Senior District Judge and in 2004 she was promoted to District Court President. She served as President of the Assize Court of Paphos and Limassol and Administrative President of the Paphos and Limassol District Courts. She was appointed to the Supreme Court on 16th September 2013. She is married and has one daughter and one son.

Yiasemis N. Yiasemis

Yiasemis N. Yiasemis was born in Trikomo, Ammochostos, in 1958, where he lived the first years of his life, he later moved to the town of Ammochostos with his family, where he lived until the invasion in 1974. He received his secondary education at the American Academy of Larnaca. After he finished his service in the Cyprus Army, he studied at the University of London from where he attained a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and a Master of Laws (LLM).

He practised as an advocate from 1985 until 1992, as a member of the Bar Council of Ammochostos and in

January 1993 he was appointed as District Judge. As a first instance Judge, he served in all jurisdictions, including that of the Permanent Assize Court and at all levels of the first instant hierarchy. He served for a term as the Vice President of the Cyprus Judges' Association. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Cyprus in January 2014, where he still serves. He is married and has three children.

Tefkros Th. Economou

Born in Famagusta on 20.10.1961.

He studied Law at the University of Athens.

He practiced Law at Larnaca from 1987 until 1997. On 11.1.1993 he was appointed District Judge and on 19.11.2001 he was appointed Senior District Judge. On 11.2.2008 he was appointed President of District Court serving as President of the Assize Court and as Administrative President of the District Court of Nicosia. On 1.9.2014 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

He served as Lecturer and Examiner of the Legal Council.

Appointed, in May 2016, member of the Committee responsible for the assessment of Greco's remarks/ recommendations.

Alternate arbitrator at the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE since June 2019.

Appointed, by the Supreme Court, Head of the Committee on Judicial Deontology Monitoring since October 2020.

Assigned Chairman of the Judicial Service's Supervisory Committee on the Protection of Personal Data since June 2022.

He is married and the father of four children.

Tasia Psara-Miltiadou

Tasia Psara-Miltiadou was born in Limassol in 1959. She is the first child of Mikis Psaras from Varosi and Dora Panagidou from Vasa Kilaniou.

She graduated from E' High school in Limassol (Lanitio) and she read law at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Upon her return to Cyprus, she practised as a lawyer for 13 years from 1982 -1995. She was then appointed as a District Judge at the District Court of Paphos and later in the District Court of Limassol.

In 2003, she was promoted to Senior District Judge and in 2008 to President of the Limassol District Court.

She served for two terms as a Senior District Judge of the Assize Court of Paphos and for one term as President of the Assize Court of Limassol.

She has been appointed as a Supreme Court Judge on the 15th of January 2015.

She is married and has two daughters. Apart from law, she loves literature, history.

Androula Stylianidou Pouyourou

Androula Stylianidou Pouyourou was born in Paphos in 1954 and is the daughter of Stylianos Stylianides and Maroulla Socratous, both from Messana of Paphos.

She graduated from the Second Gymnasium of Limassol in 1971 and studied law at the Athens National and Kapodistrian University, from where she graduated in 1976.

She practiced as a lawyer for 14 years, between 1977 and 1991, when she was appointed as a District Judge. She initially served at the District Court of Nicosia and later at the District Courts of Paphos and Limassol. In 2000 she was promoted to the post of Senior District Judge and in 2009 was appointed President of the District Court. She served as Administrative President

of the District Courts of Limassol and Paphos and as President of the Assize Court of Paphos.

She is married to Sozos Pouyouros and she has two daughters, Maria and Stella.

She is a member of the Supreme Court of Cyprus from 4.1.2017.

Charis Malachtos

Charis Malachtos was born in Limassol-Cyprus in October 1964.

He studied law at the University College London and he was awarded the degree of Bachelor of Laws (LLB). He is also a Barrister of the Lincoln's Inn.

He practised law from 1989 until his appointment as Acting District Judge on the 9th of January 1995.

He was appointed District Judge on the 9th of January 1996. He was promoted to Senior District Judge on the 10th of September 2003 and to President,

District Court on the 2nd of April 2010.

He served as President of the Paphos Permanent Assize Court and the Limassol Permanent Assize Court and as Administrative President of the District Court of Larnaca-Famagusta and of the District Court of Limassol.

He was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court on the 15th of October 2019.

He speaks Greek and English. He is married and the father of two children.

Dora Socratous

Dora Socratous was born in Limassol and she was the first child of Christodoulos and Tereza Socratous, from Potamiou, Limassol.

She studied law at the Aristoteleion University of Thessaloniki and practiced law for 13 years. On the 20th of November 1995, she was appointed District Judge, first the District Court of Nicosia and later at other District Courts. In February 2004, she was promoted to Senior District Judge and on 20/6/2011 to President District Court.

She served as President of the Assize Court of Paphos and as Administrative President of the District Court of Paphos from 2015 until the 7th of December, 2020 when she was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

She is married with Evangelos Socratous and the mother of two children.

Lena Demetriadou-Andreou

Lena Demetriadou-Andreou is married and has one daughter.

Academic Qualifications:

Holder of the following degrees and qualifications:

- L.L.B. Honors awarded by Essex University, U.K.
- L.L.M. Honors on Corporate Law awarded by Cambridge University, U.K.
- The Professional title of Barrister at Law of Gray's Inn.

Brief Professional Background:

- From 1989 until 1990 she was practicing law in the private sector.
- From 1990 until November 1995 she was holding the position of Counsel for the Republic in the Legal Service of the Republic of Cyprus.
- She was appointed in the Judicial Service as acting District Judge on November 1995 and as a District Judge on November 1996. Since that date until February 2004 she was holding the position of District Judge.
- On February 2004 she was promoted to the position of Senior District Judge.
- On October 2012 she was promoted to the position of the President of District Court.
- She served as President of the Assize Court of Nicosia from 25/4/2013 - 9/9/2016.
- She served as Administrative President of the District Court of Larnaca - Famagusta from 6/2/2017 - 9/9/2019 and as Administrative President of the District Court of Nicosia from 10/9/2019 - 6/12/2020.

- Since 2001 until 2015 she was an Examiner on the subject of Criminal Procedure, which is one of the subjects in the examinations that are held by the Cyprus Legal Council for acquiring the right to practice as a lawyer in the Republic of Cyprus.
- Since October 2018 until today she is a Trainer in the Group of Trainers of the National School of Judges.
- Since October 2020 she is a member of the Committee on Judicial Deontology Monitoring.
- On 7/12/2020 she was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court.

Ioannis Ioannides

Ioannis Ioannides was born in Nicosia - Cyprus in 1963.

He graduated from the Pancyprian Gymnasium and of the Law School of the University of Athens. He practiced Law at Nicosia from 1988. On the 20.11.1995 he was appointed District Judge serving at the District Court of Nicosia. On 15.2.2004 he was appointed Senior District Judge. On 12.11.2012 he was appointed President of District Court. He served as President of the Limassol Permanent Assize Court and as Administrative President of the District Court of Nicosia and of the District Court of Larnaca.

On 7.12.2020 he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court.

Nicholas Santis

Nicholas Santis was born in Famagusta Cyprus on 5.9.1962. He graduated from Acropolis A' Gymnasium in 1980. He studied *Jurisprudence* at the *University of Oxford* and was awarded a *Bachelor of Arts (BA Hons)* in *Jurisprudence* and an *MA in Jurisprudence* (by conversion). He also holds a *BA in Political Science* from *Boston University*, and a *PhD in Law* from the *University of Edinburgh, School of Law*. He is currently a doctoral candidate (*DPhil*) at the *University of Oxford, School of Law*. During his academic studies he received various distinctions and awards.

He was appointed Justice of the Supreme Court in December 2020. He served as Acting District Court Judge (1995-1996), District Court Judge (1996-2004), Senior District Court Judge (2004-2013), and President, District Court (2013-2020). He served as President of the Larnaca-Famagusta Assize Court (2019-2020 and 2013-2015), as a Member of the of the Assize Court of Nicosia (2009-2013) and of the Assize Court of Limassol-Paphos (2001-2013).

As a lawyer he practiced in a wide range of legal matters as a member of the Famagusta Bar Association. He participated as a member of the Committee on Judicial Reform, and the Rules Committee. He was a Trainer Judge in the Cyprus School for Judicial Training, and President elect of the Cyprus Judges Association for three consecutive terms until his appointment as Supreme Court Justice (2013-2020). He was a member of the Cyprus Board of Bar Examiners, and a Lecturer and Examiner on *Criminal Law* (for approximately fifteen years), and *Evidence Law* (for approximately four concurrent years). He

has taught (pro bono) *Criminal Investigation Law* as an *Adjunct Lecturer* at the *University of Cyprus Law School*. He was a *Member of the Cyprus Crime Prevention Council* for seven years, representing therein the Cypriot Judiciary by permission and selection of the Supreme Court of Cyprus. He successfully completed assigned chairmanship duties in various Working Groups during the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union (2012).




He gave lectures in local universities and international legal conferences, and has written legal articles which have been published in Cypriot and international journals. He is the co-author (with the now deceased Takis Eliades, ex-Justice of the Supreme Court) of a book on evidence law, titled *The Law of Evidence: Procedural and Substantive Aspects* (First Edition: 2014, Second Edition: 2016). Once, a middle - and long-distance runner for GSE (Evagoras Athletic Association of Famagusta), he succeeded noteworthy results in pancyprian and panhellenic games. In 2004 he received a commendation by the Cyprus Amateur Athletic Association (CAAA), together with other ex-athletes, for his contribution to Cyprus athletics (track and field).

He is married, and a father of three children.

Statistics

Judges

131
Total

COURT			
SUPREME COURT	7	6	13
DISTRICT COURTS	43	41	84
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT	2	5	7
INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION ADMINISTRATIVE COURT	3	7	10
FAMILY COURTS	3	7	10
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES TRIBUNAL	1	2	3
RENT CONTROL TRIBUNALS	1	2	3
MILITARY COURT	1	0	1
TOTAL	61	70	131

Court Staff



176
Male



318
Female

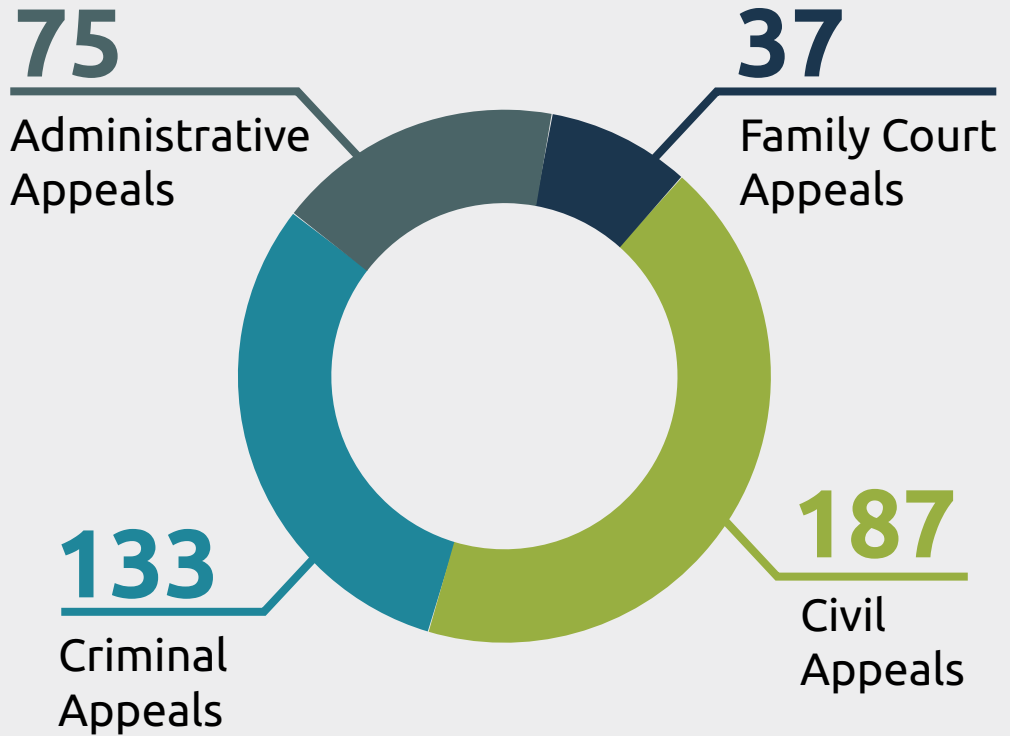
494
Total

Published Decisions of the Supreme Court



663
Total

APPELLATE JURISDICTION

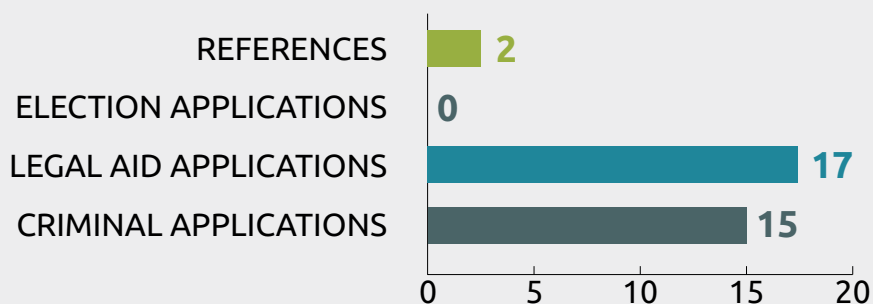


FIRST INSTANCE JURISDICTION

193 Civil Applications

4 Admiralty

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION



Cyprus Judicial Training School

BELOW:

Poulias Building, Judicial Training School

RIGHT:

George Erotocritou, Director of the Judicial Training School





The goals of the Judicial Training School for the future are to continue to provide at least 2 days of annual training to all Cypriot judges, with the quality and content of training remaining at a high level.

The Judicial Training School was officially established on the 14th of August 2020, following the adoption of Law 101 (I) / 2020, which provides for its establishment and operation. However, the first training seminars, organized and coordinated by the Judicial Training School with Cypriot trainers, were held in early October 2018.

One of the first actions taken towards the establishment of the Judicial Training School, was the preparation of a relevant Report dated 15 October 2012, by Mr. George Erotocritou, - Judge of the Supreme Court at that time and current Director of the School. The Supreme Court adopted the content of the Report and decided to promote the idea of establishing a School for Judicial Training for Cypriot Judges.

Subsequently, the Training Office of the Supreme Court was established, with the Director of Training having, amongst other things, the responsibility of implementing the decision of the Supreme Court concerning the establishment of the School for Judicial Training.

The 2017 Report of Professor Jeremy Cooper, which listed recommendations to the Supreme Court for the establishment and functioning of the School, is considered another milestone. These recommendations were approved in their entirety by the Supreme Court in July

2017, resulting in their gradual implementation by August 2020, when, with the enactment of the Law, the School was officially put into operation.

The Judicial Training School is based on the model of the Judicial College of England and is supervised by the School Council, whose Members are appointed by the President of the Supreme Court.

The training provided by the School is based on the Judicial Training Principles, which have been documented and adopted by the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) and the executive committee of the European Networks of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ). The trainers in each seminar consist of Cypriot judges of the School who have undergone special training, as well as expert judges from abroad.

In its two years of operation, the School's training programs have extended to include, not only Cypriot Judges, but the rest of the court staff, such as Legal Officers, Registrars, Bailiffs, as well as the administrative staff. Additionally, the School hosts, on an annual basis, seminars organized by international educational organizations, whilst also participating in exchange program for judges, coordinated by EJTN.

The Judicial Training School has also developed a wide network of cooperation with international

organizations, such as the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) of which it is a member, the Council of Europe and in particular with the Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP), the Judicial College of England, the Academy of European Law (ERA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and other organizations focusing on judicial education. Also noteworthy is the cooperation with domestic education providers, such as the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration (CAPA), the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Bar Association regarding education of its members.

The goals of the Judicial Training School for the future are to continue to provide at least 2 days of annual training to all Cypriot judges, with the quality and content of training remaining at a high level. Moreover, the School will strive to continue engaging highly competent trainer judges, which up to today, remains one of the biggest challenges that the School faces.

Cyprus Judicial Training School

Reform Department

Prior to our accession to the European Union, there was no measure for comparing the effectiveness of the courts in Cyprus. However, after our accession in 2004, the performance of the courts in Cyprus is being recorded and presented in the Annual EU Justice Scoreboard and can thus be compared to the performance of other countries. According to the Scoreboard, Cyprus usually ranks amongst the last places.

The problems of the courts are not new. Most of these problems are due to the fact that no gradual reforms were made so as to upgrade the judicial system.



LEFT:

From left to right: Persefoni Panayi, President of the Supreme Court, Mario Nava, Director-General DG REFORM, European Commission, and George Erotocritou, Director of the Judicial Training School

RIGHT:

From left to right: Daniele Dotto, Head of Unit - Governance and Public Administration - European Commission, DG REFORM, Adamantia Manta, Policy Officer - European Commission, DG REFORM and George Erotocritou, Director of the Judicial Training School



The biggest problem that the courts face and continue to face today is the large volume of backlog of cases, which has highlighted the weaknesses and failures of the courts throughout the years.

In 2016, despite the financial crisis, the Supreme Court did not hesitate to announce the reform and modernization of the courts.

Urged and prompted by DG Reform of the European Commission (EC), the Supreme Court decided to appoint a three-member Committee to codify the various structural problems, in order to facilitate the request for Technical Support from the EC.

In June 2016 the relevant Report was completed. Following its adoption by the Supreme Court, it was delivered to the President of the Republic, who expressed his support for the coordinated effort to reform the courts.

The Ministry of Finance immediately stated that it would allocate the required funds for the implementation of the necessary reforms.

At the end of 2016, the Report was submitted to the EC together with an application for Technical Assistance, which was approved.

This resulted in the commencement of the various funded projects.

In order to ensure that the funded projects were to be smoothly run and managed, the EC had urged the appointment of a Director of Reform. In 2017, the Supreme Court appointed former Supreme Court Judge Mr. George Erotocritou, as Director of Reform and Training, resulting in the establishment of the Reform Department, which operates to this day.

Chronologically, the first project that started was the establishment of the independent **Judicial Training School**, which would undertake the training of First Instance Judges, Legal Officers of the Supreme Court, Registrars and court Staff. The Project was implemented in August 2020, with the adoption of the relevant Law 101 (I) / 2020 governing the establishment and operation of the School as an independent entity. The EC funded the training of the first Cypriot Trainer-Judges of the School.

The important Project for the *“General Reform of the courts”* came next. This EU-funded Project was completed on March 18th, 2018, with the submission to the Supreme Court of the Report on *“The Functional Review of*

the courts System of Cyprus” prepared by the IPA Irish Experts.

In the Report, the Experts made 21 recommendations for a wide range of reforms of the courts. The Report was examined by the Supreme Court, which adopted all the recommendations, since they were, to some extent, very similar to the findings identified in the Supreme Court 2016 Report.

The adoption of the Report prepared by the Irish Experts marked the beginning of the implementation of the 21 recommendations.

The third important EU-funded Project was that of the **Review of the Rules of Civil Procedure**, and it began in 2017. The Project proved to be complex and time consuming, but with the determination of all those involved, it was completed in June 2019.

Upon the advice of Lord Dyson, who led the team of Experts, the Supreme Court appointed a specialised **Rules Committee** which consisted of an equal number of Judges and Lawyers and a Registrar. The Committee was chaired by Justice of the Supreme Court Ms. Persefoni Panayi, current President of the Supreme Court. The Committee was tasked with



In 2016, despite the financial crisis, the Supreme Court did not hesitate to announce the reform and modernization of the Courts.

advising the Dyson team of Experts on the Guiding Drafts and to ensure that the new Rules were in line with the Cypriot reality.

After the completion of the Project, the Dyson team delivered to the Supreme Court and to the Rules Committee its Report, which included the well-known “**Guiding Drafts**”. These however were in English and thus had to be translated into Greek, before their official approval by the Supreme Court.

As a result, a fourth EU-funded Project for the “**Translation of English texts into Greek**” was launched. For this purpose, the Rules Committee undertook a leading role, and reviewed all the texts translated by the translator and the linguist. At the same time, the President of the Rules Committee, Ms. Persefoni Panayi, drafted new Admiralty Rules, whilst Mr. Yiasemis N. Yiasemi, Justice of the Supreme Court, drafted the new Rules for the Commercial Court and the Appeals.



The fifth Project funded by DG Reform of the EC, was the preparation of a study by Experts for the establishment of **“Objective Criteria for the Recruitment and Promotion of Judges”**.

The Project was completed on March 18th, 2019, and the Supreme Court adopted, for the first time, relevant criteria which were based on the respective recommendations.

The sixth funded Project concerns the introduction in the courts of a system for the **“Digital Audio Recording of Court Proceedings”**. The relevant Report was completed in May 2019 and the relevant recommendations are currently being implemented. The introduction of the system in the courts is expected by the end of 2022.

Other projects or activities that have also been implemented concern the establishment of a Temporary Electronic Register, the establishment of a Temporary System for Registration of Cases in courts

(i-justice) and the establishment of the new Administrative Court of International Protection.

Amongst the funded projects, two are still pending:

- (a) The study for the **“Establishment of an Independent Court Service”**. The Project began in 2020 and is expected to be completed in 2022 and
- (b) The **“Digitization of Insolvency Proceedings”** (joint Project with the Insolvency Department of the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry).

The following Projects are pending for implementation:

- (1) The elimination of the backlog of cases. In December 2021, a relevant Action Plan was submitted to the Council of Ministers and the EC.
- (2) The introduction of the new Rules of Civil Procedure in September 2023 for the new cases.

- (3) The establishment of a Second Instance Court of Appeal. The adoption of the relevant Bill is pending.
- (4) The establishment of a Commercial Court and a Maritime Court. The adoption of the relevant Bill is pending.
- (5) The introduction of e-justice. The project is expected to be completed within 2022.
- (6) The amendment of the scales of the courts. The adoption of the relevant Bill is pending.
- (7) The study for the introduction of Divisions, both in the Supreme Court and in the other courts.
- (8) The construction of a new court building to house the Nicosia District Court.

Most of the pending Projects, except for the last two, are expected to be implemented in accordance with the timelines set out in the Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Reform Department, Supreme Court

New Civil Procedure Rules

Yiasemis N. Yiasemis

Justice, President of the Committee of the Civil Procedure Rules of Cyprus

The new Civil Procedure Rules were approved by the Supreme Court on the 19th May, 2021 and are part of the Legal System of the Republic of Cyprus. They constitute the substantial procedural law, upon which most civil disputes will be lodged and tried. To facilitate their application, a number of judges and advocates have been trained who, in due course, will be called upon to train their colleagues.

Following the completion of the above-mentioned stage, the new Rules are expected to come into force in September, 2023. Certain Parts thereof may come into force earlier than that. This will depend on the readiness of the judge and the lawyers in the case, to respond to their respective duties; most likely, it will not be difficult for them, considering the training they would have undergone, in the

meantime. Judges, however, will be able to deal with cases under the new Rules, once the backlog of the old cases is eliminated or restricted, thus, allowing for this to be realised.

Given the legal developments in the Republic of Cyprus, the new Rules aim at serving the adversarial system of the Common Law, which is applied in Cyprus. In order to satisfy this requirement, the new Rules have been based on the model provided by the Civil Procedure Rules of England and Wales. They introduce, as a basic rule, the *"overriding objective"* which entails *"dealing with a case justly and at a proportionate cost"*, (Part 1). Driven by the aforementioned rule, the court, will be able to exercise actively its general powers for managing each individual case, (Part 3)¹.

The new Rules constitute a complete procedural Code which, also, includes all forms required to be used pursuant to specific provisions. Drafting the new Rules in the above form constitutes a prerequisite for the fruition of the New Era in the Republic's domain of Justice; especially of no further delays in the adjudication of civil cases and for its servants, judges and advocates, to attain a high level of professional aptitude in dealing with cases.

¹ More details can be found in the speech *"Basic Changes brought about by the proposed Civil Procedure Rules"*, which was delivered on 10.3.2021 in the Remote Conference *"Change in Civil Procedure Rules: The Experience of National and International Courts"*, and in the speech *"The Philosophy behind the New Civil Procedure Rules and the Main Changes"*, delivered on 8.12.2021, at the Final Conference regarding the Modernizing of the Civil Procedure Rules in Cyprus, held at the Supreme Court of Cyprus. Both speeches are found in the Supreme Court's website.



ABOVE:
*Yiasemis N. Yiasemis,
Justice, President of the Committee
of the Civil Procedure Rules of Cyprus*

A New Era for Justice

Andreas Y. Tserkezos

Supreme Court Registrar, Office of the
President of the Supreme Court and the
Chief Registrar

Last year signaled the beginning of the operation of the electronic justice system iJustice. For the first time after years of fruitless attempts, the Supreme Court, in April 2021, in cooperation with the newly founded Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, launched the electronic filing and electronic case management system, iJustice. The iJustice system is a fully developed electronic case management system which supports the electronic filing of pleadings, petitions and other documents and also allows for the digital fixing of dates for court cases, the exchange of messages and notifications, digital court docket displays and other functions. The system was created as an interim solution, spurred on by the covid pandemic, pending the completion of the development of the complete eJustice system, the pilot phase of which is expected to be launched in the second (2nd) quarter of 2022.

Another innovation which was introduced by the iJustice system is the digital payment of court and lawyer stamp duties, the payment of which, until recently, was effected by purchasing adhesive stamps and affixing them to documents.

Following the implementation of the iJustice system, there was an

upgrade of the infrastructure and equipment of the courts. Namely, both wireless and cabled internet speeds were upgraded, old PCs were replaced, Judges were provided with portable computers with the ability for remote access to the iJustice system and latest technology scanners were installed.

At the same time and in order to regulate the use of electronic systems in justice, the Supreme Court in January, 2021 issued the *Electronic Justice (Electronic Filing) Procedural Regulation of 2021*. This Procedural Regulation regulates the specialized aspects concerning the use of electronic systems and sets the rules and policies for the usage of such systems.

The repercussions of the pandemic as well as the introduction of strict sanitary protocols for social distancing, inevitably, affected the courts. For the decongestion of court rooms and registries, the Supreme Court, in September 2021, issued the *Electronic Justice (Electronic Communication) Procedural Regulation of 2021*, which enables the exchange of communications between Courts and litigants via email.

In the process of digitalizing court procedure, in 2021 the

BELOW:

*Andreas Y. Tserkezos,
Supreme Court Registrar, Office of the
President of the Supreme Court and the
Chief Registrar*

foundations were laid for Digital Audio Recording (DAR), a digital process for recording court minutes. The project was integrated into the Recovery and Resilience Facility and is being implemented in cooperation with the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy.

Generally, after the Covid-19 outbreak, one can observe considerable mobility and a greater readiness towards the use of electronic means. Apart from the aforementioned, for the necessary adjustment to the new situation, many other additional digitalized procedures have been developed for handling requests from the public remotely and for the decongestion of the courts.

Andreas Tserkezos is involved, among other things, with the Digitalization of Justice.



Notable Decisions

OF THE SUPREME COURT

29 JUL
2021

Criminal Appeal no 48/20 MS v. The Republic, 29/7/21

The appellant was convicted and sentenced by the Assize Court to twenty seven years imprisonment on a count of sexually abusing a child. He filed an appeal against his sentence on the ground that it was manifestly excessive. The victim, a minor, was the daughter of his partner at that time. The sexual abuse started when the victim was 6 ½ years old and ended when she was 10 ½ years old.

The Supreme Court in dismissing the appeal held that the sentence imposed was a proper sentence and constituted a fair punishment for the heinous behavior of the appellant. The aggravating factors such as the age and vulnerability of the victim, the extensive duration of the abuse and the effect it had on the psychology of the victim rendered the case one of the most serious of its kind. The Court stressed that the imposition of such a sentence sent a resounding message that offences of this kind will be dealt with by the courts with the imposition of severe and deterrent sentences.

05 OCT
2021

Reference no 1/20 President of the Republic v. House of Representatives 5/10/21

The President of the Republic referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion the question of whether the **Rent Control (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Law (No3) of 2020** was repugnant to, or inconsistent with the Constitution. The Law, which provided for the suspension of eviction proceedings, was enacted as a temporary measure for the protection of tenants from eviction due to the situation created by the pandemic.

The Full Bench of the Supreme Court opined that the Law was compatible with Article 30 of the Constitution which safeguards the right of access to a Court and of fair trial. It stated that the right of access to a Court is not absolute and can be subjected to restrictions, such as the suspension of legal proceedings. These restrictions, however, should not restrict or limit access to court in such a manner or to such a degree that the core of the right is undermined. The Supreme Court considered that the three month suspension did not impair the essence of the right to access.

In the opinion of the Court, however, the Law violated the principle of the separation of powers. The Law provided for the suspension of all eviction proceedings, including ongoing judicial proceedings, and in essence suspended the core of the power of the judiciary to finally adjudicate disputes between parties. The legislature, had in this way, exercised power outside the realm of its legislative competence, and interfered with the independence of the judiciary, thus violating the doctrine of the separation of powers.

The Law was declared unconstitutional.

11 OCT
2021

Reference no 2/21 President of the Republic v. House of Representatives, 11/10/21

The President of the Republic referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion the question of whether the **Courts of Justice (Amendment) Law of 2021** is repugnant to, or inconsistent with articles 61, 80.2, 163 and 179 of the Constitution. The Law provided for the enactment of rules for the electronic filing of court documents.

The Supreme Court stated in its opinion that Article 163.1 of the Constitution granted exclusive competence to the Supreme Court to make and publish rules of Court, including procedural rules regulating the filing of documents. The aforesaid Law essentially required the Supreme Court to make procedural rules regulating the filing of documents, specifying, inter alia, the manner, that is, electronically, the timeframe and the duration of the measure. This constituted an interference with the exclusive competence of the judiciary in violation of Article 163 and the doctrine of the separation of powers.

02 DEC
2021

Reference no 1/21 President of the Republic v. House of Representatives 2/12/21

The President of the Republic referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion the question of whether the **Requirements for Registration of Photographers in a Professional Register and Relevant Matters Law of 2020** was repugnant to, or inconsistent with Article 25 of the Constitution which safeguards the right to practice any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business.

The Supreme Court, after considering the question, opined that the requirements and restrictions set out in the Law, relating to the exercise of the photography profession, were not the usual rights and restrictions imposed for the protection of the profession and contravened the rule of proportionality. The Supreme Court stated that there was no stipulation in the Law that the requirements and restrictions were necessary for the protection of public order and security, which would justify the restriction of a fundamental right. It concluded that the Law violated the right to employment and was incompatible with Article 25 of the Constitution. The Law was declared unconstitutional.



02 DEC 2021

Reference 3/2021, 2 December 2021

The President of the Republic, by Reference No. 3/2021, referred to the Supreme Court for its opinion, the question whether «The Police (Amendment) Law of 2021» was contrary to Articles 28.1, 54, 61, 80.2 και 179 of the Constitution and the principle of separation of powers. The subject of the reference was a new provision, section 17B, regulating the appointment of specialist members to the Police Force.

The Supreme Court reiterated that, the sole object of Article 140.1 is the review of the constitutionality of a law or decision. The motives and wisdom of a legislative provision cannot be subjected to constitutional scrutiny. Article 28.1 of the Constitution provides for equality before the law, the administration and justice. Legislation may contain reasonable differentiations between people or classes of people provided this is justified by the intrinsic different circumstances. The principle of equality requires the avoidance of arbitrary differentiations.

It was held that the legislative enactment concerned discriminated arbitrarily against individuals who might seek appointment to specialised positions within the police force but were not employed by it. The distinction led to unlawful discrimination since it introduced a parallel procedure for the appointment of specialist members of the police force, with the exclusive and sole aim of favourably treating existing members of the Police Force.

The provision was found to be unconstitutional as violating the principle of equality, in view of the arbitrary, unequal treatment between individuals who were already members of the police force and those who were not. The referred legislation was deemed unconstitutional in its entirety.

Civil Applications regarding Telecommunications Data

27 OCT
2021

The applicants applied to the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction for the issue of orders of certiorari to bring up and quash a search warrant, a telecommunications data disclosure order and an arrest warrant. The main question for determination was whether the national **Law on the Retention of Telecommunications Data for the purpose of investigating serious criminal offences Law of 2007, Law No. 183(I)/2007**, which requires a provider of a public network or a publicly available electronic communications service to retain traffic and location data, subscriber and/or user data for a period of 6 months, contravenes **Directive 2002/58/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council**, as well as the relevant principles from the case-law of the CJEU.

(C-203/15 και C698/15 Tele Sverige και Watson and Others. ECLI:EU:C:2016:970, C-511/18, C512/18 and C-520/18 La Quadrature du Net and Others).

Given its importance, the matter was heard by the plenary of the Supreme Court. A majority of 7 judges held that the national Law allows a general retention of the movement and location data of all subscribers and registered users of electronic communication services, throughout the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, without any specifically required geographical restrictions in the sense of targeting specific groups of individuals or locations. Despite the safeguards provided by the Law regarding “access” to data (approval of the Attorney General, leave of the court, maintaining a record), the preventive, universal and indiscriminate retention of personal data, although important for the detection and successful prosecution of offenders, especially taking into account the small territorial region of Cyprus and the geographical distribution of crime, is not compatible with the principles of proportionality laid down in the law of the European Union for “targeted” retention. (Article 15(1) of the Directive, Articles 7, 8 and 52 of the Charter).

On the other hand, the minority decision (6 judges), found the Law compatible with the Directive, as interpreted by European case law (see also C-746/18 H.K. v. Prokuratuur, 2.3.2021). The Law clearly defines what constitutes a serious offence as well as the data that can be retained for specific purposes, it provides clear retention rules for data security, penalties for violations and strict control by the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection. Moreover, an application is made by a police investigator, only in relation to the investigation of a serious criminal offence and a reasoned court order is issued regarding data already being kept by the provider, obviously from before the investigation of the crimes, in another legal context, for billing purposes and limited to what is absolutely necessary.

1. The case concerned the abduction of a one-year-old child by the child's Cypriot mother, and the child's removal from the U.S.A to Cyprus, without the father's knowledge. The father, with the help of private detectives, located the child after ten months. Subsequently, the competent US Authority submitted a request for the return of the child to the Minister of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus, who is the Central Authority for the purposes of the *Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction Convention*. More than four months later, the Cypriot Central Authority filed an application with the Family Court, requesting the return of the child to its habitual place of residence in the USA. The proceedings lasted for two years.

2. The Family Court rejected the mother's allegations that the father had given his consent or permission for the child's removal to Cyprus, that the child had adapted to the new environment in Cyprus, and that the child's return posed a serious risk and would expose the child to a physical or mental ordeal or place it in an intolerable situation. It ordered the immediate return of the child to the child's habitual place of residence in the USA and to the child's father or to a person who would act on the father's behalf. The mother appealed against the Family Court's decision and the Court orders were stayed pending the appeal.

3. The Court of Appeal stressed that the Convention's objective is the protection of the interests of children in regard to matters relating to their custody. In the case of illegal removal or retention of a child, the Convention considers this as harmful for the child, thus an immediate return is considered to be in the child's best interests.

The Convention introduces exceptions to the general obligation of the States to ensure the immediate return of children, where the return would not be in the child's interest. These exceptions are interpreted narrowly, and the burden of proof lies with the party invoking them.

4. There is no obligation to order the return of the child if the parent who had custody of the child had consented to its removal or subsequently consented. Furthermore, no order will be issued for the return of the child, if there is a clear risk that the return will expose the child to physical or mental harm or put him/her in an intolerable situation, other than the inevitable uncertainty, distress and anxiety that a child's return to the country of his/her habitual residence entails.

5. The matter of the adjustment of the child in Cyprus was connected with the provisions of Article 12 of the Convention. Had the proceedings in Cyprus started within one year of the abduction, then Article 12§1 would have applied and it would have been obligatory to order the immediate return of the child, unless any of the exceptions provided for in the Convention were substantiated.

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6. The delay in filing an application with the Family Court adversely affected the case as Article 12§2 became applicable, bringing into consideration the factor of the child's adaptation to the new environment, without an obligation on the state to order the child's immediate return. The delay in the court proceedings did not count in the context of Article 12§2.
 7. The judicial or administrative authorities of the Contracting States should carry out brief procedures for the return of children and should take all appropriate measures to ensure that the objectives of the Convention are achieved. It is provided that, if the competent authority does not reach a decision within six weeks from the date of commencement of the proceedings, the applicant or the Central Authority of the requested State has the right to request a statement of the reasons for the delay.
 8. The Court of Appeal found that the Family Court failed to take into account the time set by the Convention and the serious international obligation of the Republic to reach a decision without delay, with the result that the trial was delayed for so long that the final decision was issued almost two years later. The mother's side contributed to the whole delay. The Court of Appeal noted that there was a deviation from the framework of the Convention and a serious breach of the obligations of the Republic of Cyprus.
 9. The decision under the Convention regarding the return of the child is not deemed to be a decision on the substance of any custody matter. The sole purpose of the procedure and the order is to restore the status quo by returning the child to the place where it had its habitual residence at the time immediately before the unlawful removal. In addition, it does not regulate the issue to whom the child should be returned, nor does it require the return of the child to the care of the parent left behind, so that the question of who will take responsibility for the child upon the return is decided by the competent Courts or authorities of the place of habitual residence, in accordance with the law on parental responsibility.
 10. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal and ordered that the child be surrendered for the purpose of returning it to its place of habitual residence in the USA.

Events & Meetings 2021

04
02

First conference with Judicial Service Press Representatives.

03
03

Online Conference for Lawyers - Presentation of Proposed Rules of Civil Procedure.

10
06

Visit to the Supreme Court of the Director General of DG Reform of the European Union, Mr. Mario Nava.

12
02

Video Conference with the Director General of the DG Reform of European Union, Mr Mario Nava, Mr George Erotocritou, and the President of the Supreme Court.

20
04

Teleconference with the Director General of DG Reform of the European Union, Mr. Mario Nava.

29
06

Visit of the Supreme Court at the District Court of Paphos.

18
02

SRSP4 (Independent Court Service Project) Opening Ceremony (Online).

17
05

Visit of the Supreme Court at the District Court of Nicosia.

08
07

First Briefing of the Trainers Session CPR (8 Judges and 3 Registrars) Teleconference.

23
02

Meeting with the Minister of Justice and Public Order in relation to the Reform of the Justice System.

19
05

Approval of the New Civil Procedure Rules by the Supreme Court.

19
07

Courtesy Meeting of the Legal Committee of the House of Representatives with the President and Members of the Supreme Court.

25
02

Courtesy visit of the French Ambassador, Mrs. Salina Grenet Catalano.

20
05

First Meeting of the Council of the School of Judges.

02
03
09

Riga Conference (Teleconference).

07
06

Visit of the Supreme Court at the District Court of Limassol.

07
09

Courtesy visit of the Chief and Deputy Chief of the Police to the Supreme Court.

27
09

Visit of the Sub Minister of Social Welfare, Mrs Anastasia Anthousi.

30
09

Courtesy Visit of the Dutch Ambassador, Mrs Elke Merks-Schaapveld.

04
10

Visit of the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection, Mrs Irene Loizidou-Nicolaides.

12
10

Meeting with the Reform Committee, representatives of the European Committee and the Council of Europe (Project SRSP3).

09
15
11

Meeting with the European Prosecutor, Ms Laura Koresi.

18
11

Meeting with delegates from the Venice Commission.

19
11

Exchange of Judges - Visit of Mrs. Eugenia Tsipras Judge of the Thessaloniki Court of Appeal and the Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Greece Mr. Achilleas Zisi.

26
11

Visit of the Supreme Court at the District Court of Larnaca - Famagusta.

08
12

Formal Ceremony on the Completion of the Project for the Modernization of the Civil Procedure Rules.

09
12

Introduction Meeting with the international Trainers on the Civil Procedure Rules.

14
12

Courtesy visit of the Ambassador of Ireland, Mr. Conor Long.

15
12

Courtesy visit of the Ambassador of Germany, Mrs Anke Schlim.

22
12

Meeting of the President of the Supreme Court with Mr. Konstantinos Lykourgos, Judge of the ECJ.

“ Justice in Cyprus
is very much on
the threshold of
radical reform. ”

Persefoni Panayi
President, Supreme Court



Supreme Court of Cyprus
Charalambos Mouskos Street, 1102 Nicosia, Cyprus
T: +357 22865741 | F: +357 22304500

supremecourt.gov.cy