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01-7/2021 м.

21.05.2021 м.

Your Excellency Mr. Diego Garcia - Sayan,

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan expresses its highest consideration and gratitude for cooperation.

Taking into account our cooperation in 2018 we would like to inform you about the progress we have made.

As a result of the adoption in 2018 of the Law “On Advocacy and Legal Assistance”, such problems as the lack of a mechanism to protect citizens from the actions of indecent advocates, non-transparency in the bars of advocates’ financial activities, and the lack of chairmen turnover mechanism in the bars of advocates were solved.

However, we still face challenges with respect to the limited procedural power of advocates; lack of guarantees of the activities of legal consultants and need for confidentiality; limited capacity of the Republican Bar of advocates; absence of a unified association of legal consultants; the need for digitalization of advocates’ and legal consultants’ work.

A package of reforms was prepared to date, which will allow to:

- eliminate the rule on a lifetime ban on practicing advocacy in case of deprivation of a license;
- support young advocates who have no sufficient financial resources and number of clients by introducing benefits for the membership fees;
- define the guarantees of the activities and establish the confidentiality of legal consultants;
- grant the right for advocates to be elected to the governing and executive bodies of bars for two consecutive terms;
- determine the authority of legal advisers’ assistants;
- address the large-scale issues of advocacy, by introducing the fees for each member paid by regional bars of advocates to the budget of the Republican Bar of advocates (it is possible to implement through the redistribution of the budgets of regional bars without additional charges on advocates);
- address the large-scale issues of legal consultants by establishing a Republican Bar of legal Consultants and temporarily determining monthly membership fees for its needs.

We attach the analysis of the current situation and translation of the draft law “On amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Kazakhstan on issues of advocacy and legal aid” with comparison table in English (130 pages).

In this regard, we offer to arrange an online meeting at your convenient time to discuss the new reforms in the field of advocacy.

In the meantime, please accept, Your Excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Marat Beketayev



**Minister of Justice,
Republic of Kazakhstan**