

# SENATOR ILZE SKULTĀNE'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDICIAL ATTIRE

The Supreme Court Museum houses not only the robe of a Supreme Court judge, but also the judicial attire of a Constitutional Court judge, which was donated to the Museum by Senator Ilze Skultāne.

Ilze Skultāne was a judge of the first composition of the Constitutional Court from its establishment in 1996. She, then Chair of the Bauska District Court, and Andrejs Lepse, a judge of the Supreme Court, were nominated for the position of Constitutional Court judges by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court. At that time, everything related to the Constitutional Court was new, and the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court had to make such a decision for the first time.

Ilze Skultāne recalls the beginnings of the Constitutional Court's work as a creative process. There was no historical experience, as there had been no Constitutional Court in Latvia during the interwar period. At the beginning, the new court did not have many cases to adjudicate, and the judges devoted their time to developing the normative basis of the Constitutional Court.

The judicial attire of a Constitutional Court judge was also new. Interestingly, the attire included a cap, which is still part of it today. Ilze Skultāne recounted that when the judicial attire was being designed, there were discussions about the cap - whether it would be comfortable for women to wear - but the answer was that there would be no women! But there were, and in the very first judicial composition. However, the judges only wore the cap once - when they took their oath before the President of Latvia. After that, they were never worn again. Yet, the uniform donated to the Supreme Court Museum is a complete set, including the cap.

After eight years as a Constitutional Court judge, Ilze Skultāne became a senator of the first composition of the Senate's Department of Administrative Cases of the Supreme Court in 2004.



## CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDGES NOMINATED BY THE SUPREME COURT PLENARY SESSION

There are seven judges at the Constitutional Court, who are appointed by the Parliament. Three judges are appointed upon the recommendation of at least 10 members of the Parliament, two upon the recommendation of the Cabinet of Ministers, and two upon the recommendation of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court. The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court selects candidates for the office of judge of the Constitutional Court from among all judges in Latvia. The term of office of a judge of the Constitutional Court is 10 years.



Judges of the first composition of the Constitutional Court, Ilze Skultāne and Andrejs Lepse, in 1996