



REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
SUPREME COURT | SENATE

## SUPREME COURT | SENATE

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## Supreme Court | Senate

In 1918, in the course of establishing the judicial system of the newly formed Republic of Latvia, the Senate of Latvia was established as the court of cassation. It functioned until November 1940, when it was abolished by the Soviet regime. Following the restoration of the Republic of Latvia, the Senate was re-established in 1995 as part of the Supreme Court. From 2013, the court of cassation no longer bore the name "Senate"; however, since 2018, the Supreme Court may again be referred to as the Senate, and its judges as senators.



# Strategy of the Supreme Court | Senate

2026-2029

## MISSION

To uphold the rule of law by ensuring a uniform and stable application of the law

## VISION

The Senate as a guarantor of the rule of law and a driver of legal thought in Latvia

## VALUES

- Justice
- Independence
- Professionalism and quality
- Society and the individual

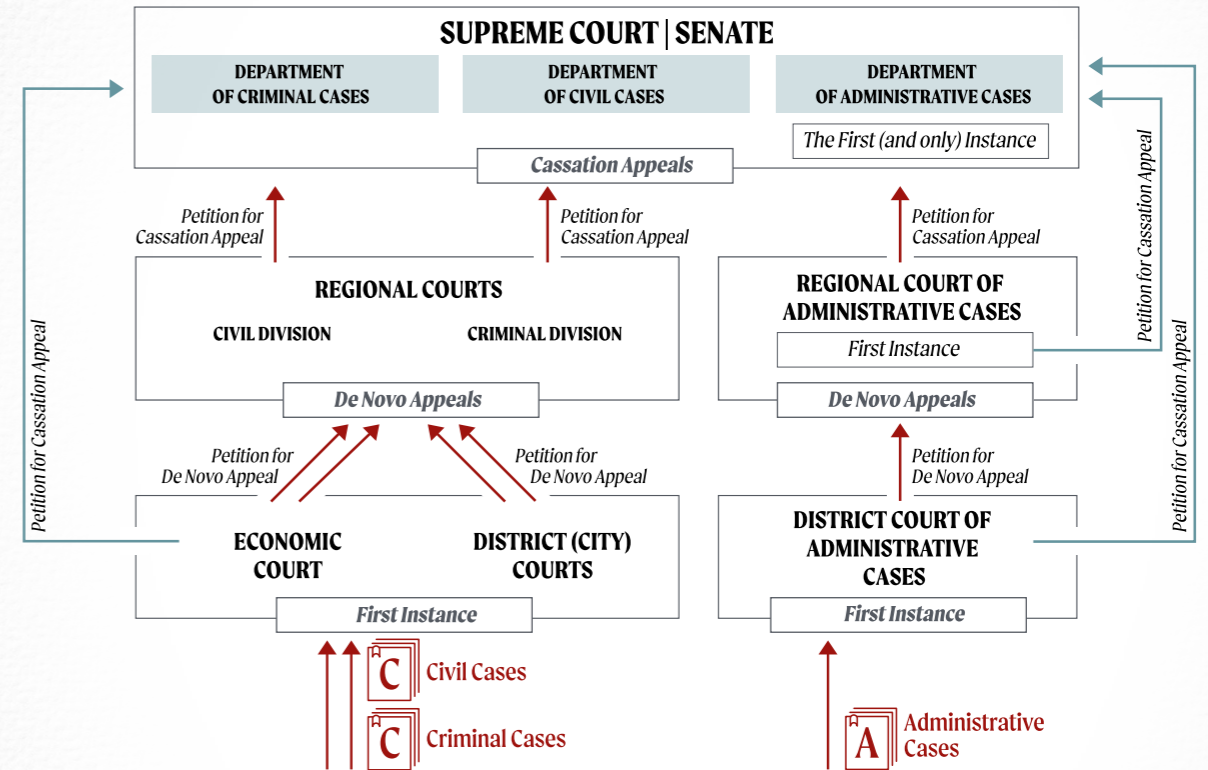
## CORE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

- Promoting a uniform and stable judicial practice and the development of case-law
- Ensuring effective and fair cassation proceedings
- Enhancing the efficiency of internal processes and the use of resources
- Strengthening cooperation, dialogue, and public trust

# THE SUPREME COURT WITHIN THE LATVIAN COURT SYSTEM

Article 82 of the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia

In Latvia, court cases shall be heard by district (city) courts, regional courts and the Supreme Court, but in the event of war or a state of emergency, also by military courts.

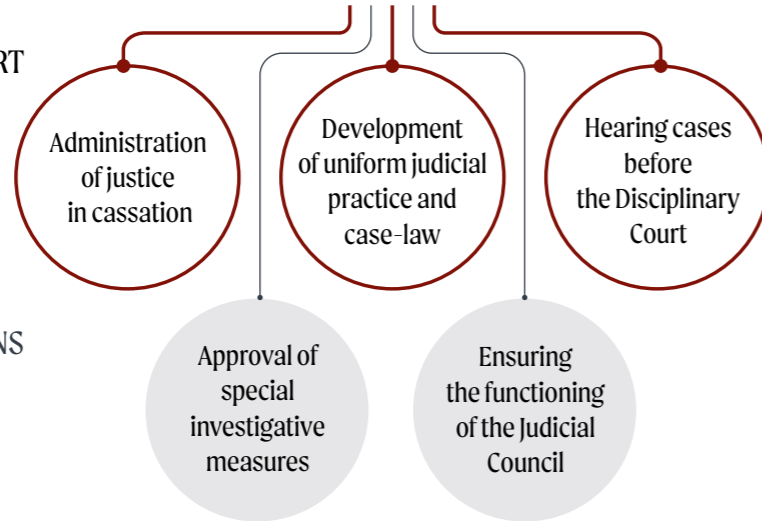


An independent judiciary exists in the Republic of Latvia alongside the legislative and executive branches. Latvia has a three-tier court system, in which the Supreme Court (Senate) serves as the highest court and hears cases in cassation.

Administratively, the Supreme Court is independent from district (city) and regional courts. The President and senators of the Supreme Court may not supervise or instruct judges of lower courts in relation to the adjudication of specific cases or organisational matters. The relationship between courts at all levels is expressed through procedural mechanisms, namely by reviewing appealed cases or cases in which a protest has been submitted against decisions of lower courts, as well as by developing consistent judicial practice and case-law.

The basis of the Supreme Court's functioning is laid down in the Constitution of the Republic of Latvia. The establishment, structure and competence of the Supreme Court is set out in the law "On Judicial Power". The procedural laws – the Civil Procedure Law, the Criminal Procedure Law, and the Administrative Procedure Law – define the procedure for hearing cases in cassation.

## BASIC FUNCTIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT



## ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS

## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN THE CASSATION INSTANCE

The cassation instance at the Supreme Court or the Senate consists of three departments: the Department of Civil Cases, the Department of Criminal Cases, and the Department of Administrative Cases.

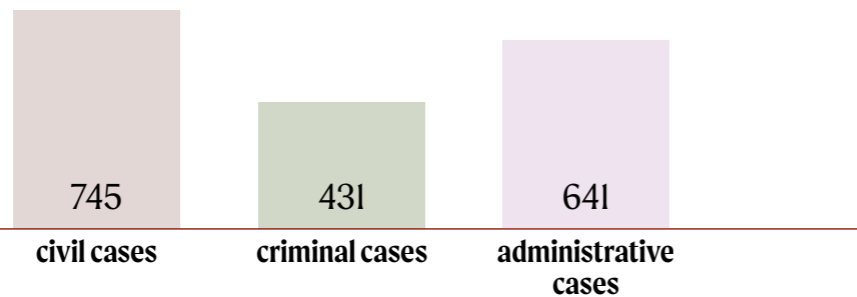
Cassation (Latin, *cassatio* – disaffirmation) involves examining the legality of a judgment of a lower instance court. The cassation instance does not review a case on its merits; its competence does not include reassessing the facts of the case and examining and evaluating evidence. The cassation instance reviews conformity of an appealed judgment with substantive and procedural law and decides on the basis of the relevant case materials.

Senate departments review cassation complaints and protests against decisions in cases heard under appellate procedure. In certain categories of cases specified in procedural laws, the Senate is a cassation instance for decisions of first instance courts. The Department of Administrative Cases is the first and only court instance in certain categories of cases.

Cases in the Senate are generally reviewed in written proceedings. In 2025, only 12 cases were heard in oral proceedings (11 of which were heard by the Department of Criminal Cases).

Judgments and decisions of the cassation instance are not subject to appeal.

IN 2025,  
THE SENATE  
REVIEWED  
1817 CASES



## DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFORM JUDICIAL PRACTICE AND CASE-LAW

The Senate's rulings that are significant for the development of uniform case-law are systematised in the Supreme Court's case-law database, available on its website. The rulings are arranged both chronologically and by thematic categories of cases. The database also includes indices of legal acts referenced in the rulings and of other rulings cited in them. In addition, these summarising the case-law findings of the Court, which are important for development of law, are prepared and published.

Rulings that contain significant legal findings are added to the relevant regulatory act on the legislation website [likumi.lv](http://likumi.lv).

Through cooperation between the Senate departments and the Division of Case-law and Research, case-law is compiled and research is conducted on relevant legal issues.

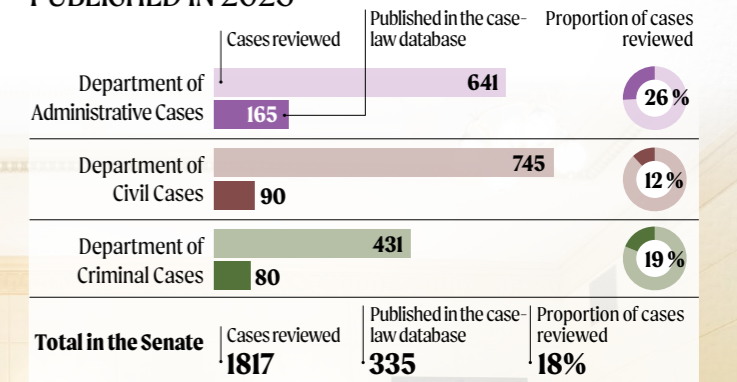
The Senate may not issue interpretations of law that are binding on courts. However, the law "On Judicial Power" provides that the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court may consider issues relating to the interpretation of legal norms. The President of the Supreme Court may also convene a general assembly of senators of the relevant Senate department, which may issue opinions on the interpretation and application of legal norms in the form of a decision.

The President of the Supreme Court also convenes Meetings of the Chairs of the Senate Departments to decide issues relating to jurisdiction over a case that have been submitted by a judge or a court.

## AVAILABILITY OF SENATE RULINGS (15.04.2026)

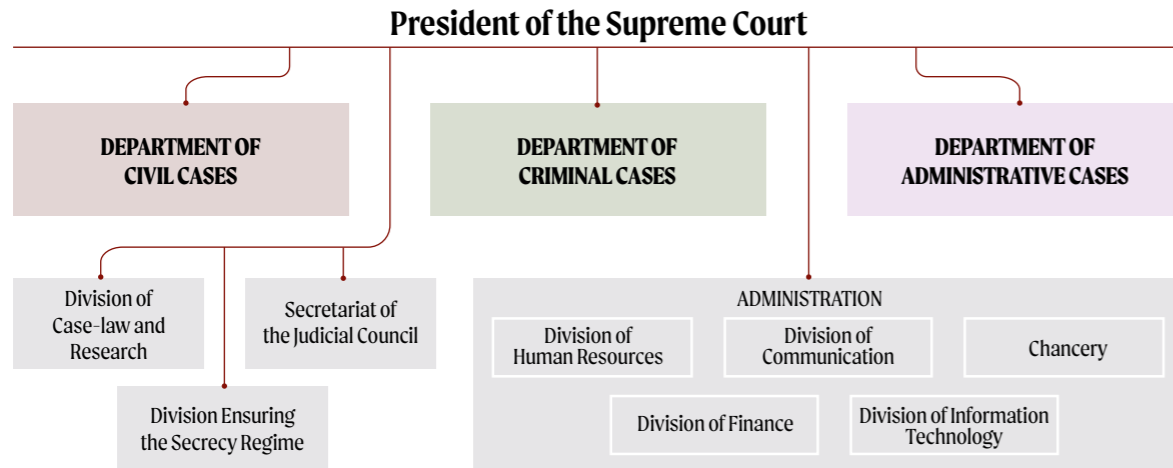
| Published on  | Rulings available from | Number of rulings available |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Courts portal <a href="http://elieta.lv">elieta.lv</a>                | 2013                   | <b>20303</b>                |
| Database of case-law rulings <a href="http://at.gov.lv">at.gov.lv</a> | 1996                   | <b>8315</b>                 |
| Legislation website <a href="http://likumi.lv">likumi.lv</a>          | 2017                   | <b>2020</b>                 |

## CASE-LAW DATABASE: RULINGS PUBLISHED IN 2025



Hearing before a judicial panel of the Department of Administrative Cases

# STRUCTURE OF THE SUPREME COURT



## PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT

The work of the Supreme Court is headed by its President, who is nominated by the Plenary Session from among the senators in office and, following approval by the Judicial Council, is appointed by the Saeima (Parliament) for a five-year term. The same person may serve as President of the Supreme Court for no more than two consecutive terms.

The law “On Judicial Power” defines the President’s competence in organising the Supreme Court’s work. The President presides over sittings of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court, convenes and participates, with voting rights, in Meetings of the Chairs of the Departments, at which jurisdiction over cases is determined, and convenes assemblies of senators of the departments to discuss topical legal issues. The President is also entitled to participate in the adjudication of cases before the Supreme Court.

The President of the Supreme Court submits proposals to the Judicial Council regarding the total number of senators in each department. The President nominates candidates for appointment by the Saeima as senators of the Supreme Court, assigns senators to the relevant departments, and transfers them between departments upon a proposal of the general assembly of senators of the respective department. The President also submits proposals to the Judicial Council as to which regional court judge would be designated to replace a senator of the Supreme Court in the event of a vacancy or temporary absence.



*Aigars Strupišs, President of the Supreme Court, at the Saeima following his re-election as President of the Supreme Court in 2025*

In addition, the President submits recommendations to the Saeima on the dismissal of senators of the Supreme Court, whether at their own request, due to election or appointment to another position, or in other cases provided for by law.

The law “On Judicial Power” defines the competence of the President of the Supreme Court in matters pertaining to the entire judicial system of Latvia. The President chairs the Judicial Council, may submit a request to the Judicial Ethics Commission to provide an opinion on the interpretation and breaches of ethical norms, and may participate in an advisory capacity at the sittings of the Judicial Qualifications Committee. The President of the Supreme Court may propose that the Judicial Qualifications Committee carry out an extraordinary assessment of the professional activities of judges of all court instances. The Judicial Disciplinary Liability Law establishes the right of the President of the Supreme Court to initiate disciplinary proceedings in all cases, provided by law, against judges of all court instances.

Pursuant to the Advocacy Law, the Bailiffs Law, and the Notariate Law, the President of the Supreme Court administers the oath of office to advocates, bailiffs, and notaries upon their entry into office.

The Operational Activities Law provides that the President of the Supreme Court, or a senator of the Supreme Court specially authorised by the President, authorises investigative measures carried out by special methods.

During a temporary absence, the President of the Supreme Court, upon his order, is substituted by one of the chairs of the departments.

## CHAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENTS

The Senate departments are chaired by their respective chairs, who are elected at the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court. The term of office for the chairs of the departments is five years. The chairs of the departments may be re-elected. The chairs of the departments also participate in the adjudication of cases.



*Management of the Supreme Court: Aivars Uminskis, Chair of the Senate Department of Criminal Cases, Anita Kovaļevska, Chair of the Senate Department of Administrative Cases, Aigars Strupišs, President of the Supreme Court, Normunds Salenieks, Chair of the Senate Department of Civil Cases*

## PLENARY SESSION OF THE SUPREME COURT

The Plenary Session is the general assembly of all senators of the Supreme Court. Judges Emeriti of the Supreme Court and regional court judges who are temporarily replacing senators of the Supreme Court may also participate in the Plenary Session without voting rights.

The Plenary Session:

- nominates the candidate for President of the Supreme Court for confirmation by the Saeima;
- provides an opinion on whether grounds exist for the removal from office of the President of the Supreme Court or the Prosecutor General;
- elects the chairs of the departments;
- elects one member of the Central Election Commission from among judges;
- nominates two candidates for the position of judge of the Constitutional Court from among judges;
- elects one member of the Judicial Council from among the senators of the Supreme Court;
- elects members of the Disciplinary Court and appoints its Chair;
- reviews and assesses the Supreme Court's performance in the previous year, considers the report on financial and administrative activities, and discusses future priorities;
- discusses topical issues in the interpretation of legal provisions.

The Plenary Session, as a self-government institution of judges, may discuss any topical issue of the Supreme Court or the judicial system.



Plenary Session of the Supreme Court

## DISCIPLINARY COURT

The Disciplinary Court, convened at the Supreme Court, reviews the legality of appealed decisions issued by the Judicial Disciplinary Committee, negative opinions of the Judicial Qualifications Committee, and Judicial Council decisions concerning judicial career matters. It also reviews appealed decisions of the Prosecutor General regarding the imposition of disciplinary sanctions.

The Disciplinary Court is composed of six senators – two from each department – who are elected for a five-year term at the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court. The Chair of the Disciplinary Court is appointed from among these senators at the Plenary Session.

Since the Disciplinary Court was established in 2010, it has heard 38 cases over the past 15 years.



Disciplinary Court in 2026, chaired by Senator Normunds Salenieks



Senators in 2026

## SENATORS

The total number of senators is determined by the Saeima upon the recommendation of the Judicial Council. The number of senators assigned to each department is determined by the Judicial Council upon the recommendation of the President of the Supreme Court.

A person may become a senator of the Supreme Court after reaching the age of 40. The maximum age for serving as a senator of the Supreme Court is 70 years.

Candidates for the office of senator are selected through an open competition. Eligible candidates for appointment to the Supreme Court may include district (city) court or regional court judges with at least ten years of judicial service or holding a master's or doctoral degree; persons with at least fifteen years of experience as academic staff at a higher education institution specialising in law, as sworn advocates, or as prosecutors; as well as former judges of the Constitutional Court and judges of international or supranational courts.

Senators of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Saeima for an indefinite term. Judges of lower courts are appointed to higher courts by the Judicial Council.



Insignia of judicial office



Senator Jānis Rozenbergs takes the judicial oath before the President of Latvia. The symbols of judicial office are the oath or affirmation, the judicial insignia, and the robe, which, in the case of senators, is carmine red in colour.

## SUPPORT STAFF FOR SENATORS

Each senator has an assistant. An adviser and legal research counsels also work in every Senate department.

The legal research counsels conduct research necessary for the work of the departments, assist in preparing court decisions in complex cases and in drafting normative legal acts, and represent the respective department in institutions, working groups, and conferences.

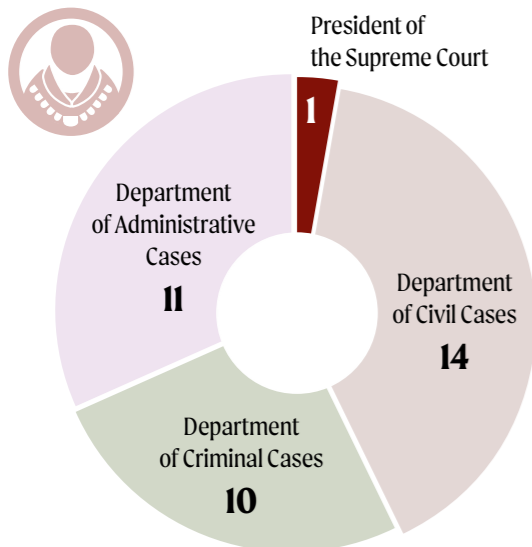
Support to the senators is also provided by the Division of Case-law and Research. The Division prepares overviews, summaries, and informational materials containing conclusions and proposals for the development of consistent case-law. It also selects and organises the rulings of the Senate departments, identifies significant case-law findings, and maintains the case-law database. In addition, the Division conducts research on specific issues relating to European Union and international law, the case-law of international courts, and the laws and jurisprudence of other countries.

## ADMINISTRATION

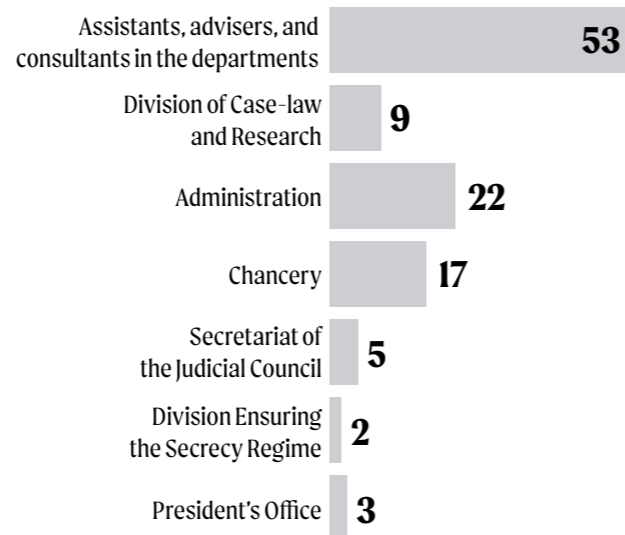
The Supreme Court is an independent state institution, and the resources for ensuring the operations of the Supreme Court are allocated directly from the State budget. The Supreme Court Administration has been established for the organisational and operational management of the Supreme Court, and its legal framework is provided by the law "On Judicial Power."

The Supreme Court Administration consists of four divisions – the Division of Finance, the Division of Human Resources, the Division of Communication, and the Division of Information Technology, as well as the Chancery of the Supreme Court. A legal adviser and a project manager also work in the Administration.

### NUMBER OF SENATORS IN 2026 – 36



### NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES AT THE SUPREME COURT IN 2026 – 111



## ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS ENSURED BY THE SUPREME COURT

### SECRETARIAT OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Judicial Council is a collegial institution that participates in the development of the policy and strategy of the judicial system, as well as in the improvement of the work organization of the judicial system.

In accordance with the law "On Judicial Power", the activities of the Judicial Council are supported by its Secretariat, a structural unit within the Supreme Court.

### DIVISION ENSURING THE SECRECY REGIME

An additional function of the Supreme Court, as provided for in the Operational Activities Law, is the approval of special operational measures and requests for information held by credit institutions. Such approvals are issued by senators specifically authorised by the President of the Supreme Court.

The coordination of the approval of special measures and requests is the responsibility of the Division Ensuring the Secrecy Regime. This Division is also tasked with maintaining the secrecy regime necessary for the protection of official secrets within the Supreme Court.

# DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

## WITHIN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The Supreme Court maintains a dialogue on important legal and procedural issues within the judicial system, namely, with the Constitutional Court, regional courts and district (city) courts.

Judicial dialogue also takes place at the European level. The Court of Justice of the European Union provides answers to preliminary reference requests of the Supreme Court on the interpretation of European law, and includes the Senate's rulings in its databases. Since March 2026, the Senate has also had the right to request an advisory opinion from the European Court of Human Rights on significant questions concerning the interpretation or application of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms or its protocols.

Senators and employees visit the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights for professional exchange and also meet with Latvian judges working in supranational courts.

In cooperation with international judicial organizations, the Supreme Court represents Latvia in the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union, in the Association of the Councils of State and Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions of the European Union, and in the International Association of Supreme Administrative Jurisdictions.

Senators represent Latvia in various European institutions - the Council of Europe's Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ), the Consultative Council of European Judges (CCJE), the Circle of European Trademark Judges (CET-), the working groups of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Boards of Appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO), the Consultative Council of European Judges and the Association of European Competition Law Judges (AECLJ).

The Supreme Court organizes international conferences attended by presidents and deputy presidents of lower courts, as well as judges from supranational courts and the supreme courts of other countries.



President of Latvia Edgars Rinkēvičs meets with senior officials of the judicial system.



Meeting of judges of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court in 2026



Conference organised in cooperation with the European Court of Human Rights: "Right to a Fair Trial: European Convention on Human Rights in Dialogue of National Courts and the ECtHR" in 2025



Visitors queue outside the Supreme Court during Museum Night 2025.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

The Supreme Court maintains open and proactive communication with the public. Extensive information is available on the Supreme Court's website, X account, and YouTube channel. Press releases are issued regularly, and the media is informed about the most significant cases and events of the Senate. Each year, the Supreme Court organises Media Day for journalists covering the justice sector.

The Supreme Court Bulletin is published twice a year. Senators and court staff actively participate in public conferences and discussions.

The Supreme Court hosts Open Day for law and communication students. The final rounds of the student moot court competition are held in the Senate courtroom. The Court also supports doctoral research within the doctoral programme of the Faculty of Law at the University of Latvia.

Schools are offered law lessons led by senators, as well as guided tours of the Supreme Court. During Shadow Day, pupils have the opportunity to shadow both senators and court employees and to participate in moot court competitions. In addition, the Supreme Court has prepared educational animated films and video interviews explaining the importance of courts, the role of judges, and the different types of court cases.

The Supreme Court opens its doors to the general public during Museum Night, offering visitors the opportunity to view exhibitions, visit the court museum and other premises, and meet senators and court staff.

*More than 1,000 visitors viewed the exhibition "European Judicial Robes" at the Supreme Court during Museum Night 2025.*



## HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COURT



Latvian judge's insignia of the interwar period

## MAIN PERIODS OF ACTIVITY

### Senate of Latvia 1918–1940

Before 18 November 1918, the judicial system of the Russian Empire operated in the territory of Latvia through the Court Chamber and the Governing Senate in Saint Petersburg. After the proclamation of independence, the newly established state had to create its own judicial system.

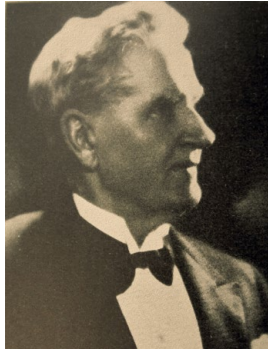
On 6 December 1918, the People's Council of Latvia adopted the Provisional Regulation on Courts and Judicial Proceedings in Latvia, which established the judicial system of the new state, consisting of magistrate courts, regional courts, the Court Chamber, and the Senate of Latvia. The Senate of Latvia was designated as the cassation instance for all categories of cases. It heard cases collegially and was divided into three departments: the Department of Civil Cassation, the Department of Criminal Cassation, and the Administrative Department. The General Assembly served as the common institution for all departments.

On 7 December 1918, the Provisional Government appointed the first senators – sworn advocates Jānis Graudiņš and Kristaps Valters. Four additional senators were appointed on 19 December 1918.

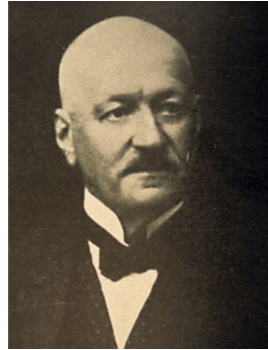
During its existence, the Senate appointed 30 judges as senators, although no more than 17 served at the same time. The Supreme Disciplinary Court operated within the Senate, and the Chief Prosecutor and his deputies also served under its authority. In 1938, the Office of Senate Rulings was established.

The Senate continued its work until 26 November 1940, when the senators received an order from the People's Commissioner of Justice of the Latvian SSR dismissing them from office. Repression soon followed. Seven senators were deported to labour camps in Siberia, where they perished. Thirteen senators went into exile and never returned to Latvia.

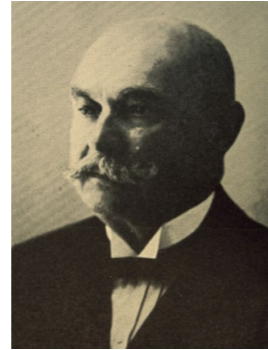
## CHAIRS OF THE SENATE OF LATVIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



*Kristaps Valters*  
1920–1929, 1933–1934



*Miķelis Gobiņš*  
1929–1931



*Kārlis Ozoliņš*  
1931–1933



*Aleksandrs Gubens*  
1934–1940



*Senators and prosecutors of the Senate of Latvia in 1938. 1st row from the left: Senators Rūdolfs Alksnis, Jānis Balodis, Kārlis Puriņš, Chair of the Civil Cassation Department Osvalds Ozoliņš, Chair of the General Assembly and the Criminal Cassation Department Aleksandrs Gubens, Chair of the Administrative Department Jānis Kalacs, Chief Prosecutor Fricis Zilbers, Senators Fridrihs Konradi and Kārlis Ducmanis; 2nd row: Senator Augusts Rumpēters, Prosecutor Erasts Bīte, Senators Pēteris Stērste, Jēkabs Grots, Mintauts Čakste, Jānis Skudre, Pēteris Leitāns, Jānis Ankravs, Teodors Bergtāls, Prosecutor Teodors Ūdris*

## Soviet period

After the Soviet occupation, on 11 November 1940 the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet issued a decree on restructuring the Latvian court system. Magistrate courts were converted into people's courts, regional courts kept their name but operated under the Soviet law, the Court Chamber became the Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR, and the Senate was abolished entirely.

After 1944, a two-tier court system was established in Latvia, consisting of district and regional people's courts and the Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR.

Judges and lay judges of the Supreme Court were elected by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet for a five-year term. The Supreme Court had two judicial panels – the Panel of Civil Cases and the Panel of Criminal Cases. Protests against panel decisions were reviewed by the Presidium of the Supreme Court, but protests against the Presidium decisions – by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court.

## Establishment of the Supreme Court of the independent Republic of Latvia

On 4 May 1990, the declaration “On the Restoration of Independence of the Republic of Latvia” was adopted, under which the Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR was renamed the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia. On 16 May 1990, Gvido Zemrībo was appointed President of the Supreme Court and entrusted with the task of establishing the Supreme Court of the independent Republic of Latvia.

On 15 December 1992, the law “On Judicial Power” was adopted, creating the legal basis for judicial reform in Latvia. The law provided for the reestablishment of regional courts, while the Supreme Court was divided into two levels: the cassation instance – the Senate – and the appellate instance – the court chambers.

On 3 October 1995, the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court, by its decision “On the Establishment of the Senate Departments and Court Chambers of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Latvia”, created a new structure for the Supreme Court. It approved the composition and chairs of the Chamber of Civil Cases, the Chamber of Criminal Cases, as well as the Senate Departments of Civil Cases and Criminal Cases. The Senate Department of Administrative Cases began its work on 6 February 2004.



*The first oath-taking ceremony of judges of the Supreme Court of the restored Republic of Latvia on 8 April 1991*

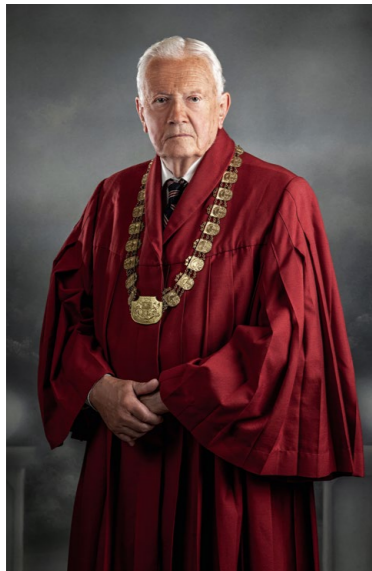
## Reform of the Supreme Court

On 13 June 2013, the Saeima adopted amendments to the law "On Judicial Power", introducing a three-tier court system. Under these amendments, the district (city) courts would serve as courts of first instance, regional courts as appellate courts, and the Supreme Court assumed the role of the court of cassation only.

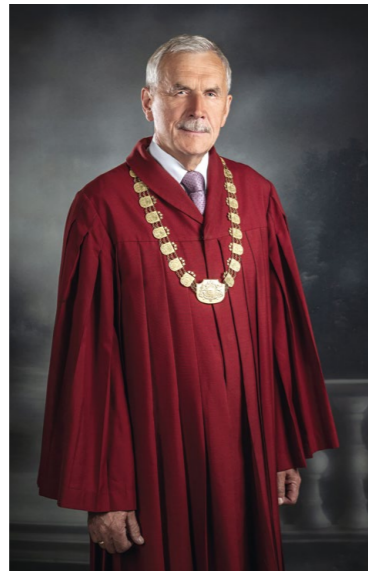
This was the most significant judicial reform since the restoration of Latvia's independence. The Supreme Court was particularly affected by the reorganisation, as its appellate instance was abolished. The Court Chamber of Criminal Cases remained part of the Supreme Court structure until 31 December 2014, while the Court Chamber of Civil Cases continued to operate until 31 December 2016.

With the Supreme Court now exclusively performing cassation functions, the number of support staff assisting senators has been increased, and the capacity for legal research has been strengthened.

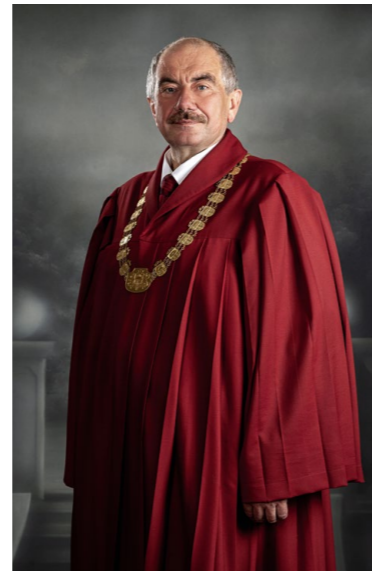
## FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE RESTORED REPUBLIC OF LATVIA



Gvido Zemībo  
1985-1994



Andris Gulāns  
1994-2008



Ivars Bičkovičs  
2008-2020



**Senate Courtroom in the Palace of Justice in 1938.**  
*"One law - one justice for all" is written in gilded letters in the centre.*  
At present, it is the sitting room of the Cabinet of Ministers.



**The Supreme Court reading room** is arranged in a way that preserves the historic interior of the Palace of Justice.

## PALACE OF JUSTICE

In 1936, Prime Minister Kārlis Ulmanis recognised the need for a new courthouse, the Palace of Justice, as Riga's judicial institutions lacked adequate premises. A design competition was held, and architect Frīdrihs Skujiņš prepared the final project. The foundation stone was laid on 4 December 1934.

The first construction stage was completed in less than two years, and the building was opened on 9 December 1938. The Palace of Justice housed the Ministry of Justice, the Senate, the Court Chamber, the Riga Land Register, and other institutions connected with the administration of justice. It contained 130 courtrooms, offices, and chancery rooms. The Senate occupied the second floor, and its courtroom bore the inscription: "One law - one justice for all".

In 1940, following the abolition of the Senate by the Soviet regime, the building was repurposed for Soviet institutions such as the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR and the State Planning Committee. Construction of a second stage continued, though no longer for judicial use.

Following the restoration of Latvia's independence, the Supreme Court sought to return to the Palace of Justice. This was not merely a matter of judicial preference or symbolic historical recognition, but a practical necessity: once the regional courts had been re-established, the Riga Regional Court and the Supreme Court could no longer function effectively within the same building.



*Kārlis Zemdega's sculpture "Justice" depicts a girl holding a sword and a book of laws. The prototype of the Latvian Themis is the goddess Laima, who in Latvian folklore determines destinies and allocates them justly.*

In 1996, the Supreme Court partially returned, but space remained insufficient and the courtrooms for criminal cases were still located in the building of Riga Regional Court. In addition to the Supreme Court, the Palace of Justice also housed the Cabinet of Ministers, the State Chancellery, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Supreme Court's premises were expanded only gradually.

The Supreme Court did not return to the historic Senate courtroom, which continues to serve as a government meeting hall. Likewise, the main entrance, featuring Kārlis Zemdega's "Justice" sculpture, still leads to government offices rather than to the Supreme Court.



*The symbol of the Senate of Latvia – the Sipi Great Oak from Rumba Parish, the native parish of Kristaps Valters, the first Chair of the Senate General Assembly*

*The commemorative bookmark marking the 35th anniversary of the restored Senate, designed in the shape of an oak leaf*

**Part of the exposition of the Supreme Court Museum**

## SUPREME COURT MUSEUM

The Supreme Court Museum was established in 1998, on the eightieth anniversary of the Senate. Its creation was greatly facilitated by Dītrihs Andrejs Lēbers, the son of Senator Augusts Lēbers.

The Museum holds historical materials and documents dating back to 1918. These collections document the origins of the Senate, the changes to the judicial system introduced by the occupation authorities, the fates of senators during the Soviet period, and their historical legacy.

The Museum has since been supplemented with an exhibition covering the period from the Latvian National Awakening to the present day. Dedicated displays highlight the events of 1990, the restoration of the three-tier court system in 1995, and the work of the Rehabilitation Division. Gvido Zemrībo, the first President of the Supreme Court, made a significant contribution to the development of the Museum.

Materials from the collection of the Supreme Court Museum were used in the creation of the books “Senators. The Senate of Latvia, 1918–1940” and “Findings of Senators”, as well as the documentary films “Yesterday and Today: The 95th Anniversary of the Senate of Latvia” and “Senators”. These materials are also regularly used in the preparation of thematic exhibitions.

Each year, 40–60 guided tours are organised for foreign delegations, students, pupils, exile Latvians, lawyers, architects, and other interested visitors. During Museum Night, the Supreme Court welcomes 800–900 visitors.





# Republic of Latvia Supreme Court | Senate

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