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| Official name in original language | Teisėjų Taryba (TT) |
| Official name in English | The Judicial Council |
| Address | L. Sapiegos g. 15, LT-10312 Vilnius, Lithuania |
| Telephone number | +370 52 514126 |
| Website | http://www.teismai.lt |
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| Brief history | <p>The Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania (adopted in 1992) laid down the foundation for a special institution of judges which shall submit recommendations to the President concerning the appointment of judges, as well as their promotion, transfer, or dismissal from judicial office. Originated under the Law on Courts of the Republic of Lithuania of 1994 as an institution consisting of only 9 members, it has gone through several changes of the name and composition over the years and finally evolved into the Judicial Council as it is now – one of the main institutions of self-governance of courts intended to ensure the independence of courts and judges. Recently the number of members of the Council was increased to 23 by the amendment to the Law on Courts adopted in 2012, taking into account an increased representation of district and regional courts in the institutions of self-governance.</p> |
| Constitutional or legal status/basis | Article 112 of the Constitution provides that a special institution of judges provided for by law shall advise the President of the Republic on the appointment, promotion, transfer of judges, or their dismissal from office. |
| Legal acts regulating the Status | The Law on Courts of the Republic of Lithuania |
| Composition: | |
| Total number of members | 23 members |
| Term of office | 4 years |
| Is there a possibility to be renewed as a member? | Yes |
| Do the members have a full-time position or not? | Not full-time |

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| Make up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 judge selected at the General Meeting of Judges: 3 from the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Supreme Administrative Court each, 1 from each regional court, 1 representing all regional administrative courts and 1 representing all district courts located in the territory of each regional courts activities. - 3 <i>ex-officio</i> members (judges): Chairperson of the Supreme Court, Chairperson of the Court of Appeal, Chairperson of the Supreme Administrative Court. |
| Is there a majority of Judges? | Yes, as the Council consists only of judges |
| Presidency | President and Vice-President are elected by the members of the Judicial Council for the period of 2 years. |
| Main Competences: | |
| Career of judges and / or prosecutors | <p>It participates in forming the corps of judges, by giving informed advice to the President of the Republic on the appointment, promotion, transfer and removal from office of judges, Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson and Chairperson of divisions of courts; as well as informed advice on determining or changing the number of judges in courts.</p> <p>The Judicial Council also forms by election or appointment the Examination Commission of Candidates to the Judicial Office and approves the acts regulating its activities (rules of procedure).</p> |
| Judicial training | <p>Initial training and compulsory in-service training (continuous) are financed by the state. The Ministry of Justice – harmonises annual programmes of the judicial training while the Judicial Council approves the Rules of organising the training of judges, the training programs, annual plans for the qualification development and qualification requirements to the lecturers.</p> <p>The Training Committee of the Judicial Council presents conclusions, comments regarding the training programs and projects of the training plan, evaluates the demand for the additional trainings of judges, deals with the international trainings of judges, assistants of judges and other court officials, it also considers the issues of financing, strategy and need of training.</p> <p>The National Courts Administration (institution providing services to courts and self-government institutions of courts) is responsible for creation and development of initial and continuous training of judges.</p> |

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| Discipline | <p>Participates in the formation of the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission and the Judicial Court of Honour: the Judicial Council appoints 4 members (out of 7) to the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission, elects the chairperson of the commission and removes them from office in cases provided in law. It also appoints all the members of the Judicial Court of Honour and removes them from office in cases provided in law.</p> <p>Approves the rules of procedure of the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission and the Judicial Court of Honour.</p> <p>Hears the annual reports of the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission and the Judicial Court of Honour.</p> <p>Has a right to make a motion for instituting a disciplinary case against a judge.</p> |
| Ethics | <p>The Code of Ethics of the Judges of the Republic of Lithuania was adopted by the General Meeting of Judges in 2006. The following institutions specifically deal with the issues of the breach of this Code and instituting disciplinary actions against judges: the Judicial Ethics and Discipline Commission and the Judicial Court of Honour.</p> |
| Opinions on legislation/ other opinions | <p>The Judicial Council itself has no right of legislative initiative. However, it has a right to submit the reasoned opinion regarding legislative issues to the Government (concrete ministry) or to the President of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>Other opinions: With reference to the description of the procedure approved by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Justice, the Ministry of Justice prepares the court investment projects, presents them for the approval of the Council and proposes to include them into the State investment program. The proposals on the court investment programs presented by the Ministry of Justice shall be considered by the Council, having regard to the needs of State investment for courts introduced by the National Courts Administration and proposals of courts.</p> |
| Other competencies | <p>Approves the regulations of administration in courts (including regulation on allocation of cases and forming the panels) and participates in resolving other administrative issues in courts.</p> <p>Co-operates on behalf of all judges with other institutions and organisations of Lithuania and of other States and international bodies concerning court autonomy, administration and other issues relevant to the activities of courts.</p> <p>Forms the Permanent Commission for the Assessment of the Judges' Activities and other standing and <i>ad hoc</i> commissions and approves legal acts regulating their functioning.</p> |
| Status of decisions | <p>Legally binding</p> |
| Review | <p>The Judicial Council itself may review its resolutions. In some cases the decision of the Judicial Council might be subject to judicial review of administrative court.</p> |

Budget

Financial resources required for the proper functioning of the Judicial Council and other self-government institutions of courts are allocated by the National Courts Administration. These financial resources are used for the maintenance of premises, equipment, personnel, organizing the meetings and other events, developing international cooperation, organization of meetings, international cooperation, etc.

The National Courts Administration receives the funds from the State budget according to the appropriation of the Ministry of Finance which are consolidated by the annual State budget law adopted by the Parliament.