2026

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
Judicial Academy
Professionalism, excellence & diversity



FIELD VISIT REPORT

MARCH 29 – APRIL 02, 2026

ASGHAR ALI SALARZAI-SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE

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1. INTRODUCTION

To fulfill the pre-promotion training requirements, the 24 trainees i.e. Senior Civil Judges/A'ala Illaqa Qazi's (List Annex-A) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa took a field trip to the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), Islamabad. The trip took place between March 29th and April 2, 2026 (latter on extended for further two days). It was a part of the professional exchange program with the FJA. The main goal was to improve the professional skills of the visiting officers by exposing them to the methodology of federal-level judicial training sessions led by experts, and significant peer interactions enabling the participants to shoulder greater responsibilities.

2. TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL (SUNDAY, MARCH 29th, 2026)

On Sunday, March 29th, 2026, the group left for Islamabad. Transportation had been generously provided by the Academy (KPJA) but most of the participants chose to use their own cars as it was convenient and flexible. The travel was a mixture of both joy and boredom. The picturesque beauty of the surroundings was enhanced by the occasional rain on the motorway adding a great jubilation to the travel. The experience was however spoilt by a sudden and long-lasting traffic jam at the Islamabad toll plaza, making the journey a bit tedious.

At around 8.00 PM we reached the FJA. The hostel staff facilitated the check-in process. It is remarkable that during the journey, Mr. Jehanzeb Shenwari, Hon'ble the Director General and Mr. Sajid Amin, the administrative officer of the KPJA were constantly in communication giving directions and encouragement. We are thankful for such a care and ownership.

3. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026.

The event formally began on Monday, March 30th. The day started with a warm welcome and registration process. This was then succeeded by the first session



with Ms. Bushra Kokeb, Faculty Member FJA. In the introductory session, she highlighted the significance of cross-provincial interactions in the judicial field and urged for an active participation. The session helped create a feeling of purpose and companionship between the participants.

3.2. Technical Session: Medico-Legal Reports- Evidentiary Value (0930 -1100)

Prof. Dr. Shaukat Ali, a Forensic Medicine Expert, conducted the first substantive session. It was a thorough exposition of the evidentiary value of medico-legal reports. The resource person explained the basic principles of medico-legal evidence and its importance in the delivery of criminal justice. The subtleties between the mode, manner, and cause of death are some aspects that are a source of controversy in trial courts, and Dr. Shaukat Ali explained them meticulously. He used case studies and hypothetical situations to explain how a judge can easily question such reports to make sure that they are employed as a corroboration tool and not as conclusive evidence. It was a very interactive session and the participants asked questions concerning the opposing medical views and weighting of autopsy reports. On a query on the development of rigor mortius, the resource person explained how the process starts and explained the duration of the flaccidity of muscles.

3.4. Syndicate Discussions & Group Presentations (1130 – 1400)

After the tea break, the participants were involved in syndicate discussions. The group was further split into smaller syndicates under the guidance of the Faculty Members of the FJA to discuss practical judicial dilemmas. This was a team building activity that was meant to encourage team problem solving. Group presentations were conducted after the discussions, during which every syndicate was to present findings and recommendations. This activity enabled peer-to-peer learning, and enabled participants to view different judicial views of their colleagues. The activity helped in understanding variety of issues with a fruitful discussion at the end.

4. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: DAY TWO (TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026)

Day Two was dedicated to cognitive skills, judicial attitude to evidence, and socio-legal problems of the judicial system.

4.1. Book Summary (0900 – 0930)

Faculty Member, FJA Ms. Nadia Syed, summaries a well celebrated and thought-provoking book, the power of Now. She linked the core concept of the book with the concepts of judicial mindfulness and explained how to live in the present day to avoid depression.



4.2. Session: Critical Thinking (0930 – 1100) Mr. Fakhar Zaman, Secretary, LJCP/DG (Reforms), Supreme Court of Pakistan conducted the session on Critical Thinking .He highlighted the fact that the work of a judge goes beyond the application of the law to include a critical analysis, logical thinking, and impartial assessment of facts. He explained the concept with interactive tasks and real-life judicial problems, showing how cognitive biases may affect the decision-making process and how the structured critical thinking may help avoid risks. The session was generally enjoyed due to its practical significance to everyday adjudication.

4.3. Session: Evidence – The Judge's Perspective

Mr. Fakhar Zaman presented the first of a two-part series on evidence as seen by a judge. He went beyond the statutory provisions of the Qanun-e-Shahadat Order, 1984, to discuss the meaning of practical application of principles of evidence in court. He, after explaining the concepts of Relevancy, Admissibility and Credibility, debated on the art of sifting through documentary and oral evidence. On a question on the burden of proof, he explained that civil and criminal law have different standard of proofs. The session was highly engaging.

4.4. Session: Gender Discrimination and the Law, Organizational Culture, Evaluation Processes



This multi-faceted session was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Syed. She generated the debate through a case study of Annahopkins. She explained the organizational culture in the judiciary and how institutional values influence the

performance judicial decision making. The issue of gender discrimination was discussed in detail. The session was concluded with a free discussion on how to deal with unconscious bias in court proceedings. The highlight of the session was her timely dissemination of the case study and involvement of all the participants. She very tactfully involved the participants in identifying the real issue of gender stereotyping and how to address.

5. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: DAY THREE (WEDNESDAY, APRIL 01, 2026)

5.1. Book Summary (0900 – 0930)

Mr. Mansoor Shah Bukhari, Senior civil judge presented summary of the famous book, Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. He highlighted the main issues discussed in the book. He informed that it was an autobiography of Nelson Mandela where he has codified his long standing struggles from freedom and how he spent time in incarceration.

5.2. Session: Summary Trial u/o 37 CPC (1130 – 1300)

An elaborate session on Order XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 regulating summary trial was conducted by Mr. Syed Muhammad Haroon. He described the procedural peculiarities, in which summary procedure can be used, and the essential differences between summary suits and ordinary suits. Live examples ranging from summons to judgment, leave to defend and the repercussions of failure to do so were also discussed in great detail. This session was helpful in the proper adjudication of commercial disputes based on negotiable instruments. On a question that if a negotiable instrument is not stamped, whether it will be admissible as such, the resource person explained that all instruments have to be compulsorily stamped. Failure to do so would make it inadmissible. On another question on the limitation, he informed that under article 159 of the limitation Act a suit on the basis of negotiable instrument must be filed within 3 years.

5.4. Session: Civil Appeals & Revision (1300 – 1430)

Ms. Bushra Kokeb headed a tiring session on the law regulating civil appeals and revisions. She carefully distinguished the extent of a first appeal, second appeal and revisional jurisdiction under Section 115 of the CPC. She brought to light, through the case law analysis, the situations in which a revision lies and how the revisional powers of the higher courts are restricted. The session helped to resolve age old ambiguities and gave a useful

insight on how to uphold judicial discipline in cases of appeals. On a question that if an aggrieved party files an appeal instead of revision and the vice versa, she explained that the appeal is a statutory right, while revision is restrictive, however to further the ends of justice an appeal can be converted in to appeal and vice versa subject to limitation.

Academy Night (1900 – 2000)



To relax the exhausted academic routine, the management arranged an academy night. This was an informal gathering where the participants, faculty members and the staff of the academy mingled in a free environment. This event helped in building camaraderie, enhanced professional connection and had an informal knowledge sharing opportunity outside the classroom. The generous hospitality of the FJA was once more in full bloom.

6. THURSDAY (APRIL 02, 2026)

Early in the morning Mr. Muhammad Wali, Senior Civil Judge presented the summary of the famous book of Friedrich Nietzsche titled *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Mr. Wali informed that the book is a blend of literature, psychology and philosophy. He explained the concept of *Übermensch* (the Superman or over man), the "Will to Power," and the "Eternal Recurrence.



6.1 Session: Appeals in Family Cases (0930 -1100) Mr. Mahmood Azam conducted a session on appeals in the family cases. He spoke of the interaction between the Family Courts Act, 1964 and the general procedural laws, the necessity to have expeditious disposal and substantive justice. Amongst the delicate points discussed in the session include the scope of appeal, and the nature of orders appealed against. He emphasized the need to adopt a conciliatory approach in family cases and play the role of a facilitator.

6.3. Visit to the Supreme Court (1115 -1230)

After a brief tea-break, the participants were honored with a unique privilege of paying a visit to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan. The meeting was held in a respectable and amicable manner. His Lordship unfolded his vision of a responsive, technology-enabled, and citizen-centric judiciary. He urged the participants to maintain the best of integrity, hard work, and compassion in the course of their judicial duties. Since, I had to undergo a medical surgery, therefore after the visit, I sought exemption from the remaining activities at FJA, which was graciously honored by both the Hon'ble Director Generals and thus my visit ended after the call on the Hon'ble Chief justice.



6.4. Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The visit was marked by a Ceremony Awarding Certificate formally. The ceremony was chaired by the Director General of the Federal Judicial Academy who appreciated the participants for their active involvement and commitment during the four days program. The Professional Exchange Program was successfully completed with each participant being

awarded certificates. The representative of the participants in her concluding remarks paid tributes to the FJA for the hospitality and nice arrangements.



7. GENERAL REFLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

The program was a marvelous learning opportunity. The major Strengths of the Program include:

- Interaction with the resource persons of exceptional experience in professional trainings.
- The selection of sessions were closely related to the issues that Additional District & Sessions Judges have to deal with in their daily practice
- The learning methodology was both participatory and interactive ranging from syndicate discussions, group presentations and interactive lectures.
- The program combined both technical legal training with sessions on critical thinking, organizational culture, and judicial ethics, which develops a well-rounded professional development.

- The atmosphere, the hospitality, and the careful attitude of the FJA staff made the learning more focused.

8. CONCLUSION

It was a life-altering experience for almost all the participants. Not only did it enrich our substantive legal knowledge and judicial abilities, but it also helped us develop a wider outlook on how the judiciary should operate in the society. The training approach practices on the federal level and the exposure to eminent faculty and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan has left a mark. We go back to our respective stations with renewed energies, enhanced skills and greater dedication to judicial excellence. We have our utmost gratitude to the Director General and the entire staff and faculty of the FJA who supported and made the program a memorable success.

