Professional Exchange Program—Federal Judicial Academy Islamabad

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report is a summary of a field visit to Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), Islamabad. The visitors included twenty four judicial officers of the district judiciary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.(the list of the participants is annexure A) The visit was held from March 30th to April 2nd, 2026. It was the continuation of the Professional Exchange Program in between the KPJA and FJA. The visit aimed at ensuring professional enhancement via training at federal level. The purpose of visit was to further enhance the professional development of the judges through social interaction at cross provincial exposures.

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

On Sunday morning, the group left to Islamabad .Although, transport had been provided by the Academy. Most of the participants however used their own cars out of convenience.

The journey had pleasant moments. Light precipitation on the motorway contributed to the landscape. Me and Mr.Farmanullah reached the Federal Judicial Academy about 7:00 PM. The hostel staff warmly welcomed us. The check in process was efficient. Officers in the Academy kept in touch during the journey. They had excellent logistical support.

3. ACADEMIC *ACTIVITIES*:

Monday, March 30, 2026.

A. Opening Session

The session started with registration of all the 24 senior civil judges and welcomed by Mr. Syed Muhammad Haroon, a Faculty Member in FJA. Introductory remarks were then given by Ms. Bushra Kokeb. She underlined the importance of cross provincial judicial exchange. She encouraged active involvement of everyone present.

B. Interactive Introduction Session:

The participants presented themselves one by one. Every individual presented his or her judicial background and expectations. This session was also attended by academy faculty and officers. The exercise assisted in creating a cooperative and friendly environment.

C. Medico Legal Reports Technical Session.

Prof. Dr. Shaukat Ali, a forensic medicine expert, conducted this session. He described the evidentiary worth of medico legal reports. He differentiated mode, manner and cause of death. These arguments are the ones that cause confusion in trial courts. He made examples and case studies. He demonstrated how such reports can be carefully examined by the judges. Corroborative evidence should be provided by the medico legal reports. The session involved a question and answer part. Controversies of conflicting medical opinions were raised by the participants. They also mentioned the weight of the autopsy reports and ocular evidence.

D. Discussions and Group Presentations by Syndicates:

The participants were divided into smaller syndicates after a tea break. Each group was guided by the Director General and the faculty members. Every syndicate covered practical judicial issues. Later, every group presented its findings and recommendations. This format promoted peer to peer learning. It also introduced the participants to different judicial views in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

4. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:

Tuesday, March 31, 2026.

A. Recap and Book Summary

Ms. Nadia Syed began the day by a short overview of the sessions of Monday. She then gave an account of a book on the power of now and judicial mindfulness. The summary was concentrated on making decisions when under pressure.

B. Session on Critical Thinking

This session was headed by Mr. Fakhar Zaman, the Secretary of LJCP and DG Reforms at the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He said that the work of a judge extends beyond the application of the law. It involves critical thinking and logic. He took interactive assignments and real world judicial cases. He showed the influence of cognitive biases on decisions. He also described the manner in which the educated thinking can minimize such risks. This session was very practical to the participants.

C. Gender Discrimination, Organizational Culture, and Evaluation

This session was facilitated by Ms. Nadia Syed. She dissected the facts of Annhopkin's case. She explained how institutional values affect judicial opinions. She then proceeded to uncover the judicial assessment of the case of judicial officers. She lay emphasize on the best practices under self assessment and continuous improvement. The large part covered discrimination based on gender and the law. She discussed how personal biases influence judicial decision. She has highlighted the role of the judiciary to provide gender sensitive judgments. The session was closed by discussing unconscious bias in courts.

5. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: Wednesday, April 01, 2026.

A. Law of Evidence—a judge perspective

Mr. Fakhar Zaman resumed the series on evidence begun the previous time. He has gone beyond the statutory provisions of the Qanun e Shahadat Order 1984. He talked about the application of the principles of evidence in a courtroom. Themes were evaluation of documentary and oral evidence, credibility of witnesses, and connection between substantive and procedural law. The participants provided their personal experiences in a courtroom and challenges.

B. Summary Trials under Order 37 C.P.C

Mr. Syed Muhammad Haroon conducted an elaborate lecture on the Order XXXVII of the Code o f Civil Procedure of 1908. He described the peculiarities of the process of the summary trials. He determined instances of summary procedure. He differentiated between summary suits and ordinary suits. He talked about summons to judgment, leave to defend, and non compliance consequences. The session was also very helpful to individuals dealing with commercial and negotiable instruments cases.

C.civil Appeals and Revision

Ms. Bushra Kokeb, faculty member of the FJA conducted an in-depth session on civil appeal and revision. She separated first appeal, second appeal and revisional jurisdiction under Section 115 of CPC. She employed the analysis of case law to explain revision lies. She also described the narrowness of revisional higher court powers. The meeting cleared numerous uncertainties of the past. It gave useful advice on how to uphold judicial restraint in appellate cases.

5 Academy Night (1900 to 2000)

The night was a relaxing reprieve of the normal routine. It was attended by the officers of the FJA and the Director Generals. This informal meeting enabled the participants, faculty members, and the staff of the Academy to freely interact. The event created teamwork and reinforced professional ties. It was also allowing informal sharing of knowledge outside the classroom. The hospitability of the FJA was again in full swing.

6. THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2026

A. Appeals in Family Cases

Mr. Mahmood Azam had a specialized session on family case appeals. His explanation was on the interaction of the Family Courts Act 1964 and the general procedural laws. He emphasized on expeditious disposal and substantive justice. The session involved the custody of the minors, such as hizanat and wilayat. It also covered the issues of maintenance and evidentiary in matrimonial disputes. He stressed on a compromise method in family affairs. He explained that the role of the judge was that of a facilitator and not an adversary. This was one of the most practical and effective sessions in the whole program rated by the participants.

B. Meeting with the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan (1115 to 1230)

After a short tea break, the participants were given a special honour. They got into the company of the Honourable Chief Justice of Pakistan. The discussion was held in a dignified and friendly style. His Lordship had the same vision of responsive, technology enabled and citizen centric judiciary. He encouraged those involved to be upright, hardworking and caring in their work as judges. The participants assured his lordship that they will leave no stone unturned in dispensation of justice. The meeting was a motivational end to the academic programme.

Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The visit was concluded by a formal certificate awarding ceremony. The ceremony was chaired by the Director General of the Federal Judicial Academy. He complimented the participants on their participation and dedication in the four day program. The participants were given certificates. The certificates were used to verify the successful completion of the Professional Exchange Program. Participants were very thankful in their final comments. They credited hospitality of the Academy, the competence of the resource persons and coordination of the whole visit.

7. General reflections and observations.

The four day training program at the Federal Judicial Academy established a good standard in judicial training. There were a number of strengths noted during the visit.

To begin with, the faculty was well experienced and learned. The experts used as resource persons were Supreme Court experts, forensic medicine specialists, and even experts of the FJA.

Secondly, the curriculum was very relevant. Issues that civil judges encounter on a daily basis were discussed. Such subjects as medico legal evidence, principles of evidentiary, procedural law, and new challenges such as gender discrimination were covered.

Third, the methodology was interactive. Active participation was encouraged through syndicate discussions, group presentations and interactive lectures.

Fourth, it was a holistic approach. The program was an amalgamation of technical training in law and sessions on critical thinking, organizational culture, and judicial ethics. This produced well rounded professional development.

Fifth, coordination and hospitality were good. FJA employees were in touch at all times. They were hospitable and attentive. These circumstances allowed concentration in learning.

8. CONCLUSION

The field visit to the Federal Judicial Academy was a life changing experience to all the 24 participants. It enhanced our legal learning and judicial skills. It also assisted in forming a wider perspective of the place of judiciary within the society. There was an impression of being exposed to the practices of training at the federal level and great faculty.

We got a chance to meet the Honorable Chief Justice of Pakistan, which was a special privilege. We wish to express our utmost gratitude to the Director General as well as the whole staff and faculty of the Federal Judicial Academy. Their ownership, cooperation and professional excellence will be a source of guidance throughout our career.