Field Visit Synopsis/Report

Pre-Promotion Training For Senior Civil Judges / A'alaIllaqaQazis From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa To The Federal Judicial Academy, Islamabad

By

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Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan in a group photograph with a delegation of 24 Senior Civil Judges from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who are under training at the Federal Judicial Academy Pakistan under Professional Exchange Program



1. Introduction

As part of pre-promotion training program of the Senior Civil Judges and A'alaIllaqa Qazis from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the 24 participants made a tour to the Federal Judicial Academy (FJA), Islamabad from March 29 to April 2, 2026. It was a Professional Exchange Program arranged by FJA. The primary objective was to enhance professional competencies of the training participants through exposure to judicial training at highest level, specialized sessions, mentorship and interaction, to prepare the participants for responsibilities ahead.

2. Travel and Arrival (Sunday, March 29)

The participants departed for Islamabad on Sunday, March 29, 2026 and reached the academy at 7:00 PM. They were warmly received by the staff of the FJA.

3. Academic Activities: Day One (Monday, March 30)

The academic sessions commenced on Monday, March 30, 2026. The schedule for the training sessions and events ahead was shared with participants.

3.1. Welcome, Registration & Inaugural Session

The participants were welcomed by the faculty staff of FJA. The training formally started with registration process which was facilitated by Mr. Syed Muhammad Haroon, Faculty Member, FJA. This was followed by opening session conducted by Ms. Bushra Kokab, Faculty Member, FJA. In her session, she underscored the importance of inter provincial judicial exposure. The learned member motivated participants to avail most out of this opportunity and encouraged active participation and interaction with each other throughout the training.

3.2. Introduction Session

A special introduction session was conducted where the participants were asked to introduce themselves.The academy officers and faculty were in attendance during this session. The faculty was also introduced to participants. The aim of this session was to familiarize participants with faculty and foster a friendly atmosphere.

3.3. Technical Session: Medico-Legal Reports – Evidentiary Value

The first lecture was delivered by Prof. Dr. Shaukat Ali, Forensic Medicine Expert on evidentiary value of medico-legal reports. He lectured about the basic concepts of medico-legal evidence and post-mortem reports, highlighting its pivotal role in the administration of criminal justice. The main theme of his lecture was medico-legal autopsy wherein he briefly explained the mode, manner and cause of deaths, the concept of fatal period and rigor mortis. He also explained various kinds of injuries and wounds with his professional experience.

Day-1 continued-- Syndicate Discussions & Group Presentations

After the tea break, the participants were divided into different groups. Different tasks were assigned to each group for discussion. The groups were supposed to deliberate upon their assigned task, prepare presentation and suggest reforms/recommendations. Each group was supervised by a learned faculty member of the FJA. After discussion each group presented their power point presentations. The aim of this session was to demonstrate the existence of diverse judicial perspectives and opinions and importance of shared learning among counterparts.

4.Day-Two—Academic Activities (Tuesday, March 31st):

The main focus of the day two activities were on the appreciation of evidence and socio-legal issues within the judicial system.

Day Two continued—Session on Critical Thinking

Mr. Fakhar Zaman,Secretary, LJCP/DG (Reforms), Supreme Court of Pakistan in his session on critical thinking explained that the role of the judges is not merely confined to formal application of the law in a mechanical manner. He emphasized on analytical reasoning, thorough evaluation of facts and practical application of law. He sensitized that a judicial officer is not supposed to sit as a silent spectator but must actively control the trial since his actual duty is to run the show. The session was aimed at encouraging participants to think in unconventional manner.

Session: Gender Discrimination and the Law

Ms. Nadia Syed, Faculty member of the FJA conducted a session on identifying gender stereotyping. She had already shared a case study of Annhopkin for study before the session. During the session she sought opinion from each individual participant on the facts of Annhopkin's case and group discussion was held among participants. The case study of Anna' case was very helpful in understanding gender equality at workplace. She highlighted that importance of understanding gender roles and biases. The crux of the entire session was mainly on gender discrimination and the existing social set-up.

5. Academic Activities: Day Three (Wednesday, April 01)

Session: Appreciation of evidence in criminal cases

Mr. Fakhar Zaman continued his session from day two on critical thinking with regard to appreciation of evidence particularly in criminal cases.He explained the concept of relevancy and admissibility in law of evidence. He presented a murder case scenario and asked the participants to imagine this a real case and explained the concept of direct, circumstantial and

corroborative evidence.He thoroughly explained the last seen, electronic evidence and the application of law of evidence. He also briefly touched upon the medical evidence, explaining anatomy of human being through practical demonstration.

Session: Summary Trial u/o 37 CPC

The next session was conducted by Mr. Syed Muhammad Haroon, Faculty member of the FJA on Order XXXVII of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, regarding summary trials. He opened his session with guiding principle of procedure (Nersingh. ILR Volume V Allahabad page 163 (FB)) by Mr. Justice Syed Mehmood of Allahabad High Court.The main theme of his lecture was on summary procedure with special reference to Negotiable Instruments Acts 1881. He also explained inter-connected laws including Stamp Act, the Limitation Act, Registration Act, Contract Act and Financial Institution (Recovery of Finances) Ordinance 2001 with order XXXVII CPC. During the session, he differentiated the summon procedure in common suits and suits on negotiable instruments.

Session: Civil Appeals & Revision

On the same day, the last lecture was delivered by Ms. Bushra Kokeb, Faculty member FJA on appeals, revisions and review under Code of Civil Procedure 1908. She thoroughly distinguished among the scope of a first appeal, second appeal, and revisional jurisdiction under Section 96-112, Section 114 and 115 of the CPC along with Order XLI and XLIII of the code. She also explained the scope and limitations on the appellate and revisional powers of the courts.

Academy Night (1900 – 2000 hrs)

In the evening on day-3 "Academy Night" was organized by the Course Coordinators, Mr. Mahmood Azam and Ms. Nadia Syed. This casual get-together provided an entertainment opportunity to the trainee participants and the learned faculty members followed by a delightful dinner and photography.

6. Academic Activities: Day Four (Thursday, April 02)

The last day was comprised of academic session on family law, a ceremonial call on the Chief Justice, and the concluding ceremony.

Session: Handling Appeals in Family Cases (0930 – 1100 hrs)

The last academic session was focused on handling appeals in family cases with regard to section 14 of Family Courts Act 1964 by Mr. Mahmood Azam, Director Instruction FJA. He explained definition and nature of appeals and categories where no appeal lies u/s 14(2). Furthermore, the

concept of “Interim Order” and “Decisions Given” came also under discussion. At the end of the session, the participants were given different case scenarios with questions upon which thorough discussion was held on each case scenario.

6.3. Call on Hon’ble the Chief Justice of Pakistan (1115 – 1230 hrs)

After the tea break, the participants went to the august Supreme Court of Pakistan. The participant met with the Hon’ble Chief Justice of Pakistan. The meeting was held in a dignified and pleasant environment. His Lordship welcomed the visiting officers and expressed hope that the on-going pre-promotion training would be beneficial for professional growth. His Lordship emphasized that the judges must serve selflessly and uphold the rule of law in a transparent manner. Since the visit was basically scheduled to be concluded on Thursday, however, during call on meeting, Hon’ble the Chief Justice of Pakistan, Justice YahyaAfridi graciously extended this visit trip for further three days and instructed the authorities to arrange an excursion trip. Accordingly, as per directions of His Lordship an excursion trip to Murree was made on Friday.

6.4. Certificate Awarding Ceremony

The visit concluded with a formal Certificate Awarding Ceremony. The Director General of the Federal Judicial Academy presided over the ceremony, appreciated the participants for their active participation in the training program. Certificates were awarded to each participant, upon the successful completion of the Professional Exchange Programme. In their closing remarks, the participants expressed deep gratitude for the Academy’s hospitality and conducive learning environment.

Upon conclusion of the closing ceremony on Monday morning, the participants were honored to attend the Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) signing ceremony on Judicial Cooperation between the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Federal Constitutional Court of Türkiye.

7. Conclusion

Overall the visit to the Federal Judicial Academy was very great and unique experience for all 24 participants in terms of professional development. The training program enhanced legal knowledge and judicial skills all the sessions were tailored for the upcoming role of Presiding Officer of appellate court. In addition, the training methodology was insightful for professional growth, particularly, syndicate discussions, group presentations, and the lectures were highly engaging. In short, it was not just a visit but a networking platform for all the trainee judges. The environment provided by the FJA was cordial and hospitable.