

LAW OF THE RSFSR OF JULY 8, 1981 ON THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE RSFSR (with the Amendments of May 29, July 3, 1992, July 16, 1993, November 28, 1994, January 4, 1999, January 2, 2000, July 25, 2002, July 2, 2003, August 20, 2004)

Section I General Provisions

Article 1. Administration of Justice by a Court Alone

In accordance with the Constitution of the USSR and the Constitution of the RSFSR justice in the RSFSR shall be administered by the court alone.

The courts of the USSR and the courts of the RSFSR shall function in the RSFSR.

The courts of the RSFSR include the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the territory, regional and city courts, the courts of the autonomous regions, the courts of the autonomous areas, the district (city) people's courts, and military courts.

Article 2. The Legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR on the Judiciary

The judiciary of the RSFSR is determined by the Constitution of the USSR, the Constitution of the RSFSR and the constitutions of the Autonomous Republics, the Fundamentals of Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on the Judiciary in the USSR and other legislative acts of the USSR, promulgated in conformity with them, by the present Law and other legislative acts of the RSFSR.

Article 3. The Tasks of the Court

In the administration of justice the court's activity is aimed at the utmost strengthening of socialist legality, law and order, the prevention of crimes and other breaches of law and the protection against all encroachments on:

the social system, the political and economic systems, enshrined in the Constitution of the USSR, the Constitution of the RSFSR and the constitutions of the Autonomous Republics;

the socio-economic, political and personal rights and freedoms of citizens, proclaimed and guaranteed by the Constitution of the USSR, the Constitution of the RSFSR and the constitutions of the Autonomous Republics and Soviet laws;

the rights and law-protected interests of the state-owned enterprises, institutions and organizations, collective farms, other cooperative societies, their associations, and other non-governmental organizations.

In all its activity the court shall educate Soviet citizens in the spirit of loyalty to their Motherland and the cause of communism, in the spirit of scrupulous and undeviating observance of the Constitution of the USSR, the Constitution of the RSFSR and the constitutions of the Autonomous Republics and Soviet laws, care for socialist property, observance of labour discipline, an honest attitude to state and social duty, respect for the rights, honour and dignity of individuals, and the rules of socialist community living.

While applying criminal penalties, the court shall punish offenders, and also correct and reeducate them.

Article 4. Administration of Justice by Way of Hearing Civil and Criminal Cases

Justice in the RSFSR shall be dispensed by means of:

1) the consideration and adjudication in court of civil cases of disputes affecting the rights and interests of individuals, state-owned enterprises, institutions, organizations, collective farms, other cooperative societies, their associations and other nongovernmental organizations;

2) the hearing in court of criminal cases and the application of statutory penalties to the persons guilty of committing a crime or the acquittal of non-guilty persons.

Article 5. Equality of Individuals Before The Law and the Court

Justice in the RSFSR shall be administered on the principle of the equality of individuals before the law and the court, regardless of origin, social and property status, race and nationality, sex, education, language, attitude to religion, the type and character of trade, place of residence and other circumstances.

Article 6. The Right of Individuals to Judicial Protection

Citizens of the RSFSR shall have the right to judicial protection against encroachments on their honour and dignity, life and health, personal freedom and property.

Citizens of the other Union Republics shall enjoy in the territory of the RSFSR the right to judicial protection on a par with citizens of the RSFSR.

Article 7. Administration of Justice in Strict Conformity with Law

Justice in the RSFSR shall be dispensed in strict conformity with the legislation of the USSR, the RSFSR and the Autonomous Republics. In statutory cases the courts of the RSFSR shall also apply the legislation of other Union Republics.

Article 8. Abolished.

Article 9. Abolished.

Article 10. The Composition of the Court in the Examination of Civil and Criminal Cases; the Principle of Collegiality in the Administration of Justice

Civil and criminal cases shall be examined in courts of law both on a collegial and individual basis; in a court of first instance - with the participation of jurors, people's assessors or by a college consisting of three professional judges, or by a sole judge.

Cases tried in cassation proceedings or by way of supervision shall be examined by the judicial college consisting of three judges.

The court's presidium shall hear cases in the presence of a majority of its members.

Article 11. Equal Rights of People's Assessors and Judges in the Administration of Justice

In the administration of justice, people's assessors shall enjoy all the rights of the judge.

Article 12. Independence of Judges and Their Subordination to the Law Alone

Judges, jurors and people's assessors shall be independent and subject to the law alone.

Article 13. The Language of Court Proceedings

Court proceedings in the RSFSR shall be conducted in the Russian language or in the language of the Autonomous Republic, the Autonomous Region, the Autonomous Area or in the language of the majority of the population in the given locality. Persons who take part in a case but who have no command of the language of the court proceedings shall be guaranteed the right to familiarize themselves with all the materials of the case and to participate in the court's actions through an interpreter, and also the right to speak in the court in the native language.

Article 14. Open Adjudication of Cases in All Courts

The proceedings in all courts shall be open to the public. Hearings in camera shall only be allowed in cases, provided for by the law, with observance of all the rules of judicial procedure.

Article 15. Guarantees for the Right of the Defendant to Legal Protection

The defendant in a criminal action shall be guaranteed the right to legal protection.

Article 16. Legal Assistance Given by the Bar to Individuals and Organization

In judicial proceedings in civil and criminal cases advocates shall render legal assistance to individuals and organizations.

Procedure for rendering legal assistance by advocates, and also the rights and duties of the advocates who take part in court proceedings in civil and criminal cases, shall be determined by the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR and in statutory cases by the legislation of other Union Republics.

Article 17. The Procurator's Supervision over the Execution of Laws in the Examination of Cases in Courts of Law

The Procurator-General of the USSR and the Procurator of the RSFSR and lower procurators subordinate to him shall supervise the execution of laws in court proceedings on the basis and in the order, prescribed by the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR.

The procurator shall promote the implementation of the court's tasks with the strict observance of the principle of the independence of judges and of their subordination to the law alone.

Article 18. The Participation in Court Proceedings of Representatives of Non-governmental Organizations and of Work Collectives

Representatives of the non-governmental organizations and work collectives shall be allowed to take part in the procedure for civil and criminal cases in the order, prescribed by the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR.

Article 19. The Organizational Guidance of the Courts of Law

The organizational guidance of the courts of the RSFSR within the limits and in the order, provided for by the legislation of the USSR, the RSFSR and the Autonomous Republics shall be exercised by the following bodies:

the Ministry of Justice of the USSR in respect of the courts of the RSFSR;

the Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR in respect of the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the courts of the territories, regions and cities, the courts of the autonomous regions and autonomous areas, district (town) people's courts;

the ministries of justice of the Autonomous Republics, the departments of justice of the executive committees of the territorial, regional and city Soviets of People's Deputies in respect of the district (town) people's courts.

The Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR, the ministries of justice of the Autonomous Republics, the departments of justice of the executive committees of the territorial, regional and city Soviets of People's Deputies shall discharge the following functions:

- 1) formulate proposals on the organization of courts of law, the holding of elections of judges and people's assessors and the compilation of lists of jurors;
- 2) guide the work with the personnel of the courts;
- 3) verify the organizations of the work of the courts;
- 4) study and generalize judicial practice and coordinate this work with the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the territorial, regional and city courts, the courts of the autonomous regions and autonomous areas;
- 5) organize the work of keeping judicial statistics.

The Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR shall have the right to submit to the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR his representatives on giving guiding instructions to the courts on the matters of the application of the legislation of the RSFSR.

The Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR, the ministries of justice of the Autonomous Republics, the departments of justice of the executive committees of the territorial, regional and city Soviets of the People's Deputies shall be called upon to promote in every way the implementation of the tasks of the courts, while strictly observing the principle of the independence of judges and their subordination to the law alone.

Section II The Judicial System

Chapter 1 The Courts of the RSFSR

Article 20. The Courts of the RSFSR

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the territorial and regional courts, the Moscow and Leningrad City Courts, the courts of the autonomous regions, the courts of the autonomous areas, the district (town) people's courts, and the military courts comprise the judicial system of the RSFSR.

Chapter 2 District (Town) Peoples' Courts

Article 21. Creation of a District Court

A district court shall be set up in a judicial district, whose territory embraces the territory of a district, of a town or of another administrative-territorial unit of the subject of the Russian Federation, corresponding to them.

A district court may also be created in a judicial district, whose territory embraces several districts or other administrative-territorial units of the subject of the Russian Federation, corresponding to them, which have common (adjacent) borders.

Article 22. Abolished.

Article 23. The Composition of the District (Town) People's Court

District (town) people's courts shall be elected to operate in the composition of a people's judge (people's judges) and people's assessors.

In case of the election of two and more people's judges the district, town or ward Soviet of People's Deputies shall approve at its session the chairman of the respective district (town) people's court from among the elected people's judges. The proposal on this matter shall be tabled by the Minister of Justice of the respective Autonomous Republic or by the chief of the justice department of the executive committee of the territorial, regional or city Soviet of People's Deputies.

Article 24. The Number of People's Judges and People's Assessors

The number of people's judges and people's assessors for each district (town) people's court shall be established by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic, the Executive Committee of the Territorial, Regional or City Soviet of People's Deputies, the Soviet of People's Deputies of the Autonomous Region and the Autonomous Area on the proposal of the Minister of Justice of the Autonomous Republic or the chief of the Department of Justice of the Executive Committee of the Territorial, Regional or City Soviet of People's Deputies.

Article 25. The Powers of the District (Town) People's Court

The district (town) people's court shall hear all civil and criminal cases with the exception of those referred to the jurisdiction of other courts.

In cases provided for by the legislative acts of the USSR and the RSFSR the district (town) people's court or the people's judge shall examine cases of administrative offences.

The district (town) people's court shall study and generalize judicial practice, render legal assistance to comrades' courts, and also discharge other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 26. The Chairman of the District (Town) People's Court

The chairman of the district (town) people's court shall discharge the following powers:

- 1) preside at judicial sittings; appoint people's judges as those who chair judicial sittings; allocate other duties among people's judges;
- 2) organize the work with people's assessors;
- 3) receive private persons, organize the work of the court for the reception of individuals and for the consideration of proposals, applications and complaints;
- 4) direct the study and generalization of judicial practice and the keeping of forensic statistics; table proposals in governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and officials about the removal of breaches of law, the causes and conditions conducive to the commission of offences;
- 5) nominate for appointment court officers and organize their work;
- 6) direct the work of the apparatus of the court;
- 7) organize the work of raising the skill of the court employees, and also the work of improving the legal knowledge of people's assessors;
- 8) organize the propagation of legal knowledge, the interpretation of legislation and the rendering of legal aid to comrades' courts;
- 9) discharge other powers granted to him by legislation.

If one people's judge has been elected to the district (town) people's court, he shall discharge the powers of the chairman of the district (town) people's court.

Article 27. The Replacement of the Temporarily Absent Chairman of the District (Town) People's Court, the Military Court of the Garrison (Army, Flotilla and Formation) or the Judges of These Courts

In the absence of the chairman of the district (town) people's court for temporary reasons (illness, leave of absence, etc.) the powers of the chairman of the court shall be discharged on his instructions by the deputy chairman of the court or by one of its judges. The replacement of the temporarily absent chairman of the military court of the garrison (army, flotilla or formation) shall be effected in the same order.

In the absence of the judge of the district (town) people's court for temporary reasons his duties shall be performed by the judge of the nearest district (town) people's court by decision of the chairman of the higher court.

In the absence of the judge of the military court of the garrison (army, flotilla or formation) his duties shall be performed by the judge of the nearest military court by decision of the chairman of the higher court.

Article 28. Abolished.

Chapter 3 The Courts of the Territories, Regions, Cities, Autonomous Regions and Autonomous Areas

Article 29. Procedure for the Election of the Court of a Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area and Its Accountability

The court of a territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall be elected by the respective Soviet of People's Deputies for a term of five years and shall consist of the chairman, his deputies, members of the court and people's assessors.

The numerical composition of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall be established by the corresponding Soviet of People's Deputies on the proposal of the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR.

At least once in the period of its office the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall submit the account of its activity and systematically report about it to the relevant Soviet of People's Deputies.

Article 30. The Composition of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The court of a territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall act in the following composition:

- 1) the presidium of the court;
- 2) the judicial division for civil cases;
- 3) the judicial division for criminal cases.

Article 31. The Powers of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall discharge the following powers:

hear cases within the limits of its powers as a court of first instance, in cassation or supervision procedure and by reason of newly discovered circumstances;

supervise the judicial activity of the district (town) people's courts, and also study and generalize judicial practice and analyze forensic statistics;

perform other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 32. The Presidium of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The presidium of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall be formed and consist of the chairman, deputy chairman who are its ex-officio members and of other judges of the relevant court in the number, defined by the President of the Russian Federation.

The composition of the court's presidium shall be confirmed by the President of the Russian Federation upon the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The membership of the court's presidium shall be approved in the presence of a positive opinion of the qualification board of judges of the territory, region, autonomous region, autonomous area, the city of Moscow and the city of St. Petersburg.

Article 33. The Powers of the Presidium of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The presidium of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall discharge the following powers:

1) hear cases within the limits of its powers by way of supervision and by reason of newly discovered circumstances;

2) confirm the members of the division for civil cases and of the division for criminal cases from among the respective court's judges on the proposal of its chairman;

3) consider the materials of the study and generalization of judicial practice and of the analysis of forensic statistics;

4) hear reports by the chairmen of the judicial divisions on the latter's activity; consider questions dealing with the work of the court's apparatus;

5) render assistance to district (town) people's court in the proper application of legislation and coordinate this work with the corresponding department of justice of the executive committee of the territorial, regional or city soviet of People's Deputies;

6) implement other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 34. Procedure of the Work of the Presidium of the Court of Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

Sittings of the presidium of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall be held at least twice in a month.

The presidium's sitting shall be competent in the presence of a majority of its members.

The presidium's decisions shall be made by a show of hands by a majority of its members who have taken part in voting.

The presidium's decisions shall be signed by the court's chairman.

Article 35. The Judicial Divisions of the Court of Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The judicial division for civil cases and the judicial division for criminal cases of the court of a territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall be confirmed by the court's presidium from among the judges of the relevant court.

The chairmen of the judicial divisions shall be confirmed by the executive committee of the respective Soviet of People's Deputies on the proposal of the chairman of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area from among the deputies of the chairman and the court's members.

Whenever necessary the chairman of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall have the right to enlist judges of one division for consideration of cases in another division.

Article 36. The Powers of the Judicial Divisions of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The judicial division for civil cases and the judicial division for criminal cases of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall, within the limits of its powers,

consider cases as a court of first instance, in cassation procedure and by reason of newly discovered circumstances.

The judicial divisions shall study and generalize judicial practice, analyze forensic statistics and discharge other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Article 37. The Functions of the Chairman of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The chairman of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall exercise the following functions:

- 1) may preside at the court's sittings;
- 2) bring in protests against judgements, sentences, rulings and decrees handed down in legal causes within the limits of jurisdiction and in the statutory order;
- 3) stay, in cases and in the manner provided for by law, the execution of decisions and rulings in civil cases;
- 4) direct the organization of the work of the judicial divisions; guide the work of the court's apparatus;
- 5) convene the court's presidium and preside at its sittings;
- 6) submit accounts of the court's activity and report about it to the respective Soviet of People's Deputies;
- 7) allocate the duties among the deputies of the chairman;
- 8) organize the work of improving the skill of the court's members and the court's presidium;
- 9) organize the work of the study and summing up of judicial practices, of the analysis of forensic statistics; bring in representations to state bodies, non-governmental organizations and officials on the removal of breaches of the law, causes and conditions that were conducive to the commission of offences;
- 10) receive private persons and organize the work of the court for the reception of individuals and for the consideration of proposals, applications and complaints;
- 11) discharge other powers, granted to him by legislation.

Article 38. The Functions of the Deputies of the Chairman of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The deputies of the chairman of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall exercise the following functions:

- 1) may preside at the judicial divisions' sittings;
- 2) direct the work of the judicial divisions and the court's personnel in accordance with the allocation of duties;
- 3) receive private persons;
- 4) exercise other powers, granted to them by legislation.

In the absence of the court's chairman the rights and duties of the court's chairman shall be exercised on his instructions by one of the deputies of the chairman.

Article 39. The Functions of the Chairmen of the Judicial Divisions of the Court of the Territory, Region, City, Autonomous Region and Autonomous Area

The chairmen of the judicial division for civil cases and of the judicial division for criminal cases of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region and autonomous area shall discharge the following functions:

- 1) preside in the judicial divisions' sittings or appoint the court's members for this purpose;
- 2) guide the work of the respective divisions;
- 3) form court panels for the hearing cases in the sittings of the judicial divisions;
- 4) submit to the court's presidium accounts about the activity of the divisions;
- 5) enjoy the right of reclaiming judicial cases from district (town) people's court for the study and generalization of judicial practices;
- 6) exercise other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Chapter 4 The Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics

Article 40. The Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic as Its Highest Judicial Body

The Supreme Court of an Autonomous Republic is the Republic's highest judicial body. It shall supervise the judicial activity of the district (town) people's courts of the Autonomous Republic in the order, prescribed by the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR.

Article 41. Procedure for the Election of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic and Its Accountability

The Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall be elected by the Supreme Soviet of this Republic for a term of five years and shall consist of the chairman, deputies of the chairman, members of the Supreme Court and people's assessors.

The composition of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall be established by the Supreme Soviet of this Republic.

At least once during the term of its office the Supreme Court shall submit the account of its activity to the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic and shall systematically report about it to the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic.

Article 42. The Composition of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall function in the following composition:

- 1) the Presidium of the Supreme Court;
- 2) the judicial division for civil cases;
- 3) the judicial division for criminal cases.

Article 43. The Powers of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall discharge the following functions: consider cases within the limits of its powers as a court of first instance, in cassation procedure, by way of supervision, and by reason of newly discovered circumstances; supervise the judicial activity of the district (town) people's courts, and also study and sum up judicial practices and analyze forensic statistics; discharge other powers, granted to it by legislation.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic the Supreme Court of this Republic shall enjoy the right of initiating legislation in the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic.

Article 44. The Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall be formed in the quantity determined by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic. It shall consist of the chairman, deputies of the chairman and members.

The composition of the Presidium of the Supreme Court shall be confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of this Republic.

In the examination of judicial cases the participation of the Procurator of the Autonomous Republic shall be obligatory.

Article 45. The Powers of the Presidium of Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Presidium of Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall discharge the following powers:

- 1) within the limits of its powers consider cases by way of supervision and by reason of newly discovered circumstances;
- 2) confirm the panels of the judicial division for civil cases and of the judicial division for criminal cases from among the judges of the Supreme Court on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court;
- 3) examine materials for the study and generalization of judicial practices and for the analysis of forensic statistics;
- 4) hear reports by the chairmen of the judicial divisions on their activity; consider questions of the work of the Court's apparatus;
- 5) consider and settle questions of bringing in representations to the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic by way of initiating legislation, while consider and settle questions of bringing in representations about the interpretation of laws of the Autonomous Republic to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of this Republic;
- 6) render assistance to the district (town) people's courts in the proper application of legislation, while coordinating this activity with the Ministry of Justice of the Autonomous Republic;
- 7) perform other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 46. Procedure for the Work of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The sittings of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall be held at least twice in a month.

The Presidium's sitting shall be competent in the presence of a majority of its members.

The Presidium's decisions shall be taken by a show of hands of the majority of its members who have taken part in voting.

The Presidium's decisions shall be signed by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic.

Article 47. The Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Supreme Court's judicial division for civil cases and the judicial division for criminal cases shall be confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Court from among its members.

The chairmen of the judicial divisions shall be confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of this Republic from among the deputies of the Chairman or the members of the Supreme Court.

Whenever necessary, the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall have the right to enlist by its order judges from one division for the consideration of cases in the other division.

Article 48. The Powers of the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Supreme Court's judicial division for civil cases and the judicial division for criminal cases shall consider cases, within the limits of its powers, as a court of first instance, in cassation procedure and by reason of newly discovered circumstances.

The judicial divisions shall study and sum up judicial practices, analyze forensic statistics and discharge other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Article 49. The Functions of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall carry out the following functions:

- 1) may preside in the judicial divisions' sittings;
- 2) bring in within the limits and in the order, prescribed by law, protests against decisions, sentences, rulings and decrees in judicial cases;
- 3) may suspend the execution of decisions and rulings on civil cases in the order, prescribed by law;
- 4) direct the organization of the work of the judicial divisions and guide the work of the Court's personnel;
- 5) convene the Presidium of the Court and preside at its sittings;
- 6) submit to the Supreme Soviet of the respective Autonomous Republic accounts of the activity of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic and report about it to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic;
- 7) submit to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic representations on the matters requiring the interpretation of the Republic's laws;
- 8) allocate the duties among the deputies of the Chairman;
- 9) organize the work of improving the skill of the Court's members and personnel;
- 10) organize the work of the study and generalization of judicial practices, and the analysis of forensic statistics; submit representations to state bodies, non-governmental organizations and officials concerning the removal of breaches of the law, the causes and conditions conducive to the commission of offences;
- 11) receive private persons and organize the reception by the Court of these persons and the examination of proposals, applications and complaints;
- 12) discharge other powers, granted to him by legislation.

Article 50. The Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall perform the following duties:

- 1) may preside at the judicial divisions' sittings;
- 2) direct the work of the judicial divisions and the Court's personnel;
- 3) receive private persons;
- 4) discharge other powers, granted to them by legislation.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic one of the Deputies of the Chairman shall exercise the rights and duties of the Chairman on his instruction.

Article 51. The Chairmen of the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic

The chairman of the judicial division for civil cases and the chairman of the judicial division for criminal cases shall exercise the following functions:

- 1) preside at the sittings of the judicial divisions they direct;
- 2) direct the work of the corresponding divisions;
- 3) form the Court's panels for hearing cases at the divisions' sittings;
- 4) submit to the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic the accounts of the divisions' activity;
- 5) enjoy the right to reclaim from district (town) people's courts judicial cases for the study and generalization of judicial practices;
- 6) discharge other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Chapter 5 The Supreme Court of the RSFSR

Article 52. The Supreme Court of the RSFSR as the Highest Judicial Body of the RSFSR

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR is the highest judicial body of the RSFSR. It shall supervise the activity of the judicial activity of the courts of the RSFSR in the order, prescribed by the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR.

Article 53. Procedure for the Election of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and Its Accountability

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be elected by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR for a term of five years and consists of the Chairman, Deputies of the Chairman, members of the Supreme Court and people's assessors.

The numerical composition of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be fixed by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

At least once in the term of its office the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall submit the report about its activity to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR and shall systematically report about it to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

Article 54. The Composition of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall act in the following composition:

- 1) the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 2) the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 3) Cassation Collegiums;
- 4) the Judicial Division for Civil Cases;
- 5) the Judicial Division for Criminal Cases;
- 6) Military Division.

Article 55. Procedure for the Confirmation of the First Deputy Chairman and the Chairmen of the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR shall confirm the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and the Chairmen of the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR from among the Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

Article 56. The Powers of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall discharge the following powers:

within the limits of its powers considers cases as a court of first instance, in cassation procedure, by of supervision and by reason of newly discovered circumstances;

study and sum up judicial practices, analyze forensic statistics and give guiding instructions to the courts on the questions of the application of the legislation of the RSFSR which arise during the examination of judicial cases. Guiding instructions issued by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be binding on the courts of law, other bodies and officials applying the law on which the instruction has been given;

exercise control over the fulfilment by the courts of the RSFSR of the guiding instructions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR and the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;

settle, within the limits of its powers, questions arising from the international treaties and agreements of the USSR and the RSFSR;

discharge other powers, granted to it by legislation.

In accordance with the Constitution of the RSFSR the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall enjoy the right of initiating legislation in the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

Article 57. The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall operate as the body consisting of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Deputies of the Chairman and members of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

The Procurator of the RSFSR and the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR shall take part in the sittings of the Plenary Session. The participation of the Procurator of the RSFSR in the work of the Plenary Session shall be mandatory.

At the invitation of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR judges, members of the Scientific Advisory Council under the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, representatives of ministries, state committees, departments, scientific establishments and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations may take part in sittings of the Plenary Session.

Article 58. The Powers of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall:

1) examine materials investigating and summing up judicial practices and forensic statistics, and also representations of the Procurator of the RSFSR and the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR and issue guiding instructions to the courts on the application of the legislation of the RSFSR; when discussing questions of giving guiding instructions to the courts, hear communications by the Chairmen of the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the courts of the territories, regions, cities, autonomous regions and autonomous areas, and military courts on the judicial practice of the application of legislation;

2) confirm the panels of the judicial divisions and the Secretary of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR from among its judges on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;

3) endorse the Scientific and Advisory Council under the Supreme Court of the RSFSR on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;

4) examine and settle questions of bringing in representations to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR or to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR by way of initiating legislation and questions of interpreting laws of the RSFSR - to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR;

5) hear communications about the work of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and reports by the chairmen of the Cassation Collegium and the judicial divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR about their activity;

6) consider the representations of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the USSR and the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR on discrepancies between the guiding instructions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and the legislation of the USSR, the RSFSR or the decisions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR;

7) exercise other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 59. Examination by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR of the Matters Brought in for Discussion

Matters brought in for consideration at the Plenary Session by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Procurator of the RSFSR or the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR, in conformity with the present Law, shall be heard, respectively, on their reports or those of persons duly authorized by them. The Procurator of the RSFSR shall give his opinion on matters brought in for examination at the Plenary Session by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR or the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR. Persons invited to attend the sitting of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR may also take part in the discussion of these matters.

For the purpose of preparing a draft decree containing guiding instructions, the Plenary Session shall, whenever necessary, form a drafting commission from among the members of the Plenary Session.

Article 60. Procedure for the Work of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be called at least once in four months. The members of the Plenary Session, the Procurator of the RSFSR and the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR shall be informed about the time of the meeting of the Plenary Session and of the questions brought in for its consideration not later than 30 days before the sitting.

The draft decrees of the Plenary Session shall be sent to the members of the Plenary Session, the Procurator of the RSFSR and the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR not later than 10 days before the sitting.

The sitting of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be competent in the presence of at least two-thirds of its membership. Decrees of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be taken by a show of hands by a majority of the members of the Plenary Session who have taken part in voting.

The Plenary Session's decrees shall be signed by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and the Secretary of the Plenary Session.

In addition to the duties of a member of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR the Secretary of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall carry on the organizational work of preparing sittings of the Plenary Session, keep the minutes and perform actions needed for the execution of the decrees, adopted by the Plenary Session.

Article 61. The Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation

The Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation consists of 13 judges and shall be approved by the Federal Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on the representation of the President of the Russian Federation, based on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, in the composition of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and the Deputies of the Chairman who are ex officio members of the Presidium, and the judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. The membership of the Presidium of the

Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be confirmed in the presence of a positive opinion by the qualification board of the judges of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

The sittings of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be held at least once in a month and shall be competent in the presence of a majority of the Presidium members.

Decisions by the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be made by a majority of votes of the Presidium members who take part in the sitting and shall be signed by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

Article 62. The Powers of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Presidium of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall discharge the following powers:

1) examine judicial cases within the limits of its powers by way of supervision and by reason of newly discovered circumstances;

2) consider the materials of the study and generalization of judicial practices and the analysis of the forensic statistics ;

3) consider the questions of the organization of the work of the judicial divisions and the personnel of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;

4) render assistance to the lower courts in the proper application of legislation and coordinate this activity with the Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR;

5) discharge other powers, granted to it by legislation.

Article 62.1. Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation

The Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall consist of a chairman of the Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, 12 months from among the justices of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, and shall be approved by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation on presentation of the President of the Russian Federation based on the presentation of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation and a positive conclusion of the qualification collegium of justices of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation.

The consideration of cases at the Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be carried out by judicial compositions.

The justices who are members of the Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall, in the period between its sessions, participate in the consideration of cases in the composition of the relevant juridical collegium or of the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation with the observance of the requirement that a justice may not participate repeatedly in the consideration of one and the same case.

Article 62.2. Powers of the Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation

The Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall:

1) consider, as the court of the second instance, the civil and criminal cases on the appeals and protests from the judgements, sentences, rulings and decrees rendered by the Judicial Collegium for Civil Cases, the Judicial Collegium for Criminal Cases, and the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation as the court of the first instance;

2) shall consider, within the limits of their powers, the cases on the newly discovered circumstances.

The consideration of judicial cases by the Cassation Collegium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation shall be carried out in accordance with the Code of Civil procedure of the RSFSR and the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR..

Article 63. The Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The judicial division for civil cases and the judicial division for criminal cases, and also the military division of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be endorsed by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR from among the judges of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

In cases of necessity the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall have the right to enlist by his order the judges of one division for the consideration of cases in the other division.

Article 64. The Powers of the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The judicial division for civil cases, the judicial division for criminal cases and the military division of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall consider cases within the limits of their powers as a court of first instance, in cassation procedure, by way of supervision and by reason of newly discovered circumstances.

The judicial divisions shall study and sum up judicial practices, analyze forensic statistics and exercise other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Article 65. The Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall:

- 1) bring in within the limits of the law and in the statutory order protests against decisions, sentences, rulings and decrees on judicial cases;
- 2) in cases and in the order, established by law, enjoy the right to stay the execution of decisions and rulings in judicial cases;
- 3) organize the work of investigating and generalizing judicial practices, analyzing forensic statistics; bring in representations to state bodies, non-governmental organizations and officials on the removal of breaches of law, the causes and conditions conducive to the commission of offences, and also organize the control over the execution of the guiding instructions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR and the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and bring in materials for the Plenary Session's consideration;
- 4) convene the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and preside at its sittings;
- 5) convene the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and bring in for the Presidium's consideration questions requiring its decision, preside at the sittings of the Presidium; he may preside at the sittings of the judicial divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR in the hearing of any cases;
- 6) submit his accounts to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR about the activity of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and report about it to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR;
- 7) bring in to the Presidium of Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR representations on the matters requiring the interpretation of RSFSR laws;
- 8) bring in to the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR representations of any discrepancies between the guiding instructions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and the legislation of the USSR and the RSFSR and the decisions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR. In the event a representation is overruled by the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, it shall bring in the representation to the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the USSR, unless the Plenary Session's guiding instruction corresponds to the legislation of the USSR or the decisions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the USSR or bring in the representation to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, unless the Plenary Session's guiding instruction corresponds the legislation of the RSFSR;
- 9) allocate the duties among the Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 10) direct the organization of the work of the Cassation Collegium and the judicial divisions; direct the work of the personnel of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 11) receive private persons and organize the reception by the court of individuals and the examination of suggestions, applications and complaints;
- 12) exercise other powers, granted to him by legislation.

Article 66. The Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Deputies of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall exercise the following powers:

- 1) may preside at the sittings of the judicial divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 2) bring in protests against decisions, sentences, rulings and decrees on judicial cases in the limits of the law and in the procedure established by the law;
- 3) enjoy the right to stay the execution of decisions, sentences and rulings in judicial cases and in the order, established by the law;
- 4) guide the work of the judicial divisions and structural subdivisions of the apparatus of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR in keeping with the allocation of their duties;
- 5) receive private persons;
- 6) exercise other powers, granted to them by legislation.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR the rights and duties of the Chairman shall be exercised on his instruction by the first Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR and in the absence of the First Deputy - by the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

Article 67. The Chairmen of the Cassation Collegium and the Judicial Divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Chairmen of the Cassation Collegium and the judicial divisions of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall exercise the following powers:

- 1) preside at the sittings of the judicial divisions directed by them or appoint the Court's members for this purpose;
- 2) form the panels of judges (chambers) for the examination of cases at the sittings of the judicial divisions;
- 3) guide the work of the corresponding divisions;

- 4) submit to the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR their accounts of the activity of the divisions;
- 5) enjoy the right to reclaim judicial cases for the study and generalization of judicial practices;
- 6) organize the work of advancing the skill of the Court's members of the corresponding judicial division;
- 7) exercise other powers, granted to them by legislation.

Furthermore, the chairman of the military division of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall:

- 1) bring in to the military division of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR protests against the decisions, sentences and rulings of military courts of the Armed Forces, military districts, groups of troops, flotillas and the decrees of the judges of these courts which have entered into legal force;
bring in to the military courts of the Armed Forces, military districts, groups of troops and flotillas protests against the decisions, sentences and rulings of the military courts of the armies, flotillas, formations, garrisons and decrees of the judges of these courts which have entered into legal force;
- 2) enjoy the right to reclaim judicial cases for verification by way of supervision within the powers of the military division of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 3) enjoy the right to stay, in the manner provided for by law, the execution of the decision, sentence, ruling and decree of the military court, against which they have the right to bring in a protest in keeping with the present Law;
- 4) organize the work of the study and generalization of judicial practices, the analysis of forensic statistics, and also control over the fulfilment by the military courts of the guiding instructions of the Plenary Session of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR;
- 5) whenever necessary, settle the question of transferring a case from the military court of the service of the Armed Forces, of the military district, group of troops or flotilla to the military court of the service of the Armed Forces. of another military district, group of troops or flotilla.

Article 68. Bulletin of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall publish a Bulletin of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

Section III Judges and People's Assessors

Article 69. Qualifications of Candidates for Judges and People's Assessors

Every citizen of the RSFSR who has attained 25 years of age by the time of elections may be elected a judge or a people's assessor.

Citizens of other Union Republics may be elected judges or people's assessors in the territory of the RSFSR on a par with citizens of the RSFSR.

Article 70. The Term for Which the People's Assessors Are Called to Discharge Their Duties in Court

People's assessors shall be called to discharge their duties in courts of law in the order of priority for not more than two weeks a year, except for the cases when the extension of this period is caused by the necessity to complete the hearing of the judicial case that has been started with their participation.

Article 71. The Retention of Average Earnings by People's Assessors During the Time of Performing Their Duties in Court

The local average earnings shall be retained for people's assessors, elected from among workers, collective farmers and other employees during the time of performing their duties in court.

Expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties in court shall be compensated to people's assessors who are not workers, collective farmers and other employees. The procedure and the amount of compensation shall be established by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

Article 72. The Recall of Judges and People's Assessors

Judges and people's assessors may be deprived of their powers before the expiry of their term of office, if only they are recalled by electors or the body which has elected them or by reason of the court's judgement.

Judges and people's assessors of the RSFSR courts may be recalled, if they have not justified the trust of electors or the body that has elected them or if they have committed actions that are not worthy of the high calling of the judge or the people's assessors.

The procedure for recalling people's judges and people's assessors of the district (town) people's courts of the RSFSR shall be determined by the Law of the RSFSR on the Procedure for Recalling People's Judges and People's Assessors of the District (Town) People's Courts of the RSFSR.

The chairman, the deputies of the chairman, members and people's assessors of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region or autonomous area may be recalled by the relevant Soviet of People's Deputies.

The chairman, his deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic may be recalled by the Supreme Soviet of this Republic and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic at its regular session.

The Chairman, his Deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR may be recalled by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR at its regular session.

Article 73. The Release of Judges and People's Assessors Short of the Term

Judges and people's assessors of the RSFSR courts may be released from their duties before the expiry of the term of their powers in connection with a long illness, and also at their request for other valid reasons.

The anticipatory release of people's assessors of district (town) people's courts from their duties shall be effected at meetings of people at the place of their work or residence, and also at meetings of servicemen in the military units where they have been elected.

The chairman, his deputies, members and people's assessors of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region or autonomous area may be released from their duties short of the term by the respective Soviet of People's Deputies.

The Chairman, his Deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic may be released from their duties by the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic, and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of this Republic with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic at its regular session.

The Chairman, his Deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR may be released from their duties by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of RSFSR with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR at its regular session.

Article 74. The Election of Judges and People's Assessors Instead of Those Who Have Been Recalled

In case of recalling individual judges or people's assessors from RSFSR courts the elections of new judges or people's assessors shall be held for the remaining period of powers.

The election of people's judges and people's assessors of the district (town) people's courts of the RSFSR instead of those who have been recalled shall be held in the order, prescribed by the RSFSR Law on the Elections of the District (Town) People's Courts of the RSFSR.

The election of the chairman, his deputies, members and people's assessors of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region or autonomous area instead of those who have been recalled shall be held by the respective Soviet of People's Deputies.

The election of the Chairman, his Deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic instead of those who have been recalled shall be held by the Supreme Soviet of this Republic and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic at its regular session.

The election of the Chairman, his Deputies, members and people's assessors of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR instead of those who have been recalled shall be held by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR and in the period between its sessions - by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Autonomous Republic with the subsequent submission of the decree issued in this connection for approval by the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR at its regular session.

Article 75. The Immunity of Judges and People's Assessors

The following judges and people's assessors may not, in the administration of justice, be brought to criminal responsibility, arrested or subjected to administrative penalties that are imposed in the judicial procedure:

1) the people's judges and people's assessors of the people's courts, the chairmen, deputies of the chairmen, members and people's assessors of the court of the territories, regions, cities, autonomous regions or autonomous areas and the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics without the Consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR;

2) the Chairman, Deputies of the Chairman and members of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, and also the people's assessors of this Court without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, and in the period between its sessions, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

Article 76. The Disciplinary Responsibility of Judges

The judges of the RSFSR courts shall bear disciplinary responsibility in the order, prescribed by the Regulations for the Disciplinary Responsibility of the Judges of the RSFSR Courts to be approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

Section IV Other Matters of the Organization of the Activity of the Courts of the RSFSR

Article 77. Officers of Justice

Decisions, rulings and decrees on civil cases, sentences, rulings and decrees on criminal cases in respect of recovery of property, and also other decisions and decrees shall be executed by officers of justice in cases provided for by law.

Officers of justice shall be attached to the courts and appointed by the ministers of justice of the Autonomous Republics or by the chiefs of the departments of justice of the executive committees of the territorial, regional or city Soviets of People's Deputies.

In district (town) people's courts, in which there are two or more officers of justice, one of them shall be appointed as a senior bailiff.

In accordance with the Fundamentals of the Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics on the Judicial System in the USSR the requirements, made by officers of justice for the execution of the decisions, sentences, rulings and decrees of courts and other decisions and decrees subject to execution, shall be binding on all the state-owned enterprises, institutions, organizations, collective farms, other cooperative societies, their associations, other non-governmental organizations, persons in office and private person throughout the territory of the USSR.

Article 78. The Structure and Payroll Number of the Apparatuses of the RSFSR Courts

In order to ensure the administration of justice by the courts, sum up judicial practices and other activity of the RSFSR courts, the courts shall have their own personnel.

The structure and payroll number of the apparatus of the district (town) people's court shall be established respectively by the Minister of Justice of the Autonomous Republic or by the chief of the department of justice of the executive committee of the territorial, regional or city Soviet of People's Deputies within the payroll number and the wages fund to be endorsed by the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR.

The structure and payroll number of the apparatus of the court of the territory, region, city, autonomous region or autonomous area shall be approved by the Minister of Justice of the RSFSR on the proposal of the chairman of the respective court.

The structure and payroll number of the apparatus of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic shall be approved by the Ministry of Justice of the RSFSR on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the Autonomous Republic.

The apparatus of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall set up departments and other structural units for the study and generalization of judicial practices and the analysis of forensic statistics, the systematization and propagation of Soviet legislation and the discharge of other functions associated with the activity of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR. The chiefs of departments and other structural units and their deputies shall be the senior assistants or assistants of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR. The Cassation Collegium, the judicial divisions and departments of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR include chief and senior consultants, consultants, inspectors, and also other employees and junior service personnel.

The structure and the staff of the apparatus of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR shall be approved by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR on the proposal of the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

The personnel arrangements of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the regulations for its departments and other structural units shall be endorsed by the Chairman of the Supreme Court of the RSFSR.

Article 79. The Seal of the RSFSR Courts

The Supreme Court of the RSFSR, the Supreme Courts of the Autonomous Republics, the courts of the territories, regions, cities, autonomous regions or autonomous areas, and the district (town) people's courts shall have their own seal with the State Emblem of the Republic and its name.

Section V Jurors

Abolished

Chairman of the Presidium

of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR

M. Yasnov

Secretary of the Presidium
of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR

Kh. Neshkov

Moscow, the Kremlin