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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE: IS UZBEKISTAN'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM READY FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION?

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Abstract

The rapid digitalization of judicial proceedings raises a new question for administrative justice: whether existing institutional conditions are sufficient for the introduction of artificial intelligence (AI) into judicial processes. To clarify this issue, an empirical survey was conducted in Uzbekistan in October–December 2025 among 100 professionals directly involved in administrative justice, including judges, court staff, legal-service officers of public authorities and lawyers. The respondents were selected using purposive sampling, and the survey was conducted anonymously through Google Forms. The questionnaire assessed institutional and structural conditions, judicial independence, relations between courts and administrative bodies, procedural quality and judicial professional capacity. The questions were measured using a five-point Likert scale. The results demonstrate that digitalization of administrative court activities received the highest mean score among the institutional and structural indicators ($M = 4.40$), indicating a positive professional assessment of digital technologies as a means of facilitating judicial proceedings. At the same time, regression analysis showed that judicial independence was the strongest determinant of



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administrative court effectiveness ($\beta = 0.631$; $p < 0.001$). These findings suggest that Uzbekistan has a positive institutional basis for further digital transformation, but the introduction of AI should be linked to stronger safeguards for judicial independence, procedural quality, transparency and human oversight.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, administrative justice, digitalization, judicial effectiveness, judicial independence, Uzbekistan.

Introduction

The digital transformation of administrative justice is no longer simply a question of introducing electronic document management or online judicial services. The development of artificial intelligence creates a new stage in this process, in which digital systems may not only store and transmit information but also analyse legal materials, classify cases, assist in preparing procedural documents and provide recommendations to judges.

This development creates an important legal and institutional problem. Can artificial intelligence improve the efficiency of administrative courts without weakening judicial independence and the protection of human rights?

The question is particularly important in administrative justice because administrative courts perform a specific protective function: they review decisions and actions of public authorities and provide individuals with judicial protection against unlawful administrative action. Consequently, technological efficiency cannot be considered separately from procedural fairness and judicial independence.

The international literature identifies both opportunities and risks. Shevchuk et al. argue that AI may improve the effectiveness of judicial protection through the



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analysis of legislation and judicial practice, but emphasize that AI systems in administrative judicial proceedings should remain under human control. Suksi similarly points out that automated decision-making creates new challenges for administrative due process, accountability and responsibility.

However, before discussing whether AI should be introduced into administrative judicial proceedings, it is necessary to understand how the professionals working within the existing system evaluate its current digital transformation and institutional capacity.

This question formed the empirical basis of the present study.

Methodology

To clarify the current institutional and technological conditions of administrative justice in Uzbekistan, an empirical survey was conducted from October to December 2025.

The survey included 100 respondents who were directly connected with administrative judicial proceedings. A purposive sampling method was used because the study required respondents with professional knowledge and practical experience in administrative justice. The participants included:

- administrative judges;
- court staff;
- legal-service officers of public authorities;
- lawyers and other participants in administrative proceedings.

The survey was distributed online through Google Forms and was voluntary and anonymous.



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The questionnaire was designed not simply to measure satisfaction with courts, but to identify the institutional and procedural factors that may influence the effectiveness of administrative justice.

The respondents were asked to evaluate several groups of issues using a five-point Likert scale.

The first group concerned institutional and structural conditions, including:

- clarity of administrative jurisdiction;
- distribution of cases between courts;
- adequacy of judicial infrastructure;
- professional capacity of court staff;
- level of digitalization of administrative court activities.

The second group concerned judicial independence and relations with administrative authorities, including external influence on judges, implementation of judicial decisions and cooperation between courts and executive bodies.

The third group concerned procedural quality and law enforcement, including consistency in evidence assessment, interpretation of legal norms, timeliness of hearings and the methodology used to substantiate judicial decisions.

The fourth group examined judicial specialization and professional development, including judges' knowledge and skills, professional training and integration of international practices.

The collected data were processed using SPSS Statistics 27. The institutional and structural scale demonstrated acceptable internal reliability, with Cronbach's Alpha = 0.829.



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Data Analysis

The most important result for the present research concerns digitalization. Among the institutional and structural indicators, the statement that digitalization of administrative court activities facilitates judicial proceedings received the highest mean score: $M = 4.40$.

This result is important because the respondents were not ordinary citizens unfamiliar with the judicial system. They were professionals directly involved in administrative justice. Their assessment therefore provides an informed professional perspective on the practical role of digital technologies. In other words, the survey provides evidence that the existing digital transformation of administrative courts is perceived positively by professional participants in the system. This result allows us to formulate the first conclusion:

- **Professional participants in administrative justice already perceive digitalization as a factor that facilitates judicial proceedings.**

However, the survey did not ask respondents directly whether they support the use of artificial intelligence. Therefore, the result of $M = 4.40$ cannot be interpreted as direct support for AI. Instead, it answers a more preliminary but important question:

Is the professional environment of administrative justice receptive to further technological transformation? The empirical evidence suggests that the answer is yes, at least concerning digitalization.

The second important finding changes the interpretation of the first one. The broader statistical analysis demonstrated that judicial independence was the strongest determinant of administrative court effectiveness,

with: $\beta = 0.631$; $p < 0.001$. Procedural quality and institutional conditions also demonstrated statistically significant positive effects. This means that the



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effectiveness of administrative courts cannot be explained simply by the availability of technology.

- **A court may have modern digital systems, but if judges are not sufficiently independent, if procedural standards are inconsistent or if judicial decisions are not properly implemented, technological modernization alone cannot guarantee effective administrative justice.**

This finding is particularly important when considering AI. Artificial Intelligence can potentially:

- process large amounts of legal information;
- search legislation and judicial practice;
- classify cases;
- assist in preparing procedural documents;
- support judges with analytical information;
- facilitate transcription and documentation of hearings.

Discussions

The empirical results should be considered together with the existing academic literature. Shevchuk et al. (2023) argue that AI can improve the effectiveness of judicial protection by analysing legislation and judicial practice. However, they emphasize the necessity of human control over AI systems used in administrative judicial proceedings.

Suksi (2021) approaches the issue from the perspective of administrative due process. His research demonstrates that automated decision-making creates new questions regarding responsibility, accountability and the procedural rights of persons affected by automated decisions. Szewczyk examines AI in administrative law and procedure and highlights its potential to improve the



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processing of information and administrative efficiency while simultaneously raising questions concerning human rights. These studies therefore point in the same general direction:

- **AI can improve efficiency, but efficiency cannot replace legal guarantees.**

The empirical results from Uzbekistan complement this international literature. The survey shows that professional participants already see digitalization as facilitating judicial proceedings, while the regression analysis demonstrates that judicial independence remains the strongest determinant of judicial effectiveness. Taken together, these findings suggest that technological transformation should be implemented within, rather than outside, the institutional framework of administrative justice.

Conclusion

The empirical study conducted in Uzbekistan in October–December 2025 provides a useful basis for evaluating the prospects of further digital transformation of administrative justice.

The survey of 100 professional participants demonstrated that digitalization of administrative court activities received a high positive assessment, with $M = 4.40$, the highest mean among the institutional and structural indicators examined.

At the same time, the statistical analysis demonstrated that judicial independence is the strongest determinant of administrative court effectiveness ($\beta = 0.631$; $p < 0.001$).

The combination of these two findings leads to an important conclusion.

Uzbekistan's administrative justice system demonstrates a positive professional perception of digitalization, which creates a favourable basis for further



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technological development. However, the introduction of artificial intelligence should not be treated simply as the next technological upgrade. It should be implemented as an institutional and legal reform in which technological efficiency is balanced with judicial independence, procedural quality, transparency, accountability and human oversight.

The main limitation of the study is that the 2025 survey did not directly measure respondents' attitudes toward AI. Therefore, the present findings should be understood as empirical evidence concerning the readiness and perception of digitalization, rather than direct evidence of professional support for AI-based judicial decision-making.

This limitation also defines an important direction for future research: a dedicated survey of judges, lawyers, court staff and administrative authorities should examine their perceptions of specific AI applications in administrative judicial proceedings, including automated legal research, case classification, preparation of draft decisions and predictive analytics.

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