



The Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies in Israel

The Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies was established in 1984 in memory of the late Justice Yoel Sussman, former president of the Supreme Court of Israel. The Institute operates from offices located at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem and is granted total independence.

At its inception, the Institute organized just a handful of training seminars a year, for acting judges. The number of seminars has increased over the years, and currently the Institute holds about fifty seminars per annum. The training seminars are open to all judges and each seminar is attended by 25 to 40 participants.

Generally, every judge may choose which training seminars to attend. In some instances, however, judges are invited to participate in specific seminars. Every judge is entitled to seven paid training days a year and to three additional training days a year at his or her own expense. Most seminars last between two to five days. In addition, the Institute organizes a variety of one-day study seminars.

The Institute's curriculum stresses the need for an efficient judicial system and therefore focuses these training seminars on increasing the efficiency of the judges' work, including their administrative tasks. In addition to training by subject, special seminars are held for courts of special jurisdiction, such as family courts and labor courts.

Among the seminar topics for 2011 are the following: Court Administration, Judgment Writing, Credibility of Witnesses, Child Abuse, Immigration and Refugee Law, Class Actions, Decision-making, Game Theory and Law, and Media and the Law.

Once a year, the Institute holds seminars for new judges attended by judges appointed during the previous year. These seminars are held in two parts lasting five days each. The purpose of the training seminars is to discuss issues and questions that arise at the outset of a judge's tenure, and to acquaint the judges with the various public entities that are in constant contact with the courts. In addition to these training seminars, new judges are asked to attend two meetings, each lasting several hours, with two senior judges. The meetings are held at the Supreme Court. The aim of these meetings is to provide advice and guidance to the new judges on issues of judicial ethics, courtroom behavior, administration of hearings, drafting of opinions, and other matters.

The activities of the Institute are not limited to the organization of training seminars for acting judges. Each year, the Institute holds several courses for lawyers who are candidates for judicial appointment. The aim of the courses is to assist with the selection process and to identify candidates who are suitable to become a member of the bench. These courses are attended by candidates who were referred by the Sub-Committee of the Committee for the Selection of Judges. The course is a five day overnight course. The format of the course has changed over the years due to the advice and assistance of specialists in the field of psychology, as well as the views expressed by the candidates themselves. The course is intended to assess the candidates and their abilities. Twenty one candidates participate in each course. The team administering the course is composed of three senior judges (acting or retired).

The course includes discussions and simulations in which all candidates participate, as well as meetings with the course instructors in permanent groups of seven candidates each. During these meetings, discussions are held in order to observe the candidates in different situations and to assess their suitability to serve as judges in Israel.

At the end of the course, the administering team prepares a written recommendation for the Judges Selection Committee and for the Sub-Committee.

In addition, the Institute conducts courses for lawyers who are candidates for the position of court Registrar, and for Court Registrars who are candidates for the position of judges. The Institute also visits all courts nationwide in order to enable judges to present their queries regarding matters of judicial administration.

The lecturers of the various courses are predominantly judges but also include leading academic scholars. All lecturers volunteer their services.

Foreign Relations

From time to time, the Institute invites lecturers from abroad to speak on substantive issues and on subjects relating to the efficiency of the judicial system. The Institute has relationships with schools for judges and with judges' training institutes abroad, and provides exchange programs with such institutions, thereby broadening the knowledge of other systems of law.

The Institute is a member of the International Organization for Judicial Training (IOJT). The director of the Institute, Dr. Shlomo Levin, also serves as president of IOJT.

Staff of the Institute

- The Institute is directed by Dr. Shlomo Levin, Former Deputy President of the Supreme Court.

The Director is assisted by a Board of Directors:

- Justice Eliezer Rivlin, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of Israel
- Justice Asher Grunis, Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel
- Judge Bilha Gillor, President of the Haifa District Court
- Judge Zvi Zylbental, Deputy President of the Jerusalem District Court
- Judge Yigal Mersel, Judge of the Jerusalem District Court

Mailing Address

**The Institute of Advanced Judicial Studies
The Supreme Court of Israel, Sha'arei Mishpat Street
Jerusalem 91950, Israel**

Tel: +972-(2)-675-9652

Fax: +972-(2)-675-9605

E-mail: ahuva@supreme.court.gov.il