

The Independence of Judges and Lawyers

1. Please indicate whether there is a national body or mechanism in charge of selecting, appointing, promoting, transferring, suspending or removing judges in your country. What is the exact denomination of this body or mechanism? What are the legal basis for its establishment (e.g. constitutional provisions; ordinary law or other)?
2. Please provide information on the composition of the body or mechanism (number and qualification of members), the procedure for the appointment of its members and the duration of their term of office. Please also provide information on the human and financial resources of this body or mechanism (e.g. number of employees and their qualifications, annual budget).

There is a special body in charge of selecting, appointing, promoting, transferring and dismissing judges - High Council of Justice of Georgia. The legal basis of this body is provided by the Constitution of Georgia and is further prescribed by the organic law of Georgia on Common Courts (courts of general jurisdiction).

According to article 86¹ of the Constitution of Georgia, “the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall be established in order to appoint and dismiss judges to/from office and to perform other tasks. More than half of the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall be composed of the members elected by a self-government body of judges of the courts of Georgia of general jurisdiction. Chairperson of the Supreme Court of Georgia shall chair the High Council of Justice of Georgia. The powers and the procedures for establishment of the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall be defined by organic law”.

The composition of the High Council of Justice, the procedure for the appointment of its members, the duration of their term of office and other issues can be found in Chapter VII of the organic law on Common Courts, particularly:

- The High Council of Justice of Georgia is created to ensure the independence of courts (judges) and the quality and effectiveness of justice, to appoint and dismiss judges, to organize judicial qualification examinations, to formulate proposals towards implementing a judicial reform, and to accomplish other objectives determined by law. The High Council of Justice of Georgia shall consist of 15 members. Eight members of the Council shall be elected by a self-governing body of Georgian common court judges according to procedures prescribed by the law, five members shall be elected by the Parliament of Georgia and one member shall be appointed by the President of Georgia.

- Georgian common courts shall be represented in the High Council of Justice of Georgia by the chairperson of the Supreme Court and 8 members elected by the Conference of Judges of Georgia, including the Secretary of the High Council of Justice of Georgia. A member elected by the Conference of Judges of Georgia shall only be a common court judge. A member elected by the Conference of Judges of Georgia may not be a judge appointed for a three-year probation period (unless he/she has already served as a judge for five years), a member of the Chamber of Disciplinary Cases or the Chamber of Qualification of the Supreme Court. Not more than half of the members elected by the Conference of Judges of Georgia may be the chairperson, the first deputy chairperson, a deputy chairperson of a court or a chairperson of a judicial panel or chamber.
- The Parliament of Georgia shall elect five members of the High Council of Justice of Georgia by competition, by secret ballot, by the majority of the full membership of the Parliament. The Council membership candidates shall be selected from among the professors and scholars working in higher education institutions of Georgia, members of the Bar Association of Georgia and/or the persons nominated by non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities of Georgia, upon the recommendation of a collegial management body of the organisation concerned. One of the fields of activity of the above non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities shall be, for at least the last two years before the announcement of the competition, participation with representative authority in court proceedings. Each of the organisations mentioned above may present a maximum of three Council nominees to the Parliament of Georgia. No member of the Parliament of Georgia, judge or prosecutor may be nominated for the Council.
- The Parliament of Georgia may elect as a member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia a Georgian citizen who has a higher legal education with a master's or equal academic degree/higher education diploma, at least 10 years of working experience in the legal specialty, excellent reputation and who is a recognised specialist in the field of law. A candidate's prior written consent shall be required for his/her election to the High Council of Justice of Georgia.
- The candidates nominated to the plenary session of the Parliament of Georgia shall be put to vote separately. The candidates receiving the majority of full membership of the Parliament of Georgia shall be deemed elected in the first round of voting. If the number of such candidates is higher than the vacancies available, the appropriate number of candidates with the best results shall be deemed elected.

If candidates cannot be elected because several of them received equal number of votes, such candidates shall be put to a repeat vote and the candidate with the best result shall be deemed elected. If there are some vacancies left after the first round of voting, the second round of voting shall be held the same day or at the nearest plenary session to put to vote those

remaining candidates that have the best results in the first round. The number of those candidates shall not be more than twice the number of the vacancies. If the number of the candidates is higher than the number of the vacancies due to a tie in votes, all such candidates shall be put to vote. If all the vacancies still cannot be filled in the second round of voting, the third round of voting shall be held after two days to put to vote those remaining candidates that have the best results in the second round. The candidates shall be elected by the same majority mentioned above.

If the vacancies are still unfilled after three rounds of voting, a repeat vote shall be held within 70 calendar days under the same procedure mentioned above.

- The President of Georgia appoints a member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia by competition not earlier than one month and not later than one week before the term of office of the relevant member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia expires, and if the powers of the member are terminated – not later than one month after such termination. In the first case, candidates are presented to the President of Georgia within 10 days from the 30 day before the expiry of the term of office of the member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia and in the second case – within 10 days after the termination of the powers of such member. The Administration of the President shall publish the information about the competition on the official website and through mass media. The organisation nominating a candidate to the High Council of Justice of Georgia and the candidate shall meet the relevant requirements mentioned above regarding the elections of the members of the High Council of Justice of Georgia by the Parliament. The organisation may present not more than one nominee to the President of Georgia.
- The term of office of a member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall be four years. The same person may not be elected (appointed) as a member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia twice in a row. A member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia may not discharge his/her duty after the expiry of the term of office.
- The rules of procedure of the High Council of Justice of Georgia is determined under regulations approved by a two-thirds majority of the full membership of the High Council of Justice of Georgia. The Office of the High Council of Justice is formed to provide organisational and technical support to the High Council of Justice of Georgia.

3. Please provide detailed information on the legislation and practice existing in your country in relation to:

- (a) The selection and appointment of candidates for judicial offices and the criteria used for their selection and appointment (e.g. qualifications, integrity, ability and efficiency);**

- (b) Conditions of service and security of tenure of judges;**
- (c) Promotion of judges;**
- (d) Transfer of judges;**
- (e) Disciplinary proceedings against judges.**

What is the role played by the national organ or mechanism with regard to the issues referred to above?

- 4. If the national organ or mechanism does not have a role to play in relation to any of these issues, please provide detailed information on legislation and procedure for:**
- (a) Judicial selection and appointment;**
 - (b) Transfer and promotion of judges**
 - (c) Disciplinary proceedings against judges.**

According to the Constitution of Georgia, art. 86, paras. 1 and 2, “a judge shall be a citizen of Georgia who is thirty years old and over, and who has relevant higher legal education with at least a five-year experience in the practice of law. Judges shall be appointed for life unless they reach the age determined by law. Before the lifetime appointment of a judge, the appointment of a judge for a definite period but not more than three years may be envisaged by law. The selection, appointment, or dismissal procedure for judges shall be laid down in the Constitution and organic law”.

Para. 2 of the article 88 of the Constitution of Georgia provides that “the Constitutional Court of Georgia consists of 9 judges who are members of the Constitutional Court. Three members of the Court shall be appointed by the President of Georgia, three members shall be elected by more than half of the full membership of MPs, and three members shall be appointed by the Supreme Court. Members of the Constitutional Court shall be appointed for 10 years. The Constitutional Court shall elect its chairperson among its composition for a period of five years”.

As for the judges of the Supreme Court, para. 2 of the article 90 of the Constitution of Georgia provides, that “the chairperson and judges of the Supreme Court of Georgia shall be elected for a period of not less than 10 years by Parliament, by a majority of the full membership of MPs, on the recommendation of the President of Georgia”.

Legal basis for the security of the tenure of judges is enshrined in the Constitution of Georgia as well, namely, according to para. 2, article 84, “a judge may be removed from consideration of a case or dismissed from office early or moved to another position only in the cases defined by law”.

Detailed criteria for candidates for judge and the procedure for their appraisal as well as monitoring procedures of judges appointed for a probation period are determined by articles 34-36⁵ of the organic law on Common Courts of Georgia.

A candidate for Judge and selection criteria

a competent citizen of Georgia of 30 years of age who has a higher legal education with at least a master's or equal academic degree/higher education diploma, at least five years of working experience in the specialty, has the command of the official language, has passed a judge's qualification exam, has completed a full training course of the High School of Justice and is entered on the Justice Trainee Qualifications List may be appointed (elected) as a judge.

After determining formal compliance of the documents filled by candidates, the background check of a respective candidate is held, in particular, the relevant structural unit of the High Council of Justice of Georgia starts gathering reliable information regarding the candidate before having the interview with him/her in order to evaluate the candidate for judge objectively and comprehensively.

The relevant structural unit of the High Council of Justice of Georgia, while gathering the information mentioned above, learns professional reputation and activities of a candidate, checks the accuracy of information submitted by him/her, as well as information regarding criminal / disciplinary proceedings and/or administrative proceedings against him/her.

The information gathered is submitted to the High Council of Justice of Georgia, which insures that this information is available for the candidate for judge at least 5 days before the interview.

Candidates for judge are appraised based on two main criteria – integrity and competence.

Integrity criteria shall be:

- a) Personal honesty and professional integrity;
- b) Independence, impartiality and fairness;
- c) Personal and professional conduct;
- d) Personal and professional reputation.

Competence criteria shall be:

- a) Knowledge of legal norms;
- b) Ability and competence to provide legal arguments;
- c) Writing and verbal communication skills;

- d) Professional qualities;
- e) Academic achievements and professional training;
- f) Professional activities.

When assessing a candidate based on personal honesty and professional integrity, the following qualities of a person, as a citizen, shall be taken into consideration: integrity, honesty, appropriate awareness of one's duties and responsibility, transparency, civility and accuracy when performing official and other duties and fulfilling financial and other obligations (e.g. when completing a declaration of property, paying bank or other loans, utility bills or other charges, or a traffic fine), etc.

When assessing a candidate based on independence, impartiality and fairness, account shall be taken of his/her adherence to principles, ability to independently make a decision, and resistance to influence, personal steadfastness and firmness, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on personal and professional conduct, account shall be taken of his/her civility with regard to colleagues and other persons, restraint, the ability to manage one's emotions, appropriate conduct in litigation to which he/she is a party, existence of criminal charges against him/her, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on personal and professional reputation, account shall be taken of his/her business and moral reputation and authority in legal circles and society, the nature and quality of relations with legal circles.

When assessing a candidate based on knowledge of legal norms, account shall be taken of the level of knowledge of substantive and procedural legislation, human rights law (including case law of the European Court of Human Rights). To assess a candidate based on the above characteristic, the High Council of Justice has the right to request and obtain the results of the judicial qualification exams taken by the candidate, and the assessment of the Independent Council of the High School of Justice.

When assessing a candidate based on competence and the ability to provide legal arguments, account shall be taken of his/her ability to think analytically, and professional experience.

When assessing a candidate based on writing and verbal communication skills, account shall be taken of his/her ability to convey an idea clearly and in an understandable manner, as well as the ability of logical reasoning and analysis, his/her ability to speak fluently, the ability to listen to other people's opinion with patience, his/her openness, and ability to tolerate different viewpoints, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on professional qualities, account shall be taken of his/her punctuality, diligence and industriousness, the ability to think independently, the ability to work under stress, purposefulness, managerial skills, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on academic achievements and professional training, account shall be taken of his/her openness to novelties, ability for self-development, office culture, interest in

gaining new knowledge and skills, participation in professional training programmes, practical application of the knowledge and skills gained, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on professional activity, account shall be taken of his/her ability to take initiative, put forward ideas and proposals, to scientific and other publications, contribution to the legal profession and society, etc.

When assessing a candidate based on integrity criteria, considering an analysis and summing up of those characteristics, the High Council of Justice shall make one of the following conclusions:

- a) The judge fails to meet integrity criteria;
- b) The judge meets integrity criteria;
- c) The judge fully meets integrity criteria.

Using competence criteria, a candidate shall be assessed based on the characteristics of the competence criteria mentioned above. Due to the significance of the characteristics of the competence criteria, the maximum number of points to be gained for each of these characteristics is different and they shall be determined in the following manner:

- a) Knowledge of legal norms – 25 points;
- b) Ability to provide legal arguments, and competence – 25 points;
- c) Writing and oral communication skills – 20 points;
- d) Professional qualities – 15 points;
- e) Academic achievements and professional training – 10 points;
- f) Professional activities – 5 points.

Only those candidates are put for a vote to be appointed as a judge, who is deemed to meet or fully meet integrity criteria by the majority of full membership of the High Council of Justice and he/she has gained at least 70 percent of total points while assessing his/her competence criteria.

The High Council of Justice of Georgia shall appoint a person as a judge if the candidate receives at least 2/3 of the votes of the full membership of the Council by secret ballot.

Appointment of Judges and Monitoring Procedures

The judge of a district (city) court and court of appeals shall be appointed to office for a term of three years. Not earlier than two months before and not later than one month after this term expires, by analysing the monitoring results prescribed by the law, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall discuss and make a decision on whether to appoint the judge to office indefinitely. *The probation period shall not be applicable to the current or former members of the Constitutional Court of Georgia or the Supreme Court of Georgia, to the current or former judges of the Court of Appeal or district (City) court, if he/she has at least 3 years of experience as a Judge and it is not 10 years since terminating the judicial authority of that judge.* These candidates will directly be appointed for life through the competition discussed above.

As for those judges appointed for a three-year-probation period, monitoring procedure is prescribed by the law, particularly, after one and two years of office, as well as four months before the expiration of the three-year term of office of the judge, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall select, by lot, one judge member and one non-judge member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia (‘the evaluators’) to assess the activity of the judge appointed to office for three years. The evaluators shall assess the activity of the judge for the given period within one month, independently from each other. After the drawing of lots, the judge to be assessed shall be immediately notified of the identity of the evaluators. The above six assessments shall be performed by different Evaluators. The judge to be assessed shall have access to the reports of each period of assessment. These reports shall be submitted for examination to members of the High Council of Justice of Georgia within one month, three months before the three-year term of office of the judge expires.

The purpose of the assessment of a judge’s activity is to ensure the exercise of independent and qualified justice by means of selecting a worthy, qualified and honest candidate to be appointed indefinitely as a judge. The activity of a judge shall be assessed in an objective, honest and unbiased manner.

Upon taking a three-year term of office, the judge shall be notified of the assessment procedure and the circumstances that shall be taken into consideration when assessing the judge based on individual criteria, and when making a decision on his/her indefinite appointment as a judge.

The activity of a judge shall be assessed based on two main criteria – integrity and competence, basically in the same way as the appraisal of candidates for judge, in addition, considering other criteria linked with the actual job carried out by a judge. For this reason, the evaluator may carry out appropriate judicial assessment activities based on the criteria established by legislation at any time within the one-month period provided for the assessment; he/she may examine cases, attend court hearings chaired by the judge to be assessed, upon request obtain audio and video recordings of the court hearings conducted both during and before the assessment period, search for necessary information in the manner prescribed by Law, apply to representatives of legal circles for legal consultation, personally meet the judge to be assessed, and other persons, and interview them in order to obtain information on specific issues.

When assessing a judge's activity for a given period, the evaluators shall, concurrently and independently from each other, examine one and the same at least five cases reviewed by the judge, on which summary/final decisions have entered into force, including, at least, two cases on which the summary/final decisions have been overturned/modified (if any) by a higher instance court. The cases to be examined shall be selected randomly. The purpose of the examination of a case/decision is to assess the level of knowledge of substantive and procedural legislation, human rights law, including case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the correctness of application of appropriate legal norms with respect to the decisions made by the judge, the substantiation and cogency of court decisions, analytical skills of the judge, ability to communicate his/her ideas clearly and lucidly, ability of logical reasoning and analysis. When assessing a case/decision, the nature and gravity of legal errors made in the decision overturned/modified by a higher instance court shall also be evaluated. Nevertheless, the result of the assessment of the cases may not serve as grounds for revising the decisions made by the judge in those cases, and for instituting disciplinary proceedings against the judge.

The High Council of Justice of Georgia shall analyze the results of all assessments it has performed during the three-year term of office of a judge. To sum up the assessment points gained by a judge with respect to the competence criteria, calculation shall be made of the total sum of the points gained by the judge in the six evaluations held during three periods of assessment based on the characteristics of the competence criteria, after which a calculation shall be made of the percentage of this sum in relation to the maximum available points determined for the competence criteria.

If, when assessing a judge based on the integrity criteria, three or more evaluators consider that the judge meets or fully meets integrity criteria, and the sum of the points gained by the judge based on the competence criteria is at least 70% of the maximally available points, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall interview the judge and listen to his/her opinion on the results of the assessment. The judge may submit to the High Council of Justice of Georgia his/her opinion on the results of the assessment also in writing, as well as submit an oral and/or written self-assessment, which means that the judge shall submit to the High Council of Justice of Georgia the analysis of, what he/she considers to be the most successful and most unsuccessful decision(s), as well as mistakes made when adopting decisions over the past three years of judicial activity. To obtain information on the issues related to the assessment, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall hear the evaluators.

Based on the analysis of the assessment results and the interview with the judge, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall hold a discussion and make a decision with at least two-thirds of the full membership, by an open ballot, on the appointment of the judge to office indefinitely before he/she attains the age determined by law. A member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia who disagrees with this decision, may record his/her dissenting opinion in writing, which will be enclosed in the case file. If less than two-thirds of the full membership of the High Council of Justice of Georgia votes for the indefinite appointment of a judge to office, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall refuse

to appoint the judge to office indefinitely. Within five days, this decision shall be supported by substantiations provided by each member of the High Council of Justice of Georgia participating in the voting, explaining their reasons for voting for or against the indefinite appointment of the judge to office. Immediately after the decision is made, a copy of the decision of the High Council of Justice of Georgia on the appointment of/refusal to appoint a judge to office indefinitely, along with a dissenting opinion or substantiations of the members of the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall be submitted to the judge concerned, who has the right to appeal this decision of the High Council of Justice of Georgia on the refusal to appoint him/her to office indefinitely to the Chamber of Qualification of the Supreme Court, if relevant grounds exist.

Transfer and Promotion of Judges

Removal of a judge from a trial or the termination of his/her powers or his/her transfer to another position, except as provided for by law, shall not be permitted. Transfer and promotion of a judge is regulated by articles 37, 37¹ and 41 of the organic law on Common Courts of Georgia. According to those articles, if a vacancy arises, a judge who has been appointed to office may be appointed without competition as a judge of a corresponding or upper court if the judge so agrees.

The judge of a district (city) court may be appointed in a court of appeals if he/she has served as a judge in the district (city) court for at least five years. The High Council of Justice of Georgia shall formulate the criteria for promotion of judges. Judges shall be assessed against promotion criteria by the High Council of Justice of Georgia.

In case a judge is absent in a district (city) court or the Court of Appeals, or the number of cases to be considered dramatically increases, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall make a proposal to a judge/judges enrolled in reserve. If the High Council of Justice of Georgia receives a written refusal from a judge/judges enrolled in reserve, it shall, in the first place, make this proposal to judges of the same instance courts located nearby, and if the High Council of Justice of Georgia receives a written refusal from them, it shall make this proposal to judges of other courts of the same instance. For imposing judicial powers on another judge in the case as discussed above, a judge may be sent on secondment to another court by the substantiated decision of the High Council of Justice of Georgia, with the consent of the judge, for a period of up to one year. The period of secondment may be extended by a maximum of one year, for which purpose consent of the judge is necessary. When appropriate grounds are eliminated, the secondment shall be prematurely terminated.

If a judge cannot be selected under the procedure mentioned above, when it is necessary in the interests of justice, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall have the right to make a substantiated decision, without consent of a judge, to primarily send a judge on secondment to the court who exercises his/her powers in a court located nearby. A judge to be sent on secondment to another court shall be identified by the High Council of Justice of Georgia as a result of drawing lots.

One and the same judge may be sent on secondment to another court without his/her consent only once during ten years. A judge may be sent on secondment without his/her consent for a period up to one year. After appropriate grounds are eliminated, the secondment shall be prematurely terminated.

Disciplinary Proceedings

The grounds for the disciplinary liability of Georgian common court judges, types of disciplinary action, disciplinary proceedings and the procedure for imposing disciplinary liability upon them is determined under the Law of Georgia on Disciplinary Liability and Disciplinary Proceedings of Judges of Common Courts of Georgia.

Types of disciplinary misconduct shall include:

- a) A corruption offence or misuse of one's official status to the detriment of the interests of justice and the office held. An infringement provided for by the Law of Georgia on Conflicts of Interest and Corruption at Public Institutions shall constitute a corruption offence unless it entails criminal or administrative liability.
- b) Any activity incompatible with the position of a judge, or conflict of interest with duties of a judge;
- c) Any action inappropriate for a judge that disgraces the reputation of, or damages the confidence in a court;
- d) Ungrounded delay in proceedings;
- e) Failure to fulfil or improper fulfilment of the obligations of a judge;
- f) Disclosure of secrecy of deliberations of judges or professional secrecy;
- g) Impediment to or disrespect for the activities of bodies having disciplinary powers;
- h) Breach of judicial ethics;

It is noteworthy, that incorrect interpretation of the law based on a judge's internal faith shall not constitute disciplinary misconduct and disciplinary liability shall not be imposed.

The law provides following types of disciplinary penalties and disciplinary measures:

Disciplinary penalties:

- a) Reproval;
- b) Reprimand;

- c) Severe reprimand;
- d) Dismissal of a judge from the position;
- e) Elimination of a judge from the reserve list of judges of General Courts.

Disciplinary measures:

- a) Giving a private recommendation letter to a judge;
- b) Dismissal of a chairperson, first deputy or deputy chairperson of a court, a chairperson of a judicial panel or chamber.

The grounds for initiating disciplinary proceedings against a judge may be:

- a) A complaint or application of any person, other than an anonymous complaint or application;
- b) An explanatory note of another judge, a member or an officer of a court, or of the High Council of Justice of Georgia with regard to committing disciplinary misconduct by a judge.
- c) A notification by an investigative body;
- d) information disseminated by the mass media, as well as information contained in a report and/or proposal of the Public Defender of Georgia about a judge having committed an act that may be considered as a disciplinary misconduct;

Disciplinary proceedings against a judge shall be initiated, as well as a preliminary examination and investigation shall be conducted by an independent inspector of the High Council of Justice of Georgia, who submits his/her opinions and views to the High Council of Justice of Georgia.

The Independent Inspector shall, within two months after receiving a complaint, application or any other information about a judge having committed a disciplinary misconduct, perform a preliminary examination of the validity of the complaint, application or information.

Imposition of disciplinary liability on a judge may be based on circumstances that have not been specified in the complaint, application or other information on committing disciplinary misconduct by a judge but that were revealed during the preliminary examination.

Based on the preliminary examination results, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall evaluate the validity of initiating disciplinary prosecution against a judge and shall by two-thirds majority of the full list, make the decision to initiate disciplinary prosecution against the judge and take explanations from the judge. If the High Council of Justice of Georgia fails to make such a decision,

disciplinary proceedings against a judge shall be terminated. Investigation of a disciplinary case must be completed within two month after the decision to take explanations from a judge is made.

Following the disciplinary case investigation, the High Council of Justice of Georgia shall, within the total period mentioned above, by two-thirds majority of the full list, make the decision to impose disciplinary liability on a judge. If the High Council of Justice of Georgia fails to make such a decision, disciplinary proceedings against the judge shall be terminated. A copy of the decision, along with copies of the case materials, shall be handed to the judge imposed with disciplinary liability within 5 days after the decision was delivered.

If the decision to impose a disciplinary liability on a judge is reached, the Disciplinary Board of Judges of General Courts of Georgia shall consider disciplinary proceedings against judges.

The Disciplinary Board shall determine whether a judge committed an action for which a disciplinary charge was presented against him/her, and whether this action constitutes disciplinary misconduct under the Law. The Disciplinary Board shall also determine whether a judge was to be found guilty of committing disciplinary misconduct. Only under all of the three circumstances the Disciplinary Board shall be entitled to find a judge guilty and to impose disciplinary liability and disciplinary penalties against him/her.

A decision of the Disciplinary Board may be revised by appealing it to the Disciplinary Chamber of the Supreme Court of Georgia. The decision of the Disciplinary Chamber shall be final and without appeal.