

SUMMARY

Kuchuk A.M. Legal culture: the need for a paradigm change. The article focuses on the need to rethink the essence of the concept of “legal culture”. It is noted that the Western legal tradition is not characterized by the use of the concepts of “justice” and “legal culture”.

In many cases domestic scientists go beyond the subject and tasks of the study having chosen certain aspects of legal culture as the subject of cognition.

Domestic scholars liken legal culture and legal consciousness; the first is actually regarded as a high level of the second one. Usually, within the Western legal tradition, this refers to legal deontology (when it comes to lawyers). That is why the society puts increased moral requirements towards a lawyer. Professional ethics is both a means of limiting the arbitrariness of a lawyer and of non-admission of immoral persons to the profession. When referring to individuals (regardless of professional attribute), the term sense of justice is used.

The attention has been paid to the fact that the legal culture in the domestic legal literature is covered mainly through the prism of knowledge of the legislation and legal consciousness. The lack of clarity of the legal culture content in the papers of domestic scientists, its constant connection with the legal consciousness lead to the formulation of a conclusion about the “non-independency” of the term studied, about its identity with the legal consciousness. Identification of a law with by the scholars studying the legal culture which, in its turn, brings to the culture of cognizance and execution of the legislation strengthens the argumentativeness of such a conclusion. The term “legal culture” should be used coming off understanding of it as a part of culture. The term "legal culture" is intended to refer to the phenomenon called the legal family. Therefore, it is advisable to talk about legal culture (legal civilization), such as Western legal culture, Chinese legal culture, etc.

Keywords: *sense of justice, a law, Western legal tradition, legal culture, legal consciousness.*