

A background of the Supreme Court Law Clerkship Program

The Honourable Supreme Court of Pakistan's Law Clerkship Program aims to cultivate the next generation of lawyers and jurists of Pakistan by providing a unique opportunity for professional growth and unparalleled mentorship.

A law clerk (also called judicial law clerk or judicial associate) is a lawyer- typically a recent law graduate - who provides direct assistance to a judge. The position is internationally considered to be among the most prestigious in the field of law, grooming young lawyers to go on to succeed in their respective fields, and give back to their country.

The Law Clerkship Program can be traced back to 1882¹, when the first law clerk was appointed at the U.S Supreme Court. The practice was later adopted by other jurisdictions including the U.K, Australia, Singapore, Mexico, and South Korea.

Today, most Supreme Courts across the world employ some version of a law clerkship program, whereby exceptionally talented recent law graduates are employed to work directly with the judges of the Supreme Court. The practice has grown over the centuries since its inception, and today, former law clerks make up the majority of sitting Supreme Court Justices in the U.S.

In Pakistan, the practice was first introduced by Justice Jawwad S. Khawaja in 2010 and is now in its 12th year. While still young, the Supreme Court of Pakistan's Law Clerkship program has provided the opportunity for over a hundred young Pakistani lawyers to work on complex and historic cases before the Hon'ble Court, learn from the guidance of their respective Judges, and go on to excel. Alumni of the Supreme Court Law Clerkship Program have secured scholarships at graduate programs in the top law schools in the world and built successful legal practices.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan is an equal opportunity employer and encourages diverse applications without compromising on merit. Presently a majority of law clerks are women, and all provinces of Pakistan and Islamabad Capital Territory are represented.

¹ Mark C. Miller, 'Law Clerks and Their Influence at the US Supreme Court: Comments on Recent Works by Peppers and Ward' *Law & Social Inquiry*, 2014