ISSN (Online): 2455-3662
EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal
Volume: 11| Issue: 10| October 2025|| Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2025: 8.691 || ISI Value: 1.188

# PRINCIPLES OF DEVELOPING LEGAL CULTURE AMONG FUTURE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN UZBEKISTAN

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**Article DOI:** https://doi.org/10.36713/epra24349
**DOI No: 10.36713/epra24349**

**ABSTRACT**

*This article highlights the urgent aspects of developing legal culture among future law enforcement officers. It analyzes the role of legal awareness, moral immunity, and the quality of education, as well as existing problems in the system and possible solutions. The article also substantiates how the formation of legal culture contributes to strengthening the reputation of state bodies and increasing public trust.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Legal Culture, Moral Immunity, Law Enforcement Officer, Anti-Corruption, Legal Awareness, Professional Responsibility, Communication With Citizens, Internal Discipline.*

At present, the process of building a democratic state based on the rule of law and a civil society is rapidly progressing in the Republic of Uzbekistan. In this process, law enforcement agencies, particularly the internal affairs system, play an irreplaceable role. The professional qualifications, ethical image, and most importantly, the legal culture of future employees preparing to work in this system are among the key factors in strengthening state and public trust.

Ensuring the rule of law, guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of citizens, and achieving social justice are all directly related to the practical activities of employees with a high level of legal culture. In a broad sense, legal culture is defined by a person's legal knowledge, legal awareness, attitude toward legal activities, and level of understanding and adherence to the law.

For internal affairs officers, these qualities are doubly important, as they are not only required to comply with the law themselves but also to demand the same from others. Therefore, the process of forming and developing legal culture among future officers is not a simple educational activity but a complex system involving educational, psychological, and socio-economic factors.

In the context of global threats of the 21st century—such as corruption, legal violations, and human rights abuses—a lack of legal culture can negatively affect the effectiveness of the system. Consequently, it is necessary not only to equip future law enforcement officers with legal knowledge but also to turn them into fair, conscientious specialists with strong legal positions.

The article provides a scientific and theoretical analysis of the relevant aspects, existing problems, and ways to address them in the development of legal culture among future law enforcement officers. Legal culture encompasses conscious attitudes toward law, adherence to legal norms, knowledge of one's rights and responsibilities, and respect for the rights of others [1]. For internal affairs officers, a high level of legal culture is essential since they are direct enforcers and promoters of the law.

Special attention should be paid to the development of legal culture in higher education institutions that train personnel for the internal affairs system. This is achieved through quality education, in-depth teaching of legal disciplines, practical training, and approaches based on professional psychology. Students should be taught not only the law itself but also its moral and ethical essence.

A future officer's legal culture is closely linked to their moral immunity. Overcoming issues such as corruption, abuse of power, and the unjustified use of force depends primarily on personal legal and moral responsibility [2]. A legally cultured officer is not only someone who knows the law but also applies it honestly and fairly.

However, formal and indifferent attitudes toward the law, low responsibility, and the existence of corruption risks among some employees indicate insufficient development of legal culture. In addition, a lack of communication culture with citizens in certain cases undermines public trust in the system. The roots of these problems lie in inadequate psychological and legal training and the lack of systematic educational work during service [3].

**Principles of Legal Culture and Moral Immunity of Future Law Enforcement Officers**

1.**Principle of the Rule of Law** — As the foundation of legal culture, the officer must always recognize equality before the law and strictly adhere to legal norms. Respecting and complying with the law must be the main criterion of service.

2.**Principle of Moral Responsibility** — Every officer must understand their personal moral and legal responsibility for their actions. Moral immunity serves as an internal set of

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principles that resist unlawful behavior. Strong personal values enable resistance to any form of corruption or illegality.

3.**Principle of Justice and Humanism** — A legally cultured officer always treats citizens with respect, prioritizing justice in protecting their rights. Maintaining humanism in all situations and refraining from unjustified use of force is essential for the system's reputation.

4.**Principle of Personal Conscience** — Officers must follow their conscience and internal ethical code when performing their duties. This principle encourages resisting external pressure and acting based solely on legal and moral norms.

5.**Principle of Professional Discipline** — Working in the internal affairs system requires strict discipline. Legal culture directs the officer to perform their duties responsibly and comply with discipline and order.

6.**Principle of Public Trust** — A high level of legal culture enhances public trust in law enforcement bodies. An officer's honesty, fairness, and moral character determine the reputation of the system [3].

A high level of legal culture determines an internal affairs officer's professional qualities, moral responsibility, and fairness in communication with citizens. Forming this culture in future officers requires not only education but also the integration of educational, social, and psychological factors. Thus, by developing legal awareness, moral immunity, and professional discipline, it is possible to build a genuine legal culture within the internal affairs system.

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