



Latvijas Republikas Valsts prezidenta kanceleja Prezidenta preses dienests

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Address of H.E., Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia, at the Ceremony of Taking the Oath of Judges at Riga Castle

Honourable Minister of Justice,

Dear Judges,

At this festive moment when you as newly appointed judges are receiving the chain of a judge you are assuming the duties for all your professional life. The foundations of Latvia as a law based-state would rely on the quality you officiate. In a law-based democratic state there is one law for all. There can be neither freedom nor independence and development if the court system is not able to make a just judgement. The consequences, as you know, could be not only the inability of the state to control the criminal activities sufficiently a just court is as necessary in the civil procedure, where it is as important that the court arrives to a just decision in the case of an argument and does it in the acceptable time limits as the economic activities are otherwise stopped or disturbed and consequently the development of the country is delayed.

Both the democratic foundations of the state and the state reputation among other states as a developed and democratic state depend on the quality of the work of judges. Also the loyalty of the population depends on it as not only politicians, but rather all structures embodying the state power are responsible for that and the courts are perhaps the most important among them. And finally the quality of your work will certainly leave an impression on how the public sees judges as a profession and how the public sees law and justice. It is up to you to raise the prestige of your profession by continuing education life long and adding to your knowledge as well as being professionally responsible and professionally involved. A judge cannot be a person working only in order to fill ones time; I believe that being a judge is a mission requiring certain enthusiasm and selflessness.

I wish all three of you that your professional activity gave you personal satisfaction and you could always say: I am doing this work according to my best ability and in the best possible way in the given situation. May you have satisfaction about a well-done job, satisfaction that through the quality of your job you help not only the prestige of your profession, but also every inhabitant of Latvia create a better life. I congratulate you on what you have achieved, I congratulate you on your professional performance and wish you the best success in your further work!