

2024 Rule of Law Submission Malta

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Author: Dr Carla Camilleri

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Justice System

Follow-up on the recommendations in the 2023 Report

Take steps to address the need for involvement of the judiciary in the procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice, taking into account European standards on judicial appointments and the opinion of the Venice Commission.

For the 3rd year running there has been no developments in relation to strengthening the appointment procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice by involving the judiciary in such process. Whilst milestone 6.1 of the Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan (the "RRP") refers to the amended procedure passed in 2020¹, this falls short of the Venice Commission and the Commission recommendations. We again reiterate the need to depoliticise the appointment of the Chief Justice due to the wide-ranging, critical and various roles played with the Maltese justice system. We also note that no female Chief Justice has ever been appointed.

We thus feel that this recommendation has not been implemented and needs to be more strongly recommended in future Reports.

Further strengthen efforts to improve the efficiency of justice, particularly to reduce the length of proceedings.

With regards to efforts to improve the efficiency of the justice system, which was recommended in both the 2022 and 2023 Rule of Law reports, we note the following:

- I. The Government launched a consultation to reform the system of compilation of evidence and referrals procedure. This process was closed on 31st May 2023, however to date the results of the consultation nor the final text of any new provisions have been provided or presented to the public. The same document received some criticism from academics².
- II. There is no publicly available information as to the remit, composition or results of the Working Group of the Family Courts which was mentioned by the Maltese Government in the previous report.
- III. 3 new judges were appointed in 2023, 1 of which was a presiding magistrate, whilst 2 judges retired. This results in a net increase of 1 additional judge to the bench. 9 new magistrates were appointed in 2023, 4 of which will be assigned solely to magisterial inquiries as stated by the Government³. 3 of these magistrates were previous employed with the prosecutor's office, one of which was deputy-Attorney General.

¹ <u>Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan 2023</u>.

² Aquilina, Kevin <u>A Lilliputian criminal procedure reform</u>, 2023.

³ Times of Malta, <u>Four new magistrates to focus entirely on magisterial inquiries</u>, September 2023.

- IV. There has been very limited development on the digitalisation of the justice system, which is also listed as Milestone 6.39 of the RRP. Whilst a Digital Justice Strategy 2022 2027 was published and its website does not have any information relating to the project team⁴ nor the action plan⁵. The results of a tender for the process mapping across several justice entities was published in October 2023, however an unsuccessful bidder filed an appeal in front of the Public Contracts Review Board and therefore implementation is unlikely in the near future. We are not aware of any other tender issued by the Ministry of Justice⁶ within the ambit of digitalisation although reference was made to them on page 7 of the 2023 Commission RoL report.⁷ No further action was carried out to address the issues identified by EU Justice Scoreboard where Malta is lagging behind in relation to digital technology in the courts online filings, electronic communication tools and the like.
- V. The Government's assertion on Page 7 of its 2023 Submission that "The online filing of cases across most civil courts was also introduced" is false, as the majority of civil cases, judicial review and human rights cases have to be filed in person at the courts (<u>https://courts.gov.mt/statistics/civil/year-2023/</u>).
- VI. In a speech on the opening of the Forensic year the Chief Justice stated that the Courts were barely afloat due to the increased workload. He stated that the number of judiciary, the human resources in court, the space available as well as procedural laws, were not equipped to cater for such influx⁸. We have not seen efforts to address these issues. The Chamber of Advocates have called for an audit to address these shortcoming instead of management by crisis⁹.

We thus feel that this recommendation has not been implemented. We also encourage the Commission to urge the Government to include references in their written submissions in support of statements.

A. Independence

Appointment and selection of judges and prosecutors

Although the system has improved it should be noted that the Venice Commission, and aditus foundation, have called on the government to strengthen the appointment system by making shortlisted candidates public before appointment by the President. It should be noted here that the President is appointed by the Parliament, and thus has a political role. Once the judges or magistrates are appointed there is no further information provided to the public as to the reasons why one candidate was chosen over another, no ranking system and no information as to how many applications were received in total including those that were not

⁴ Digital Justice Strategy: <u>Project Team Members</u>.

⁵ Digital Justice Strategy: <u>Action Plan</u>.

⁶ <u>E-tenders</u> webpage.

⁷ 2023 Rule of Law Report Country Chapter on the rule of law situation in Malta, 2023.

⁸ Times of Malta, <u>Three courts 'barely afloat' because of heavy workload, chief justice warns</u>, October 2023.

⁹ Newsbook, <u>Justice system needs an audit, Chamber of Advocates president says</u>, December 2023.

shortlisted. There is need for further depoliticisation of the appointment system and transparency.

As mentioned above, there has been no move to depoliticise the appointment of the Chief Justice. Furthermore, the Chief Justice should be appointed from amongst sitting magistrates or judges due to the need to have the necessary experience in this multifaceted role. It should also be noted that disciplinary proceedings, which could lead to removal, against judges and magistrates can only be initiated through a complaint submitted by the Chief Justice himself or the Minister for Justice to the Committee for Judges and Magistrates. This would make any complaints against the Chief Justice an impossibility, except in the event of a complaint by the Minister for Justice.

Appointment of judges on specialised boards:

The Government of Malta declared that "said tribunals already enjoy independence" and that "a full review of any decision issued by said specialised tribunals is already guaranteed"¹⁰. We make reference to our previous submissions on the appoinment of members of specialised tribunals, and reiterate our recommendations¹¹. These declarations were made in spite of concerns by the Venice Commission, the European Commission and civil society¹².

Attention should be drawn to the recent ECtHR judgment A.D. v Malta decided in October 2023¹³ which highlights the inaction of the Immigration Appeal Board. The tribunals were also mentioned in the previous case S.H. v Malta decided in 2022. A recent case was instituted by the Union of Professional Educators against Malta claiming that an Industrial Tribunal decision should be revoked because, amongst other claims, the tribunal was neither independent nor impartial as the members are appointed directly by the executive¹⁴.

The independence of the International Protection Appeals Board and of the Immigration Appeals Board are also subject of Commission Complaints CHAP(2021)02127 and CHAP(2023)00168 respectively.

It should also be noted that Government's claim that there is always a guaranteed review of any decision by specialised tribunals is erroneous and misleading. In the Immigration Act, Article 25A(8) provides specifically that the decisions of the Immigration Appeals Board are fina, except for EU nationals and their dependents and for migrants who are lawfully in Malta. However, the majority of appeals are filed by irregular and/or detained migrants pending age assessment appeals, removal appeals and detention challenges. Articles 7 (10) and 23(8) of the International Protection Act also provide that the decisions of the International Protection Appeals Board are final, conclusive and may not be challenged before any court of law.

- ¹² Galand, A., Boffa, M. <u>The Immigration Appeals Board: a compromised body and its unchecked practice</u>, Id-
- Dritt, Edition XXXIII, 2023; Galand, A. <u>Accelerated procedures and the impossibility to reconcile them with</u> <u>human rights : What the practice in Malta has taught us</u>, Mediterranean Journal of Migration, Vol.1 Issue 1, 2023.

¹⁰ Page 268 <u>Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan 2023</u>.

¹¹ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

¹³ Para 190, <u>A.D. v Malta</u>, October 2023.

¹⁴ The Shift, <u>Union forced to take legal action as Malta drags heels over pledges made to receive EU funds</u>, November 2023.

We therefore find the Malta Government's statements on the tribunals in the Malta: Recovery and Resilience Plan, 2023 to be extremely concerning and lacking in the commitment needed to carry out the necessary reforms. We remind the Commission that, in spite of the repeated recommendations, the Tribunals are still functioning and taking daily decisions with proper guarantees of scrutiny from independent courts in breach of appellants' fundamental rights.

We urge the Commission to seek assurance from the Maltese Government on their committment to carry out the reform of specialised tribunals, in consultation with all stakeholders, in a timely manner.

Irremovability of judges and prosecutors

Disciplinary procedures in relation to members of the judiciary are carried out by the Committee for Judges and Magistrates which is composed of members of the judiciary. However, this procedure can only be initiated by the Chief Justice or the Minister responsible for justice. Therefore, disciplinary procedures in relation to the Chief Justice can only be initiated by the Minister responsible for justice, and not judicial peers.

However, it should be noted that removal of members of tribunals or quasi-judicial bodies is usually the prerogative of the President acting on the advice of the Prime Minister. There is no right of appeal from removal nor any oversight from the Chief Justice or the Committee for Judges and Magistrates. These board members are not bound by any code of ethics or any disciplinary proceedings.

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission for more detailed information.

We strongly urge the Commission to recommend a change procedures before the Committee which allows any member of the judiciary to initiate procedures.

We strongly urge the Commission to recommend the strengthening of the removal procedure for members of tribunals. In addition, to recommend the binding of these board members to the judicial code of ethics¹⁵ in order to ensure independence until the conclusion of the tribunals reform in 2026.

Promotion of Judges

There is no publicly available information on the promotion of judges and prosecutors. It is therefore not possible to comment on the system and on any judicial review or administrative review of any decision to promote or not to promote. However, Article 101A(13) of the Constitution grants the President, on advice of the Chief Justice, the power to decide on the subrogation of judges and magistrates and to the assignment of duties of judges and magistrates. The Judiary website states that "the Chief Justice recommends to the Minister

¹⁵ <u>Code of Ethics for Members of the Judiciary</u>.

responsible for justice how Judges and Magistrates are to be allocated between the different courts, and the Minister, in advising the President of Malta as to the assignment of duties of Judges and Magistrates "shall...act in accordance with any recommendation on the matter by the Chief Justice"¹⁶. It is unclear as to the actual procedure adopted.

Prosecutors are regulated by a collective agreement which is not in the public domain, and therefore we cannot comment on procedures for promotion. The Internal Guidelines for Prosecutors are not public¹⁷.

We strongly urge the Commission to recommend transparency as to the procedures adopted for promotion of both judges and prosecutors.

Allocation of Cases

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission¹⁸.

Independence and powers of Commission for the Administration Of Justice

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission, in specific the composition of the Commission for the Administration of Justice (CAJ) and the presence of two external persons appointed by government and opposition respectively. The Commission should be fully depoliticised in order for there to be full independence and impartiality.

The method for the public to file complaints to the should be revised and modernised in order for the procedure in front of the CAJ to be more transparent and accessible. Information on how to complain needs to also be public. Currently, the only information on how to file a complaint to the CAJ is found on the Chamber of Advocates website which states that in order to make a complaint against a lawyer one has to direct their complaint to "*The Commission for the Administration of Justice, The Grandmaster's Palace, St George's Square, Valletta*"¹⁹. The Judiciary website briefly mentions the complaints procedure but does not provide full information²⁰.

No information is made public as to how many complaints were received, how many followed up and how many were refered to the Committee for Judges and Magistrates by the Chief Justice and/or the Minister responsible for justice.

We strongly urge the Commission to recommend a change in composition of the CAJ.

We also urge the Commission to recommend further transparency on the complains procedure with regards to the CAJ and the Committee, including the publication of annual reports which would include statistical data which can be anonymised on procedures that were undertaken in any given year.

¹⁶ Judiciary webpage: <u>Chief Justice</u>.

¹⁷ Attorney General webpage: <u>Guidelines</u>.

¹⁸ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

¹⁹ Chamber of Advocates webpage: <u>FAQs</u>.

²⁰ Judiciary webpage: <u>FAOs</u>.

Accountability of judges and prosecutors

There have been very few prosecutions / impeachment of judges with the last one dating back to 2012 in relation to a charge of bribery. From publicly available information there have been no procedures in front of the Committee or the Commission for the Administration of Justice in relation to members of the judiciary.

Again there have been new calls for action against Magistrate Nadine Lia and her former husband Alessandro Lia (also a lawyer and a Commissioner for Justice) due to pending criminal charges against both have surfaced.²¹Alessandro Lia's father sits on the CAJ. There is no publicly available information of any disciplinary investigations, if any, being carried out. In another case, a lawyer during Constitutional Court procedures accused a sitting magistrate of exerting undue pressure on his client outside the court. The plaintiff claiming a breach of a right to a fair hearing and is attacking the provision of the law that allows judges and magistrates to decide themselves on a request for their recusal²². There is no publicly available information of any disciplinary investigations, if any, being carried out.

Concerns were raised when prosecutors working for the Attorney General moved to the private defence of the accused. In 2020 an inquiry was opened when one of the prosecutors working for the AG resigned and then appeared for Yorgen Fenech, accused of masterminding Daphne Caruana Galizia's assasination, in court the very next day. The inquiry found that there were insufficient safeguards protecting "*the image of correctness*" in the office of the AG. He proposed that public prosecutors should be barred from appearing for persons or companies against whom criminal or civil proceedings were instituted during their period of employment. This proposal was not taken up. In 2022 another lawyer jumped ship from the prosecutors office to the defence team²³. This same lawyer was appointed to the Immigration Appeals Board and was questioned by the Police in relation to a payoff of witness in a separate case²⁴. He remains on the Immigration Appeals Board. Again in 2023 another prosecutor took up the defence of two men, the convicted hitmen of Daphne Caruana Galizia, although he was involved in the prosecution of other actors in Daphne's assassination²⁵.

No further information on any of the above is available.

The Government reported that the new AG contracts of employment for recruits prohibit the negotiation on terms of engagement as defence lawyers for private client while they are still in employment at the AG's office. Furthermore, prosecutors should not, prior to the termination of their employment, make any arrangements or preparations to act as lawyers or with a legal firm in the name of any person against whom they would have led a prosecution

²¹ The Shift, <u>Pressure mounts as Justice Commissioner faces charges of aggravated grievous bodily harm</u>, July 2023; The Shift, <u>Justice commissioner in hot water over fresh criminal complaint</u>, November 2023.

²² The Times of Malta, <u>Lawyer recounts how magistrate exerted 'pressure' on client</u>, November 2023.

²³ The Shift, <u>Another AG lawyer jumps ship to help defence team in case filed by his former office</u>, February 2021.

 ²⁴ The Shift, <u>Criminal lawyer questioned in witness payoff appointed to immigration board</u>, November 2023.
 ²⁵ Newsbook, <u>Justice ministry sees nothing wrong with Degiorgio's prosecutor becoming their lawyer</u>, October 2023.

against or on whose case the AG's office would have given any advice on. However, firstly these new amendments only apply to new recruits and secondly do not prohibit negotiating or working for persons after the termination of their employment contract.

We urge the Commission to recommend to the Maltese Government to make public the number of proceedings or investigations carried out annually in relation to members of the judiciary.

We urge the Commission to recommend to the Maltese Government to take heed of the findings of the inquiry in relation to prosecution lawyers, current and future, moving to criminal defence in order to avoid conflict of interest.

Remuneration & bonuses for judges and prosecutors

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission²⁶.

Independence of the prosecution service

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission. However we would like to retierate the importance of an independent prosecution service which is a key element for the maintenance of judicial independence. Whilst the appointment procedure is clear, the criteria for the appointment of the Attorney General (Art 91 of the Constitution) is simply that of being qualified for appointment as a judge of the Superior Courts.

There is nothing else in the procedure in the Constitution and in the Attorney General Ordinance that gives further clear criteria to "to gain public confidence and the respect of the judiciary and the legal profession" (as recommended by UNODC, the UN special rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers²⁷ & Venice Commission). All bodies underline the requirement of depoliticization. Whilst the new procedures for the appointment of the Attorney General see the setting up of Appointment Commission, the members of the Commission are handpicked by the Minister responsible for justice who in his opinion are respected and trusted by the public and are "technically qualified" to examine whether candidates for the office of Attorney General have the appropriate qualifications and other merit and suitability requirements²⁸. There is no further definition of what "technically qualified" means or how someone can be considered to be respected and trusted by the public.

There are no public guidelines on standards to appoint senior or chief prosecutors besides the Attorney General, although it is recognised by Council of Europe bodies that there is a need for clear criteria defined by the law, reflecting the specific competencies and experience required for a chief prosecutor that must be higher than those for ordinary prosecutors.

²⁶ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

²⁷ <u>Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers</u>, A/HRC/20/19, 2012.

²⁸ <u>Attorney General Ordinance</u>, CAP 90 of the Laws of Malta.

We urge the Commission to recommend an appointments procedure for the Attorney General that includes the cooperation between various state organs and advice on the professional qualification of candidates should be taken from relevant experts including the legal community and civil society, as suggested by the Venice Commission.

Independence of the Bar

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission²⁹.

We urge the Commission to recommend that the Chamber of Advocates be granted access to funds and/or HR support (such as seconded public servants) in order to increase their capacity.

Significant developments capable of affecting the perception of independence

In 2023, the Chamber of Advocates issued three statements expressing concern in relation to what it percieved to be as attacks on judicial independence and impartiality by the Prime Minister.

In January 2023, it was reported that the Prime Minister spoke directly and informally to a member of the judiciary on matters relating to their work. The Chamber of Advocates issued a statement stating that this goes against the Code of Ethics of the judiciary³⁰.

In July 2023, the Chamber expressed worry at the Prime Minister attacking the judiciary during a press conference relating to a controversial public inquiry and in having access to a confidential report that the Inquiring Magistrate passed on to the Attorney General³¹.

In October 2023, the Chamber again issued a statement that the Prime Minister used his Parliamentary Privilege to undermined the independence and impartiality of the Courts when he implied that they were baised towards the Opposition party when it ruled that the corrupt hospitals deal was null and void³².

In February 2023, the Malta Law Students' Society filed a complaint with the Commissioner for Standards in Public Life against the Prime Minister for meddling with the judiciary. The complaints relate to what they consider to be the Prime Minister's undue pressure on the judiciary, in particular the report where the Prime Minister stated that he spoke directly and informally to a particular Magistrate without going through the proper procedure³³.

²⁹ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

³⁰ Chamber of Advocates, <u>Stqarrija tal-Kamra tal-Avukati</u>, January 2023; Times of Malta, <u>Chamber of Advocates</u>, <u>Repubblika slam Abela's chat with magistrate</u>, January 2023.

³¹ Chamber of Advocates, <u>Stqarrija tal-Kamra tal-Avukati – Inkjesta Magisterjali</u>, July 2023; The Shift, <u>Sofia inquiry:</u> <u>'Clear' that magistrate did not request an extension – Chamber of Advocates</u>, July 2023.

³² Chamber of Advocates, <u>Stqarrija tal-Kamra tal-Avukati – Inkjesta Magisterjali</u>, October 2023; The Times of Malta, <u>Chamber of Advocates hits out at Abela for implying PN 'plays home' in court</u>, October 2023.

³³ Ghaqda Studenti tal-Ligi, <u>Statement following the comments of the Prime Minister on the 13th of July 2023</u> <u>during an interview with MaltaToday</u>, July 2023; The Shift, <u>Law students reported prime minister to standards</u> <u>commissioner five months ago</u>, July 2023; The Times of Malta, <u>Robert Abela's conversation with magistrate was</u> <u>never logged or documented</u>, May 2023.

B. Quality of justice

Accessibility of courts

Legal aid: Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission. At the end of 2023 a new system of legal aid panels was set up and lawyers appointed as legal aid lawyers are placed on panels depending on legal expertise³⁴. There are 19 criminal legal aid lawyers for Malta, and 3 for Gozo; 11 civil legal aid lawyers for Malta and 3 for Gozo; 11 for advice or legal representation in Court for victims of crime in Malta and 2 in Gozo.

It should be noted that legal aid has always been available to any person irrespective of nationality or residence status, and therefore any requirement to access legal aid via an e-ID or in peson can have the result that those that don't have a residence card would not be able to access the service³⁵. Furthermore, although Social Workers/Professionals can refer on the Legal Aid Referral System, this also must be done with their personal E-ID as legal entities (such as NGOs, Law Firms etc) are not provided with an E-ID and this can create issues of continuity and data protection.

A recent report on a particular criminal proceeding brought a spotlight on legal aid lawyers who fail to appear for court sittings³⁶. This is a recurrent story we hear from migrant clients that visit our office. We are both shocked at the fact that the lawyer was not present, without any consequence, and that the sitting was allowed to continue. See also Feilazoo v Malta regarding access to legal aid in prison and in detention³⁷.

Legal Aid for asylum and immigration cases are not provided within the ambit of the Ministry of Justice but via different system through the Ministry for Home Affairs that issues separate calls, appoints the lawyers and assigns cases. We are not aware of any case-management system or rotation of such lawyers. This can cause issues of conflict of interest where the same Ministry's agencies are the plaintiffs in each appeal.

Interpreting: Interpreters are assigned by the Court through a list of court interpreters³⁸. There isn't an official designation of "court interpreter" and most carry out ad hoc interpreting work if and when needed. Furthermore, the actual function of court interpreters isn't regulated by legal norms, although references to the right of interpreters are provided for in criminal legislation. Some languages such as Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, Tagalog and Tigrinya are not listed. This is concerning as a high number of Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos reside in Malta. There isn't the automatic right of the defendant to object to any particular interpreter if they have particular reservations. This has caused some problems with during criminal proceedings³⁹.

³⁴ Government Gazette, <u>Government Notice No. 1784</u>, December 2023.

³⁵ See required documents: <u>https://legalaidmalta.gov.mt/en/services/civil-legal-aid-cases/</u>

³⁶ The Times of Malta, <u>Marsa murder: Accused complains about absence of his lawyer</u>, January 2024.

³⁷ para 58 & paras 128 – 130, <u>Feilazoo v Malta</u>, March 2021.

³⁸ List of Court <u>Interpreters</u>.

³⁹ MaltaToday, <u>Interpretation muddle leaves Paceville murder hearing postponed</u>, January 2023; Newsbook, <u>El</u> <u>Hiblu: Defence seeks change in interpreter saying translation is not loyal to what is being said</u>, May 2021; MaltaToday, <u>Lawyer slams justice system after bail request filed two days ago only reaches court on Thursday</u>, June 2023.

With respect to legal aid we urge the Commission to recommend the following:

- I. Ensure legal aid for all, irrespective of residence status or the possession of document; Increase in the financial thresholds for eligibility for legal aid & widen the merit test for eligibility for legal aid to include pre-litigation advice;
- II. Ensure continous training for legal aid lawyers;
- III. Ensure a quick and effective method of filing complaints and starting disciplinary proceedings against legal aid lawyers who fail to appear for hearings;
- IV. Ensure that court sittings are suspended if legal aid lawyers do not show;
- V. Mainstream asylum & immigration legal aid with the general legal aid administred by the Ministry of Justice;
- VI. Ensure that the Legal Aid Agency publishes the list of legal aid lawyers and their contact details, statistics and an annual report on its activities;
- VII. To carry out a thorough review of the legal aid system to address the above issues.

With respect to interpreting e urge the Commission to recommend the following:

- I. Introduce clear provisions on the regulation and function of interpreters in Court;
- II. Carry out training to interpreters on interpreting in a court setting;
- III. Introduce provisions that allow for the replacement of interpreters if the accused has reservations or difficulty in understanding.

Resources of the judiciary

As mentioned above in his speech on the opening of the Forensic year in October 2023 the Chief Justice stated that the Courts were barely afloat due to the increased workload. He stated that the number of judiciary, the human resources in court, the space available as well as procedural laws, were not equipped to cater for such influx of workload. This is in spite of the fact that according to the Justice Scoreboard 2023 Malta ranks 9th in the government total expenditure on law courts per inhabitant and 8th in the government's total expenditure on law courts as a percentage of GDP.

In November 2023 the Association of Judges and Magistrates of Malta issued a statement warning that the judicial system was on the brink of collapse due to a persistent lack of resources, staff and investment.⁴⁰

Therefore there is a dissonance between high expenditure and the further deterioration of the efficiency of the justice system and the concerning lack of resources. It cannot be said that the latter two issues have been addressed over 2023.

We urge the Commission to include further investment in the resources available to the judiciary as a recommendation.

⁴⁰ Newsbook, <u>On the brink of collapse': Judiciary association issues stern warning over resource shortage</u>, November 2023.

Training of justice professionals

The annual budget allocated to the Judicial Studies Committee remains unchanged at €50,000 for all the judiciary. There are no legal requirements for judges (or lawyers) to carry out professional development training in order to retain their position or warrant. From the information we have, in 2023, there was one training organised in Malta for local judges, whereas 5 Maltese judges each attended 5 trainings or study vistis overseas.

As mentioned above, lawyers and legal professionals are not required to carry out any continuing professional development training. This is a particular lacuna in not have a specific legal instrument regulating the legal profession. The government has been dragging its feet for 15 years and yet no lawyer's act has been tabled or discussed in parliament. The President of the Chamber of Advocates had alluded to "competing interests" as the cause of the delay⁴¹.

We strongly urge the Commission to recommend the following:

- I. Include mandatory training hours for all legal professionals in order to retain their warrant;
- II. Include mandatory training for all members of the judiciary, including members of tribunals;
- III. Introduce a lawyer's act in order to properly regulate the legal profession in the 21st century.

Digitalisation

The government allocated €3,227,000 in 2023 and a further €5,200,000 in 2024⁴², through EU funds, on the digitisation in the justice system and yet Malta practitioners still do not have the digital tools necessary for an efficient and modern working environment.

The Government's assertion on Page 7 of its 2023 Rule of Law Submission⁴³ that "*The online filing of cases across most civil courts was also introduced*" is false. General civil cases and constitutional cases cannot be filed online. It should be noted that in order to use this system, the legal practitioner has to use their personal E-ID with their personal (not professional) information, such as home address, date and place of birth. This creates privacy issues and issues of continuity in cases of change of legal representative.

There is no publicly available information relating to the Court Digital Transformation Project Team referred to on page 6 of Malta's 2023 Rule of Law submission and therefore its progress is not known. From the information available the court information management system tender and the introduction of the e-signature has not been carried out.

⁴¹ Newsbook, <u>Justice system needs an audit, Chamber of Advocates president says</u>, December 2023.

⁴² Ministry for Finance and Employment, <u>Budget 2024</u>.

⁴³ Government of Malta, <u>Rule of Law Submission 2023</u>.

We therefore urge the Commission to recommend to Malta a speedy implementation of its digitalisation strategy and to publish any reports of the Digitial Justice Strategy Steering Committee⁴⁴ on the progress of implementation. Furthermore, in its implementation the Government should engage in a wide stakeholder consultation.

C. Efficiency of the justice system

Length of proceedings

We cannot report any positive developments or initiatives on shorten the length of proceedings. Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission⁴⁵.

Other

The number of preliminary references filed at the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and not submitted to the CJEU is now 5. The oldest one pending since 14/07/2022. One request was rejected by the Tribunal on the basis of the acte clair principle, although we respectfully disagree such a decision (which related to the procedures with the Tribunal itself) could not be appealed.

It should be noted that both the Immigration Appeals Board and the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, both courts of last resort, have never acceded to a request for a preliminary ruling on questions relating to the interpretation of European Union law. The decisions refusing to refer or the refusal to take a decision on the request cannot be appealed to a court of law.

Whilst the independence of the tribunals has been discussed above, the arbitrary refusal to refer to the CJEU has been found to breach plaintiffs rights to a fair trial. This reflects generally on the Maltese judicial tradition which is relucant to refer questions to the CJEU. The continuining refusal also impinges on the harmonised implementation of European Union law.

⁴⁴ Digital Justice Strategy, <u>The Digital Justice Strategy Committee</u>.

⁴⁵ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

Institutional issues related to checks and balances

Follow-up on the recommendations in the 2023 Report

Take measures to establish a National Human Rights Institution taking into account the UN Paris Principles.

There has been no progress in relation to the establishment of NRHI in line with the Paris Principles. In spite of the commitments declared in the 2023 Rule of Law Submissions that Malta made no laws have tabled in Parliament⁴⁶. There have been no developments since our previous Rule of Law Submission, and no laws have been enacted in this regard in the 10 years since the launch of the reform in 2014.

In its Universal Periodic Review Submission ("UPR") to the Human Rights Council the Government of Malta stated, in relation to the repeated recommendation relating to NHRIs, that "In the interim, the European Commission proposed two Directives that establish binding minimum standards for equality bodies. The national Bill is being reviewed in view of these proposals to ensure compliance once they are adopted at EU level prior to its reintroduction to Parliament. The legislative process will also include a public consultation"⁴⁷. This will further the delay of the implementation of the Commission recommendation.

In July 2023, the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls also recommend the establishment of a fully-fledged and independent national human rights institution incompliance with the Paris Principles, whilst recognising the severe challenges being faced in Malta in relation to gender equality and the implementation of legislation, including EU anti- discrimination legislation⁴⁸.

We therefore feel that this recommendation has not been achieved.

Introduce a framework for public participation in the legislative process.

There has been no progress in relation to the introduction of a formalised process for public participation in spite of the recommendation. We make reference to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission and our submission to the UPR⁴⁹.

One of the commitments in Malta's Open Governance Partnership Malta Action Plan 2023-2025 is the creation of a justice forum which would have the task of iscuss new and ongoing

⁴⁶ Page 49 Government of Malta, <u>Rule of Law Submission 2023</u>.

⁴⁷ Government of Malta, <u>National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21</u>, October 2023.

⁴⁸ UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, <u>Country Visit Report – Malta</u>, July 2023.

⁴⁹ aditus foundation and Humanists Malta, <u>Submission to the 4th UPR on Malta</u>, July 2023; aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

initiatives, and lacunae in justice-related initiatives. The forum will be composed of government stakeholders and CSOs⁵⁰.

Whilst we welcome this initiative and look forward to actively partipating, we still urge for there to be a formal legal process of public participation for all legislative initiatives.

We therefore feel that this recommendation has not been achieved.

A. The process for preparing and enacting laws

Framework, policy and use of impact assessments and evidence based policy-making

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission in relation to the transparency and quality of the legislative process, in that there have been no legislative changes to address the recommendations put forward by the Commission.

As mentioned above, in the drafting of the Open Governance Partnership Plan for Malta⁵¹, which was drafted with a very tight deadline for CSOs to provide suggestions and feedback, one of the commitments that was included was the creation of a Justice Form which, headed by the Ministry for Justice, seeks to establish a consultation forum for justice-related initiatives that it will be working on. At the insistence of the CSOs involved the Forum will discuss proposals for initiatives in the justice sector brought to it by any of its participating entities, and not only those initiatives suggested by the Ministry and/or Government.

However, problems with regards to lack of stakeholder consultations continue to exist specifically in relation to media reform,⁵² the short timeframes given for civil society and stakeholders to respond⁵³, and the extensive use of regulations and legal notices that do not go through the same parliamentary scrutiny as main legislative instruments⁵⁴. As previous mentioned, legal notices are subsidiary laws drafted and brought into force by the minister in accordance with the enabling powers vested in the primary legislation. For legal notices to become law, no parliamentary debates or motions are required for their enactment. However, the Interpretation Act⁵⁵ mandates that a legal notice must laid in Parliament for 28 days. If a motion to annul or amend the legal notice is raised and passed during that period, the notice will cease to have effect or be amended accordingly. This process lacks transparency in that it is unclear which or when legal notices have been laid in Parliament and it is thus impossible for the public to track whether or not there have been any motions to annul or ament and the results of any such process⁵⁶.

⁵⁰ Open Government Partnership, <u>Creation of a Justice Forum</u>.

⁵¹ Government of Malta, <u>Malta's 4th National Action Plan on Open Government 2023 – 2025</u>, December 2023.

⁵² Newsbook, <u>Parliament urged to hold consultation before going ahead with media reform laws</u>, September 2023.

⁵³ Public Consultation <u>Webpage</u>.

⁵⁴ Legislation Malta, <u>Legal Notices</u>.

⁵⁵ Article 11 Interpretation Act, CAP of the Laws of Malta.

⁵⁶ Parliament Malta <u>webpage</u>; example of <u>tracking of legislation</u> for bills laid in parliament.

No consultation process is included in any legislative instruments, and therefore the process and the publication of results is carried out on an ad hoc basis without any guidelines on implementation and follow- up. It should also be noted that there is no financial or any other support for academia or CSOs to participate in the OGP's Justice Forum or in any of the other stakeholder consultations.

We therefore urge the Commission to recommend that legal provisions are introduced to allow for the public participation in the legislative process.

We urge the Commission to recommend that the use of legal notices need to be made more transparent and open to public scrutiny.

Regime for constitutional review of laws

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission for the law, jurisprudence and process which remains unchanged.

It is not clear how many Consitutional Court judgments have been tabled in Parliament in accordance with the notice as to validity of laws under Article 242(1) of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure ("COCP")⁵⁷ and what action, if any, has been taken by Parliament. In 2023 an opposition MP asked the Prime Minister to present the number of judgements ruling on the unconstitutionality of any provision of Maltese law that were laid in Parliament in accordance with 242(1) of the COCP. In addition, this MP request the data on the number of times the Prime Minister took action to remove any inconsistency with the Constitution of Malta or with the right or fundamental freedom as intended in Article 242(2)⁵⁸.

The Prime Minister requested the Minister for Justice to respond, who in turn noted that in order to compile all the information as requested the advisory cost limit will be exceeded. It is not known what the advisory cost limit it, however we can only surmise that this means that there are large number of judgments so laid⁵⁹.

It is indeed disconcerting to know that such data is not being kept, also in view of the fact that the erga omnes principle is not adhered to. From a search on the Parliament's wesbite, we found 119 such cases laid during this legislature (i.e. from March 2022 to date). A list compiled from the information on the Parliament website can be found in Annex 1 of this submission.

The Maltese Government referred to the Law Commissioner in its 2023 Rule of Law Submission⁶⁰. However the remit and results of this office is unclear. The appointment to the

59 Ibid.

⁵⁷ <u>Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure</u>, CAP 12 of the Laws of Malta.

⁵⁸ Parliamentary Question 7824, <u>Instrument having the force of law or any of its provisions that run counter to the</u> <u>Constitution</u>, April 2023.

⁶⁰ Page 50 Government of Malta, <u>Rule of Law Submission 2023</u>.

role isn't laid down by law, and there is no public information available, except for the increase in salary from $\pounds 200,000$ to $\pounds 260,000$ in 2024^{61} .

We urge the Commission to recommend the erga omnes application of judgements finding Maltese legislation unconstitutional, also in view of the burden placed on the Courts with repeated judgements, and the proper application of 242(1) of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.

We also urge the Commission to request the publication of the annual reports of the Law Commissioner.

B. Independent authorities

Independence, resources, capacity and powers of national human rights institutions

2023 saw the appointment of Justice Zammit McKeon as Parliamentary Ombudsman and Justice Joe Azzopardi as Commissioner for Standards in Public Life. Their appointments were seen as a compromise between Government and Opposition⁶². The Office of the Ombudsman also incorporates 3 Commissioners for Health, Education and Planning⁶³. To date no woman has ever been nominated or appointed as Ombudsperson, Commissioner within the Office of the Ombudsperson nor Commissioner for Standards in Public Life.

The Ombudsman's noted in the 2022 Annual Report that a lack of proper consultation, and acute political bickering and confrontation contributed in no small measure to the deadlock in appointing the new Ombudsman and that it was not conducive to a proper, regular functioning of the Office. In the same Annu Report, it was noted that the number of complaints filed decreased drastically. The Ombudsman decried the lack of committment shown by the administration, exemplified by the lack of will by Parliamentarians to discuss the Ombudsplans for 2022 submitted to Parliament.⁶⁴

See comments in Section IV. above re NHRI.

We urge the Commission to recommend the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and the introduction of a public and transparent method of appointment, as suggested in the Ombudsman's 2022 Annual Report including an anti-deadlock mechanism.

We urge the Commission to recommend that the candidates for these roles reflect diversity and inclusivity.

⁶¹ Ministry for Finance and Employment, <u>Financial Estimate 2024</u>.

⁶² The Shift, <u>PM insists on 'indecent proposal' to get his choice of standards commissioner</u>, November 2022.

⁶³ The Office of the Ombudsman, <u>Organigram</u>.

⁶⁴ The Office of the Ombudsman, <u>Annual Report 2022</u>.

Statistics and Reports concerning the follow-up of Recommendations

The Ombudsman's 2022 Annual Report contains the number of decisions taken and whether these were implemented or otherwise. Whereas the NCPE's Annual Report privides information regarding the amount of complaints filed (12 in total in 2022) but does not include information as to the outcome or implementation of any decision. Furthermore, no ex officio assessment or investigations were carried out by the NCPE⁶⁵.

The Auditor General (National Audit Office) complained that investigations requested by Parliament's Public Accounts Committee could be stalled due to the reluctance to provide information by the competent authorities. He also hit out at the partisan composition and behaviour of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee⁶⁶. However, in its Follow-up Audits Report, 2023 found that 72% of the recommendations analysed by this Office were either implemented, in part or in full, or were in the process of being implemented by the entities concerned, while 28% showed no developments or little progress.⁶⁷

C. Accessibility and judicial review of administrative decisions

Transparency of administrative decisions and sanctions

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law submission,⁶⁸ as there have been no developments.

Judicial review of administrative decisions

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission. It should also be noted that the Opposition has tabled a private members bill that seeks to reform the judicial review process for administrative, legislative and judiciary acts⁶⁹.

The Judicial Review Bill seeks to:

- I. Clarify the procedure for enhanced legal certainty;
- II. Expand legal standing for NGOs and pressure groups to bring representative actions;
- III. Extend the definition of Public Authority to encompass bodies performing a public function; and
- IV. Adjust the time-period for initiating a judicial review, with suspension upon referral to the Ombudsman.

In a recent judgement, Constitutional Court recommended that the law is amended allowing for plaintiffs to sue the government directly or alternatively the state advocate. The Court held that when taking into account the considerable number of constitutional proceedings filed against the government, it is of the opinion that the time has come to amend the law and

⁶⁸ aditus foundation, Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation, <u>Joint Submission 2023 Rule of Law Report</u>.

⁶⁵ The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, <u>Annual Report 2023</u>.

⁶⁶ The Times of Malta, <u>NAO probe could hit brick wall as entities are not providing information</u>, October 2023.

⁶⁷ National Audit Office, <u>Follow-up Audits Report 2023 issued by the National Audit Office</u>, June 2023.

⁶⁹ Private Members Bill, <u>Judicial Review Bill</u>, laid in Parliament on the 20th November 2023.

stop wasting time on determining who is the appropriate respondent in a case and allow plaintiffs to sue directly the government or alternatively the state advocate as the government's principal legal counsel⁷⁰.

We urge the Commission to recommend to the Maltese government to take heed of judgements relating to the procedure of judicial review of administrative decisions and to have a proper public consultation process on the private member's bill relating to judicial review.

Rules and practices related to the application of the preliminary ruling procedure

The preliminary ruling procedure is referred to in one Article 21Part X of the Court Practice and Procedure and Good Order Rules⁷¹. The Article is vague and simply lays down the general rules relating to preliminary reference procedure and the content of any such reques to the CJEU. In this regard we note that there is nothing in this Article that relates to the duty of the court of last instance to refer, the urgency procedures in specific events, the rights of the parties requesting a referral to the national court and the basis on which they can be refused.

Furthermore, there is no procedure on whether such decisions can be appealed or otherwise. Maltese courts have been notoriously reluctant to refer and in almost 20yrs of membership, only 4 preliminary references were sent from Maltese courts to the EU courts.

In our years of representing clients at the International Protection Appeals Tribunals and the Immigration Appeals Board our requests for a preliminiary reference on the interpretation of EU law have never been acceeded to. To date the number of preliminary references filed at the International Protection Appeals Tribunal and not submitted to the CJEU is now 5. The oldest one pending since 14/07/2022. One request was rejected by the Tribunal on the basis of the acte clair principle, although we respectfully disagree such a decision (which related to the procedures with the Tribunal itself) could not be appealed.

It should be noted that both the Immigration Appeals Board and the International Protection Appeals Tribunal are both courts of last resort and all the cases filed concerned urgent proceedings within the ambit of Title V of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The decisions refusing to refer or the refusal to take a decision on the request cannot be appealed to a court of law.

We therefore urge the Commission to recommend the following:

 To clarify include clear provisions in the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure on the procedures to be used by the Court in order to protect the rights of the parties, whilst keeping in mind the recent judgements relating to the duty to refer and its implications on the right to a fair trial;

⁷⁰ Rki. Kost. 645/21/1 Jean Noel Ambeau Yapi et v. II-Prim Ministru ta' Malta et, decided on 25 October 2023.

⁷¹ <u>Court Practice and Procedure and Good Order Rules</u>, S.L. 12.09.

- II. To keep data relating the number of preliminary references requested, denied and acceded to;
- III. Provide effective training to judges, magisrates, board members and lawyers on the preliminary reference procedure.

Follow-up by the public administration and State institutions to final court decisions

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission and to the further data included in Part A - Regime for constitutional review of laws. Malta continues to have 15 leading ECtHR judgements pending implementation, with a view to increase further to A.D. v Malta⁷² and the general measures contained therein.

D. The enabling framework for civil society

Measures regarding framework for CSOs and human rights defenders

No significant developments.

Rules and practices having an impact on the effective of CSOs and human rights defenders

A landmark judgement in 2023 found that denying journalists access to prison and to detention centres breach their right to freedom of expression⁷³.

The Civil Court, in its Constitutional jurisdiction, ruled that journalists, in their role as public watchdogs, must have access to detention centres in which migrants and asylum-seekers are held and to Corradino Correctional Facility, Malta's only adult prison. The lack of proper access by journalists, NGOs providing services and lawyers results in the Government having absolute monopoly over the type of information, if at all, which is available to the public. Significantly, the Court held that the right to freedom of expression doesn't only cover the content of such expression but also the method in which such content is recorded or collected. It held that journalists should be allowed to take photographs, record interviews with microphones and also take videos, always whilst respecting detainees and prisoners right to privacy.

The Court held that the denial of effective access creates a chilling effect on the carrying out of independent investigations and reporting of incidents in places of detention which the government would prefer to never come to light.

The Government has appealed and in spite of the judgment, in the interim, journalists are still being denied access to detention centres and to prison. It should also be noted that access to detention is also severly restricted to NGOs providing services, including lawyers.

We there urge the Commission to recommend to the Government to implement the Court's decision and allow access to prisons and detention to journalists and CSO's providing

⁷² <u>A.D. v Malta</u>, October 2023.

⁷³ 201/20TA - Emanuel Delia v. Byron Camilleri et, 11th December 2023.

services. We also urge the Commission to recommend to the Government to recognise the role of CSOs as public watchdogs and not public enemies when they carry out their monitoring role.

Organisation of financial support for CSOs and human rights defenders

Please refer to our 2023 Rule of Law Submission.

There are no taxation / donation / incentive systems for human rights defender CSOs. Furthermore, there is no available core funding to CSOs in order to cover their basic expenses, such as rental and operational costs. Whilst the government has recognised the need to support economic operators due to rising inflation, in rental subsidies⁷⁴ this was not recognised for CSOs.

There are no clear guidelines or publicly available informaton on the granting of property / office space / support by the Government to CSOs. In 2023 alone the Government pledged to spent €10.4 million on the aquisition of properties previously being rented by village band clubs evicted futher to a host of constitutional court judgements relating to the right to property of the original owner⁷⁵. It is not known if the band clubs presented their annual accounts, whether they have the financial means to buy or rent other property or whether the eviction was through any fault of their own.

We urge the Commission to recommend to the Government to make operational and core funding available to CSOs and to many information relating to the granting of property, core funding and operational support to CSO public.

Rules on the participation of CSOs and human rights defenders in decision-making

As mentioned above, the setting up of the Justice Forum within the OGP can be seen as a step forward however much needs to be done to make consultation and participation a formal process. Please refer to A - The process for preparing and enacting laws above.

E. Initiatives to foster a rule of law culture

Measures to foster a rule of law culture

There have been no public initiatives to foster a rule of law culture by government or its agencies. A number of CSOs have rule of law projects relating to access to justice, independence of the judiciary, the safeguarding of the media and access to fundamental rights.

We urge the Commission to recommend to the Government to support rule of law dialogue and CSOs that work in the sector.

⁷⁴ Ministry for Finance and Employment, <u>Budget Speech 2024</u>, 2023.

⁷⁵ Newsbook, <u>Government to acquire five more band clubs facing eviction</u>, December 2024.

Annex 1 Judgements laid in accordance with 242(1) of the COCP in Legis. XIV

 A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 589/2021LM dated 10th June 2022 in the names Dr Arthur Mercieca et vs State Advocate et; A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 710/2021LM dated 1st July 2022 in the names Wayne Paul Dingli et vs State Advocate et; A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 710/2021LM dated 1st July 2022 in the names Wayne Paul Dingli et vs State Advocate et; A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 113/2021LM dated 15th July 2022 in the names Sonia Bezzina vs State
 terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 710/2021LM dated 1st July 2022 in the names Wayne Paul Dingli et vs State Advocate et; A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 113/2021LM dated 15th July 2022 in the names Sonia Bezzina vs State
terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 113/2021LM dated 15th July 2022 in the names Sonia Bezzina vs State
Advocate and Others;
4. A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 469/2021TA dated 14th July 2022 in the names Alfrida Grima vs State Advocate et, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 12 august 2022;
5. A judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 479/2021LM dated 15th July 2022 in the names Maria Celina Benn vs State Advocate et;
 Copy of a judgment delivered by the First Hall (Constitutional Seat) dated 14 July 202 and that of Appeal of 29 March 2023 on appeal number 184/21/1/TA in the names 'Joseph Galea v State Advocate and Others' which have been forwarded to the Chair for the purposes of article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Ca 12);
7. Copy of a judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Court) on 28 February 2023 in the names 'Nigel Key noe v State Advocate and Others', Application number 224/21TA, forwarded to the Chair for the purposes of article 242(of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12), together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 27 March 2023
 Copy of a judgment given by the Civil Court First Chamber (Constitutional Jurisdiction in a case named Salvina sive Sally widow by Mario Cassar v State Attorney (Application Number 237 / 20TA), decided on 17 February 2022, which decision was not appealed as indicated in the attached certificate
 Copy of a judgment given by the Civil Court First Chamber (Constitutional Jurisdiction in a case named Rosaria sive Lucy wife Joseph Camilleri v State Attorney (Application No. 69 / 21TA), decided on 1 March 2022, which decision was not appealed as indicated in the attached certificate
10. Copy of judgment given by the First Hall (Constitutional Seat) dated 22 April 2022, an of Appeal of 29 March 2023 on appeal number 247/21/1 LM in the names 'Agnes Pac and Others v State Advocate and Others' which were forwarded to the Chair for the purposes of article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12).
11. Copy of the judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdictio in the case named Catherine Cauchi v State Attorney et al (Application Number 317 / 2020LM), decided on 23 February 2022

12.	Copy of the judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case with the names Giovanna Bartoli and Others v Carmelo Calleja and Others (Application Number 46 / 18JZM), decided on 28 November 2019
13.	Judgement given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 446/2021LM dated 1st July 2022 in the names Dentist Dr David Muscat et vs Enemalta plc et
14.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case at the names Giordian Azuogu Ohaegbu v State Advocate (Application No 613/2022 JVC) dated 28 June 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 5 September 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
15.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case in the names Bollicine Limited v State Advocate and Others (Application 215/2021LM), decided on 14 September 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
16.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case entitled Robert Borg et vs State Advocate in representation of the Government of Malta (Application Number 523/2021LM), decided on 16 September 2022, sent to the Sedja a tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
17.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case entitled Richard Zahra v State Advocate and Others (Application Number 644/2021LM), decided on 23 September 2022, sent to the Sitting a tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
18.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case under the names Rosario Spiteri v Commissioner of Police and Others (Application No 171/14/2 JPG), dated 25 October 2017 and that of the Appeal with reference 171/14/4 JPG dated 26 October 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
19.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case in the names Anthony Darmanin v State Advocate and Others (Application No 391/2021LM), delivered on 12 October 2022, sent to the Chair in accordance with Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure.
20.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case in the names Antonia Cutajar v Alfred Azzopardi and Others (Application Number 721/2021LM), delivered on 26 October 2022, sent to the Chair in accordance with Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
21.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case in the names Antonia sive Antoinette Vella and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No 22/2022LM), delivered to the Court pursuant to Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
22.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in a case entitled Dolores Pisani and Others vs Dominic Caruana and Others (Application Number 808/2021 LM), decided on 30 November 2022, sent to the Sitting a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 31 January 2023
23.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled 'Carmen Muscat and Others v State Advocate and Others' (Application Number 142/2022 LM) decided on 22 March 2023 which was forwarded to the Chair a tenor of

	Article 242 (1) of the Conder of Owner is sting and Civil Decording to each security
	Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a
	certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 8 May 2023
24.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Christopher Sella and Others vs Albert Said and Others (Application No
	284/2021 JVC) dated 28 June 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not
	been appealed dated 4 September 2023 sent to the Chair pursuant to Article 242(1) of
	the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
25.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Nazzareno Farrugia and Others v State Advocate (Application No
	506/2021 JVC) dated 30 May 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not
	been appealed dated 17 August 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the
	Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
26.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	in the names Marika Ellul v State Advocate and Others (Application Number 550/2021
	JVC) dated 30 May 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been
	appealed dated 17 August 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code
	of Organisation and Civil Procedure
27.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	entitled Rosa Maria Buttigieg v State Advocate and Others (Application Number
	299/2020/ LM), decided on 22 April 2022 and of Appeal dated 25 January 2023, sent to
	the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
28.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	entitled Raphael sive Ralph Bianchi v State Advocate and Others (Application Number
	255/2021/ LM), decided on 29 April 2022 and of Appeal dated 25 January 2023, sent to
	the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
29.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	under the names Mary Fatima Vassallo and Others v Housing Authority and Others
	(Application Number 182/2020 LM), dated 19 November 2021 and that of appeal with
	reference 182/20/1 LM dated 26 October 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article
	242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
30.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	entitled Mariella Mercieca and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	590/2021 TA), decided on 20 October 2022, and a certificate that the judgment has not
	been appealed dated 15 November 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of
	the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
31.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
011	with Carmen Borg et vs State Advocate et (Application No 480/2021 TA), delivered on
	1st December 2022 together with a certificate that it wasn't appealed sent to the Sitting
	pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
32.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
52.	with Tonio Depaqsuale et vs Walter Portelli et (Application No 256/2021 TA), delivered
	on 1st December 2022 together with a certificate that it wasn't appealed sent to the
	Sitting pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
33.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
55.	
	in the names Rita Vassallo and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	233/2022TA) decided on 28th September 2023, together with a certificate that the case
	has not been appealed dated 1 November 2023 sent to the Hearing pursuant to Article
24	242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
34.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case at the names Joseph Mizzi v State Advocate (Application No 726/2021 JVC) dated 13
	Lating names losenn Muzzi v State Advocate (Annucation No. /26/2021 N/C) dated 13

	July 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 22
	August 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and
	Civil Procedure
35.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled
	Rosaria sive Lucy wife of Joseph Camilleri vs John Privitera and Others (Application
	Number 308/2022LM) decided on 15 September 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of
	Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a
36.	certificate that the judgment has not been appealed dated 14 November 2023 Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
30.	entitled Christine Borg and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application Number
	14/2021LM), decided on 23 September 2022, sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242
	of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
37.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
57.	entitled Mary Fatima Vassallo vs Alfonso Depasquale and Others (Application No
	141/21 LM), dated 22 April 2022 and Appeal bearing reference 141/21/1 LM dated 26
	October 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation
	and Civil Procedure
38.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	with the names Yvonne Pace and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application
	Number 183/21 LM), dated 20 April 2022 and that of appeal with reference 183/21/1
	LM dated 26 October 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of
	Organisation and Civil Procedure
39.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	in the names Maria Dolores sive Doris Magri vs Gregory Farrugia and Others
	(Application No 633/2021LM), delivered to the Court pursuant to the Court pursuant to
	Article 242 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
40.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	in the names Michelle Doreen Xuereb and Others v Yvonne Grech and Others
	(Application No. 753/2021LM), delivered to the Chair pursuant to Article 242 of the
41.	Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
41.	entitled Eugenio Camenzuli and Others vs Moses Zammit and Others (Application No
	279/2021/ LM), decided on 15 June 2022 and that of the Appeal dated 25 January
	2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil
	Procedure
42.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	entitled Vanessa Rapa Grech and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	8/2020 LM), delivered on 30 November 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1)
	of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure together with a certificate that the case
	has not been appealed dated 31 January 2023
43.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	under the names Carmelo sive Charles Caruana et vs State Advocate and Others
	(Application No. 227/2020/LM), delivered on 1 February 2023 to the Chair a tenor of
	Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a
	certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 14 March 2023
44.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	with the names Cecilia Dalli v State Advocate and Others (Application Number
	665/2021/LM), decided on 1 February 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of
	the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case
	has not been appealed dated 14 March 2023

45.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case with the names Marie Montebello v Catherine Bartolo and Others (Application No 37/2021 JVC), delivered on 28 June 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with the appeal judgment dated 31 May 2023
46.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case under the names Lorraine Falzon and Others v Advocate General and Others (Application No 397/2022 JVC), delivered on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 5 May 2023
47.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case at the names Kingsway Palace Company Limited v State Advocate and Others (Application No 792/2021 AD) delivered on 26 September 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 6 November 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
48.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case in the names Doctor Louis Joseph Sant Cassia and Others v State Advocate (Application No 341/2021 JVC) dated 30 May 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 17 August 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
49.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case at the names Doreen Grima v State Advocate (Application No 107/2020 JVC) dated 13 July 2023, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 22 August 2023 sent to the Sitting pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
50.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled Notary Dr John Cachia Zammit et vs Carmelo Aquilina and Others (Application Number 524/2022LM) decided on the 15th September 2023, sent to the Sitting a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the judgment has not been appealed dated 14 November 2023
51.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case entitled Dorotea sive Dorothy Darmanin and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No 337/21 TA), dated 22 September 2022, and a certificate that the judgment has not been appealed dated 18 October 2022, sent to the Chair pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure;
52.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case under the names Maria Theresa Azzopardi and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No 296/21 TA), dated 22 September 2022, and a certificate that the judgment has not been appealed dated 18 October 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
53.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case entitled Dr Cedric Mifsud noe v Minister for Justice, Equality and Governance and Others (Application No 95/2020 TA), decided on 20 October 2022, and certificate that the judgment has not been appealed dated 14 November 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
54.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case with Victor Cilia et vs State Advocate et (Application No 200/2021 TA), delivered on 10th November 2022 together with a certificate that it wasn't appealed sent to the Sitting pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure

 55. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the in the names 'Joseph Vella and Others vs Maria Rosaria Micallef et' (Application N 96/2021/TA), decided on 9 February 2023 sent to the Sitting pursuant to Article 24 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that th case has not been appealed dated 6 March 2023 56. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case et 'Joseph Schembri v State Advocate and Others' (Application Number 239/2021 LI decided on 22 March 2023 which was forwarded to the Sitting a tenor of Article 24 of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that th' case has not been appealed dated 8 May 2023 57. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the under the names Mary Grace Grima v Joseph Cutajar and Others (Application No 304/2020 JVC), delivered on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate the the case has not been appealed dated 14 April 2023; 58. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the entitled France Portelli et vs Michelina Buttigieg and Others (Application No 146/2 JVC), decided on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of th Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 14 April 2023; 	o 42(1) ne ntitled VI) 42 (1) ne case
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58. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the entitled France Portelli et vs Michelina Buttigieg and Others (Application No 146/2 JVC), decided on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of th Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case	
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JVC), decided on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case	
Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case	
	has
not been appealed dated 14 April 2023	
59. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the	case
under the names Gevimida Limited v Joseph Mamo and Others (Application No	10(1)
214/2020 JVC), delivered on 30 March 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 24	
of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, accompanied by a certificate tha	it the
 case has not been appealed dated 15 May 2023 60. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the 	
60. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the under the names Joseph Baldacchino v State Advocate and Others (Application N	
187/2020 JVC), delivered on 30 March 2023, sent to the Chair pursuant to Article	
of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the	
case has not been appealed dated 15 May 2023	
61. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the	case
with the names Diana Gatt v Housing Authority and Others (Application No 73/20)	
JVC), delivered on 30 March 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the	
Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case	
not been appealed dated 15 May 2023	
62. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the	case
with the names Patricia Gatt v State Advocate and Others (Application Number	
212/2021 JVC), delivered on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article	•
242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate	that
the case has not been appealed dated 5 May 2023	
63. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the	case
under the names Anthony Scicluna and Others v State Advocate and Others	
(Application No 396/2021 JVC), delivered on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair	а
tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together w	with a
certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 5 May 2023	
64. Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the	case
in the names Emily sive Mima widow of Architect Joseph Genovese v State Advoc	ate
and Others (Application No 715/2021 JVC) dated 28 June 2023, together with a	
certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 5 September 2023 sent to the	
Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure	he

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65.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Eleanor sive Noreen Leone Ganado and Others v State Advocate and
	Others (Application No 100/2021 JVC) dated 28 June 2023, together with a certificate
	that the case has not been appealed dated 4 September 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor
	of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
66.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Eleanor sive Noreen Leone Ganado and Others v State Advocate and
	Others (Application No 100/2021 JVC) dated 28 June 2023, together with a certificate
	that the case has not been appealed dated 4 September 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor
(7	of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
67.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Carmel sive Charles Borg and Others v State Advocate and Others
	(Application No 605/2021 JVC) dated 30 May 2023, together with a certificate that the
	case has not been appealed dated 17 August 2023 sent to the Chair a tenor of Article
	242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
68.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	in the names Igino Trapani Galea Feriol and Others v State Advocate and Others
	(Application No 44/2011 TA), decided on 10 November 2022 and certificate that the
	case has not been appealed dated 5 December 2022, sent to the Chair a tenor of
	Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
69.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
07.	
	with Josephine Tabone et vs State Advocate et (Application No 192/2020 TA),
	delivered on 10th November 2022 together with a certificate that it wasn't appealed
	sent to the Sitting pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil
	Procedure
70.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	with the names Mary Borg and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	139/2020/TA), delivered on 1 March 2022 and of the Appeal dated 25 January 2023,
	sent to the Court pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil
	Procedure;
71.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	entitled Christine Vella Borda noe v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	42/2021 TA), delivered on 29 September 2022, sent to the Court pursuant to Article
	242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with the appeal
	judgment dated 31 May 2023
72.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
12.	
	entitled Jennifer Adams and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No
	495/2021 JVC), delivered on 28 February 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article
	242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that
	the case has not been appealed dated 14 April 2023
73.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
	at the names Kingsway Palace Company Limited v State Advocate and Others
	(Application No 792/2021 AD) delivered on 26 September 2023, together with a
	certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 6 November 2023 sent to the
	Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
74.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case
,	under the names Mary Fatima Vassallo vs Carmelo Azzopardi and Others (Application
	No 210/20 TA), dated 5 April 2022 and of Appeal with reference 210/20/1 TA dated 26
	October 2022, sent to the Sitting pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation
1	and Civil Procedure

75.	Judgment delivered by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in the case under the names Maria Grech and Others v State Advocate and Others (Application No 309/2020 TA), decided on 9 June 2022 and of the Appeal dated 20 March 2023, sent to the Court pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure
76.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled Josephine Azzopardi v State Advocate, on 16 May 2023 (Application number 60/21 TA), which decision was sent to the Sitting in terms of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 26 June 2023
77.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Court) dated 15 December 2022 in the names 'Maria Fatima Grech v State Advocate and Others' by reference 35/2022 TA, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 6 January 2023.
78.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) in a case entitled Nicola Pace and Others vs George Lawrence Gatt and Others (Application No. 831/21TA), decided on 26 January 2023, sent to the Sitting a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 28 February 2023
79.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) on 28 March 2023 in the names 'Alfred Williams et vs State Advocate et' (Application number 468/21TA), sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 2 May 2023
80.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Court) in the case entitled Carmel sive Karl Grima vs James Mc Clean and Others (Application No 280/21TA), delivered on 26 January 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 27 February 2023
81.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Court) in the case under the names Francesco Saverio sive Francis Cutajar v State Advocate and Others (Application No 381/21TA), delivered on 31 January 2023, sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 27 February 2023
82.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) on 28 March 2023 in the names 'Maria Stella Mifsud v State Advocate et' (Application number 315/21TA), sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap. 12) together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 2 May 2023
83.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled Anthony Bonnici and Others vs Joseph Bonnici and Others, on the 16th May 2023 (Application number 722/21 TA), which decision was sent to the Sitting a tenor of Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap 12) together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 26 June 2023
84.	Judgment delivered by the First Hall of the Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) in the case entitled Dr Stephen Spiteri v Medical Council and Others, on 13 June 2023 (Application number 175/2020 RGM), which decision was sent to the Chair pursuant to Article 242(1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure (Cap 12) together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 4 July 2023

85.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Chamber (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in a case with the names Carmelo sive Charles Zammit et al. 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure.
86.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Chamber (Constitutional Jurisdiction) on 5 April 2022 with application number 78/2021 TA in the names Stephen Simiana and Others v State Attorney and Others, together with a certificate that this decision has not been appealed dated 29 April 2022
87.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Chamber (Constitutional Jurisdiction) on 12 April 2022 with application number 59/2020 TA in the names Catherine Saliba and Others v Margaret Ciantar and Others, together with a certificate that this decision has not been appealed dated 5 May 2022
88.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in a case named Francis Tabone v State Attorney et al (Application Number 191 / 2021LM), decided on 6 April 2022.
89.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) on 12 April 2022 with application number 133/2021 TA in the names Rosanne Rocco and Others v State Attorney and Others, together with a certificate that this decision was not appealed dated 5 May 2022
90.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) on 12 April 2022 with application number 49/2020 TA in the names Joseph Farrugia and Others v State Attorney and Others, together with a certificate that this decision was not appealed dated 5 May 2022
91.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) on 12 April 2022 with application number 138/2020 TA in the names Christopher Agius and Others v State Attorney and Others, together with a certificate that this decision was not appealed dated 5 May 2022
92.	Judgment given by the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case with the names Francis Scicluna v State Attorney and Others (Application 347 / 2021LM), decided on 25 May 2022, sent to the Seat a pursuant to Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure
93.	Judgment given by the Constitutional Court at the Hearing of 12 November 2021 by application number 209 / 20LM and that of the Appeal of 4 May 2022 by application number 209/2020/1 LM, in the names Av Dr Anna Mallia v State Advocate and Others, referred to the Chair under Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure
94.	Judgment given by the Constitutional Court at the Hearing of 22 September 2021 with application number 103/2019 LM and that of the appeal of 4 May 2022 with application number 103/19/1 LM in the names Prof Ian Refalo noe v Nicholas Ciantar and Others, referred to the Chair under Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure
95.	Judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 699/2021LM dated 1st July 2022 in the names Grace Micallef et vs State Advocate et
96.	Judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing reference 33/2021TA dated 2nd June 2022 in the names Silvana Vella et vs State Advocate et, together with a certificate that the case has not been appealed dated 12th July 2022

97.	Judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in
,,,,	terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing
	reference 295/2021LM dated 15th June 2022 in the names Marianne Mamo vs State
	Advocate et
98.	Judgment given by the First Hall Civil Court (Constitutional Seat) sent to the Chair in
	terms of Article 242 (1) of the Code of Organisation and Civil Procedure bearing
	reference 231/2021LM dated 15th June 2022 in the names Mario Bonnici et vs Housing
	Authority et
99.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair under
	Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names David Vella et
	vs Joseph Mangion et with reference 187/2022 LM dated 10 of ' May 2023, together
	with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 6 July 2023;
100.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Agostina sive Ina Cini et vs Aldo Lucas et with reference 106/2022 LM dated 10 May
	2023, together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 6 July 2023;
101.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent Judgment of the
	Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a tenor of Article 242 of
	the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names Electronic Products Limited
	vs George Calleja et with reference 776/2021 LM dated 5 July 2023, together with a
	certificate that the case was not appealed dated 18 August 2023 to the Chair pursuant
400	to Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure
102.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Lawrence Camilleri et vs Mary Mercieca et with reference 295/2022 LM dated 5 of ' July
102	2023, together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 18 August 2023;
103.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair under Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names Maria Stella
	Mifsud et vs State Attorney et with reference 314/2021 LM dated 14 September 2022,
	together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
104.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
104.	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names Peter
	Bonnici et vs Emanuel sive Noel Pace et with reference 301/2020 RG dated 31 May
	2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
105.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names Philip
	Bugeja vs Avukat tal Istat et with reference 435/2021 LM dated 30 of November 2022,
	together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023
106.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Giovanna sive Jane Mallia vs State Attorney et with reference 841/2021 LM dated 2
	November 2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
107.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Agostia sive Ina Cini et vs State Attorney et with reference 743/2020 LM dated 1
	February 2023, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023
108.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names Maria
	Grazia sive Grace Cini et vs State Attorney et with reference 130/ 2022 LM dated 5 July
	2023, together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 18 August 2023;

109.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
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	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Dorotea sive Dorothy Darmanin et vs State Attorney et with reference 358/2021 LM
	dated 5 July 2023, together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 18
	August 2023;
110.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Christopher Borg et vs State Attorney et with reference 271/2021 LM dated 5 July 2023,
	together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 18 August 2023;
111.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Catherine Cauchi vs Remigio Cassar et with reference 315/2020 AF dated 5 of
	December 2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
112.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Reginald and Maria Aurora spouse Fava et vs State Attorney with reference 680/ 2021
	GM dated 14 July 2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
113.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Stephen Falzon et vs State Attorney et with reference 246/20 TA dated 27 June 2023,
	together with a certificate that the case was not appealed dated 8 August 2023;
114.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Michelle Doreen sive Doreen Xuereb et vs State Attorney et with reference 263/ 2020
	LM dated 16 November 2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
115.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names B
	Tagliaferro & Sons Limited vs State Attorney et with reference 23/2020 JVC dated 14
	July 2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023
116.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Joseph Pace vs Avukat tal Istat et with reference 223/2020 JVC dated 28 of April 2022,
	together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
117.	Judgment of the Civil Court (First Chamber) Constitutional Seat sent to the Chair a
	tenor of Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure in the names
	Catherine Farrugia et vs State Attorney et with reference 445/2021 AF dated 1 July
	2022, together with an Appeal judgment dated 12 July 2023;
118.	Judgment of the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Jurisdiction) in case 149/2019 TA
	in the names Maria Concetta Mangion and Others v State Attorney et al. Dated 22
	March 2022 and that of the appeal in the Constitutional Court reference 149/19/1 TA
	dated 22 June 2022 sent to the Chair pursuant to Article 242 (1) of the Code of
	Organization and Civil Procedure
119.	Judgment of the Civil Court First Hall (Constitutional Seat) in the case in the names of
	Joseph Farrugia and Others v State Attorney and Others (Application 48 / 2020LM)
	decided on 25 May 2022 -Article 242 of the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure