## Distinctive Features of Providing Legal Assistance to Business Entities

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the importance of providing legal assistance to business entities and some of its scientific and theoretical aspects. It also highlights the features of legal assistance provided by lawyers to the business process by business entities, which differ from other types of legal activity. The author analyzed the views of Uzbek and foreign scientists on providing legal assistance to business entities and entered into a scientific discussion. In particular, some problems in providing legal assistance to business entities were analyzed in detail and scientific and theoretical conclusions were drawn.

**Keywords:** business entity, legal assistance, legal services, advocacy, lawyer, lawyer monopoly.

Large-scale reforms are being carried out in the country aimed at ensuring the smooth implementation of entrepreneurial activities, creating favorable conditions for doing business and increasing the investment attractiveness of the republic.

Today, the growing development of business entities is also the reason for the increased need for legal assistance provided by a lawyer.

In addition, it is necessary to ensure the rapid development of entrepreneurial activity in every democratic state, further strengthen the legal protection of private property, create and comprehensively support favorable conditions for small businesses and private entrepreneurship, increase the investment attractiveness of the Republic, as well as pay attention to the issue of legally correct organization of work.

The role of lawyers in assisting in the organization of the activities of business entities on a legal basis in solving this problem, the legal regulation of their business, the preparation of documents arising from their field of activity, and in lawsuits carried out with other business entities, the protection of business entities in economic disputes, etc. on other legal issues has no analogues [1, p. 8].

The issues of providing legal assistance to business entities through the Institute of Advocacy were enshrined in the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Advocacy" dated December 27, 1996.

It should be noted that the practice of providing necessary legal assistance by lawyers to the process of conducting business activities of business entities is becoming increasingly important as a separate branch of legal activities. This is due to the fact that every entrepreneur or business person needs legal support at the beginning of establishing their activities, and in this case it is necessary to familiarize them with the base of regulatory legal acts in the industry, provide legal advice on effective ways to organize business, formalize contracts concluded between entrepreneurs ensuring compliance with contractual discipline, and demand is also growing on lawyers in such cases as the protection of their legal activities from unjustified interference and bureaucratic obstacles.

The following specific aspects of the provision of legal assistance by lawyers in the process of doing business by business entities can be distinguished, which differ from other types of legal activity:

firstly, in this type of legal activity, a lawyer provides legal assistance not to individuals and legal entities within the general framework, but to business entities (individual entrepreneurs, small

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enterprises, microenterprises, limited liability companies, joint-stock companies, joint ventures, family enterprises) engaged in entrepreneurial activity on the basis of state registration in accordance with legislation, taking on risks;

secondly, unlike the participation of a lawyer in this area of legal services at the stage of criminal, civil, and administrative proceedings, his activities in court are mainly directly related to the exercise of representation on his own behalf and the protection of the rights and interests of the interested party in resolving economic disputes arising between business entities;

thirdly, a lawyer provides legal assistance to business entities on the basis of a contract concluded for the purpose of providing legal support once or for a certain period of time. In this case, one-time legal assistance is provided in such a way as to provide advice and clarifications on legal issues to relevant business entities, familiarize them with regulatory legal acts related to the activities of the industry, while on the basis of a contract designed for a certain period, the lawyer is engaged in legal support of the process;

fourth, the legal assistance of a lawyer in this area of legal activity is characterized by assistance in the execution of business contracts concluded between business entities. In this case, there is an obligation to form all the necessary elements of the concluded contract in such a way as not to harm the rights and interests of the parties, to take control of the correct and timely fulfillment of the obligations established by the contract, as well as to ensure compliance with the provisions provided for in the contract in accordance with the requirements.

Currently, in addition to the existing types of legal assistance provided to business entities, a number of other forms of legal assistance provided by business protection lawyers are also used. These include: repatriation of income to foreign investors, collection of debts on dividends and contracts with foreign companies, protection of creditors' rights in case of bankruptcy of the debtor, protection from unjustified offenses and seizure of property, consulting and protection on tax claims, legal protection on claims for insurance payments, development of recommendations in the preparation of transactions with insurance organizations, protection intellectual property, etc.

As most scientists note, the bar is considered as a structure among non-profit organizations that has opportunities for legal protection of business entities in all forms [2, pp. 33-35]. But in this case, business entities turn to a lawyer mainly for help in conducting court proceedings. In our opinion, it is necessary to revive the activities of lawyers for legal protection on all issues related to the sphere of economic activity of business entities.

In foreign countries where market relations have developed, business entities have developed the practice of using the services of lawyers even without the presence of a legal service in their activities. At first glance, it seems that the work of the legal service is sufficient in the activities of an economic entity and there is no need for a lawyer. However, this is not the case. In the activities of any business entity, especially large enterprises and organizations, with the functioning of a legal service, a lawyer will also find enough work. In this case, in accordance with the agreement concluded between the legal structure and the enterprise, the lawyer can perform the following functions for the legal protection of the business entity:

expression and protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the business entity in relations with each other and with government agencies on the most important issues of economic activity;

to give oral and written legal opinions on issues of conflict of laws issues of the internal life of the business entity, as well as its relations with other business entities. business entities or government agencies;

to be an "arbitrator" in resolving disputes arising between the board of directors or the management of an economic entity, its structural divisions and the legal service of an economic entity;

providing legal explanations and advice to the legal service and management of an economic entity on extremely complex legal issues;

participation in the most difficult court proceedings [3, pp. 16-23].

Barbara R. Blackburn, Robert Blackburn, Ron Williamson argue that highly educated and competent, competent lawyers can increase their prestige in society precisely because of this, through legal advice, to save an enterprise from difficulties, even with business leaders, in the event of extremely difficult situations. At the same time, they identify the eight most important qualities of a lawyer, in which they note the condition of being polite but persistent with management, a judge, and a business partner [4].

The presence of a lawyer in an economic entity serves to effectively solve existing problems and issues. Another convenient point in this is that in the process of inquiry and preliminary investigation of the activities of an economic entity in the framework of a criminal case, a lawyer has the opportunity to provide the most effective legal protection. Because, firstly, the legal service of a business entity becomes a participant in the criminal process (witness, suspect, etc.); secondly, only a lawyer with an appropriate warrant can provide procedural support and prevent violations in this case; thirdly, if one of the heads of an economic entity is detained as a suspect or accused and sent to a pretrial detention center, then only a lawyer will be able to meet with him and carry out professional legal protection.

Currently, Uzbekistan is increasingly emerging as an open and global state. Therefore, there are more and more cases when entrepreneurs and citizens in general engaged in business work in foreign countries. This, of course, necessitates the provision of legal assistance to citizens of the state abroad. According to official data, almost 200,000 people are sent abroad annually through the Agency for External Labor Migration [5].

Accordingly, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On amendments and Additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the improvement of the system of legal assistance and legal services" dated October 12, 2018 [6] established the possibility of creating divisions of Bar Associations and law firms of Uzbekistan, and this increases the importance of lawyer formations by one step, It should be noted that in the process of state registration of a business entity, advocacy is the main organization providing legal support. Because in the process of creating a business entity, it will not have its own legal service employee. Therefore, currently most business entities use the services of a lawyer to resolve economic disputes, as well as for the legal examination of business contracts [7, p. 5].

Currently, the legal profession is the most widespread type of activity, which is facilitated by the growing role of business in ensuring stable socio-economic development of the country. In such conditions, when every entrepreneur strives to use economic opportunities, personal well-being, as well as benefits that enhance the position of his family, knowledge in the legal field is becoming increasingly important. The demand for legal aid is growing every day. The task of the legal profession is not only the legally correct organization of certain business processes, but also the prevention of violations in their implementation, and with the participation of lawyers in cases, it is important not only their professional knowledge, but also a calming effect on the processes in the struggle for victory in economic calculations between economic business partners [11].

A lawyer is independent in his professional activity, he cannot perform other functions, which means that it is impossible to enter into an employment relationship with him as an employee, with the exception of scientific, pedagogical and other activities provided for by law. In addition, lawyers are prohibited from working in public service.

Consequently, a lawyer is completely independent and separate from the state and its constituent parts, his law practice is based on the trust placed in him, and his main task is to maintain this trust. At the same time, no circumstances can serve as a basis for violating the trust placed in him. Any behavior of a lawyer that undermines trust is a professional violation of the lawyer. Abuse of trust does not correspond to the status of a lawyer. The abuse of self-confidence expressed by a lawyer cannot be justified. In this case, the lawyer's questions about the facts known to him as a defender gain confidence, which is the basis of the institution of advocacy.

E. Benedict argues that "a lawyer who has switched to the role of a witness will deprive the accused of the last measure of salvation provided for protection by the state against which he should serve" [9, p. 64], he was right when he wrote.

It is known that the word advocatus comes from the Latin advocatio - seeking help, which means judicial protection. Thus, it is understood that the main task of a lawyer is to help a person who has applied for legal assistance with their skills, knowledge and experience. When forming the basic concepts and principles of the rules of professional ethics of lawyers, one should not deviate from a simple and obvious rule, a lawyer should be as useful as possible for a person expressing trust [10, p. 40].

The State does not control the practice of law, but rather guarantees the independence of this institution in terms of the importance of this activity. This approach of the legislator is one of the important factors of the independence of the legal community.

There are a number of controversial issues that determine the nature of legal practice. Unfortunately, lawyers currently pursue the goal of making a profit (income), despite the fact that they are engaged in the activities of non-profit structures. The law does not establish criteria for evaluating the activities of a lawyer, nevertheless, it is natural that such a situation arises in conditions when people's needs are increasingly developing [11, p. 130]. Legal practice cannot be an entrepreneurial activity, as it is considered a very responsible task.

Unlike legal practice in Uzbekistan, the provision of legal services is not licensed, and, without the status of a lawyer, lawyers deal with cases related to the provision of arbitrary legal assistance.

In addition, lawyers have two important advantages over other citizens engaged in a particular legal activity. The first is the regime of attorney-client privilege, that is, the facts known to the lawyer to one degree or another are not disclosed, which, of course, is a favorable situation for the creditor.

The second advantage is the exclusive right of a lawyer as a defender in criminal cases (it should be noted that this right, for example, is gradually disappearing in Russia: simultaneously with the development of the judicial institution, ordinary lawyers also received the right to defend the interests of plaintiffs and defendants [12, pp. 87-91]). Due to such advantages in legal practice, the state imposes massive legal obligations on lawyers (providing free legal assistance to certain categories of citizens by appointment in investigative and judicial activities).

The special importance of providing legal assistance by lawyers to business entities lies in the fact that currently representing the interests of entrepreneurs in court is a multifaceted activity of a lawyer based solely on the application of the norms of various branches of legislation – a kind of "monopoly of lawyers". Therefore, lawyers who provide legal assistance to business entities are subject to much higher professional requirements, which means that they must have comprehensive knowledge and skills in various areas of substantive and procedural law. Such professional knowledge will be embodied in professional lawyers, while lawyers of the organization of legal consultants do not always have such qualifications, experience and skills.

Many opinions have been expressed about the loss of the legal monopoly. In particular, there are opinions that the implementation of standardization work aimed at improving state regulation of the quality of legal aid ensures the establishment of certain "minimum professional powers" of organizations providing legal services [13, p. 20].

In this context, the comments of some authors deserve attention, which complement the "formal requirements" (obtaining legal education, work experience, passing a qualification exam, etc.) with a sign of "active legal assistance". In particular, A.I. Muranov argues that the establishment of qualification requirements for persons professionally providing legal services does not violate the right to choose a legal representative at their discretion, since it is necessary to legislatively regulate the activities of legal services provided on a paid basis, and that he must act professionally and on an ongoing basis [14].

In our opinion, the state does not need to strive for full control over the legal services market, taking into account the essence of legal assistance and the specifics of a lawyer's activity. On the contrary, the regulation of this sphere should create the most favorable conditions for the effective functioning of specialists within the same legal field. The development of standards related to the quality of services provided by practicing lawyers and attorneys can contribute to the formation of a legal society.

Currently, the directions of reforming legal service organizations and the approach to the legal profession in Uzbekistan are defined only conceptually, while these reforms lack a scientific and practical basis and content. What the domestic legal services market will look like as a result of the changes will have a serious impact not only on the Ministry of Justice and the Chamber of Lawyers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, but also on the future of existing advocates and lawyers.

In recent years, there has been an increasing discussion about the need to impose restrictions on the provision of legal services, and this may lead to the establishment of appropriate standards for the provision of legal services.

It should be noted that A.G. Gorevaya believes that the reform of the legal services market implies, first of all, the provision of certain benefits to lawyers in relation to other lawyers who are participants in this market of services. The fact that at the moment there is no indication of the form in which such benefits manifest themselves raises doubts that competition in the market will be equal [15, pp. 284-287].

Other scientists note that an attempt to introduce the so-called "lawyer monopoly" in the legislation has already been carried out: this idea was enshrined in part 5 of Article 59 of the Arbitration Procedural Code [16, pp. 12-17], which provided that the arbitral tribunal should have its own heads, employees or lawyers as representatives of organizations.

However, the introduction of this rule led to the inability of lawyers who did not have the status of lawyers and were not employees of the organization to protect the interests of the organization, as a result of which cases of concluding short-term, sometimes one-day, employment contracts bypassing this rule became more frequent. Later, this norm was canceled by the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – the Russian Federation) No. 15-p dated July 16, 2004, recognized as contrary to the Constitution of the Russian Federation [17].

Today, it is worth noting the existence of a monopoly of lawyers in Uzbekistan. For example, in a sociological survey, 94% of respondents favored maintaining a monopoly on protecting the rights and legitimate interests of business entities in court only through a lawyer. That is, today respondents recognize that such a monopoly is a positive situation, lawyers working in legal consulting structures cannot be present in court.

It should be said that there are approaches to support the lawyer monopoly and, conversely, the absolute liberalization of the legal services market, even providing representation in courts to lawyers of commercial organizations providing legal advice. They can be divided into five approaches.

Representatives of the first approach note the need for legislative regulation of the provision of legal assistance with simultaneous amendments to civil proceedings, economic proceedings, criminal proceedings, administrative proceedings, the bar and a number of other normative legal acts aimed at determining the participation in court proceedings only of persons with the status of a lawyer. This opinion (various aspects), in particular, was supported by the President of the Bar Chamber of the Russian Federation E.V. Semenyako, as well as scientists N.N. Klane, Y.S. Premilov [18, p. 30].

The authors, who adhere to the second point of view (V.N. Burobin and others), argue that lawyers can work in parallel with both law associations and law firms, only for this it is necessary to adopt a special law on legal assistance [13, p. 30].

The third approach (Y.S. Pilipenko, S.G. Pepelyaev, A.S. Savich) allows the integration of commercial and non-commercial principles in legal activity, but defends the point of view according to which the priority remains with lawyers as a special subject [19, p. 25].



The fourth point of view, supported by E.N. Shestakov and representatives of consulting law firms, rejects the idea of introducing private practicing lawyers into any legal associations, and instead proposes to combine consulting organizations into a single self-regulating structure [20, p. 89].

Many experts pointing to the fifth point of view believe that there is no need to reform the system of legal activity at all, since the legal services market itself regulates supply and demand in the legal services segment through the laws of economics, and practicing lawyers with lawyers can successfully work in parallel [21, pp. 152-179].

Despite the fact that the importance of legal activity in ensuring the legality of the activities of business entities is very high, work has already begun on the gradual restriction and loss of monopoly order in this area. Today, practical steps are being taken to regulate the legal advice system and bring it closer to the legal system. For example, chapter 5 of the draft Concept for the development of the Institute of Advocacy in the Republic of Uzbekistan, developed by the Chamber of Lawyers, referred to as "establishing control over the activities of lawyers of organizations of legal consultants", paragraph 5.1 of which notes that the current rule governing the activities of lawyers of organizations of legal consultants does not provide certain educational and qualification requirements for lawyers engaged in legal advice in such organizations, it does not establish disciplinary liability, on the other hand, such a situation can negatively affect the quality of legal services provided by them and increase distrust of the legal profession [22].

However, professional lawyers seriously object to some provisions of the concept. According to the legal community, the proposed reform may lead to a violation of the constitutional rights to free choice of work and profession In many foreign countries, lawyers obey the code of professional ethics or similar rules and adhere to uniform standards of professional legal practice [23]. This is aimed at ensuring the quality and high standards of lawyers, whose activities are regulated by uniform legislation. In addition, it also protects the interests of individuals expressing trust. Due to the importance of the legal profession, it cannot be denied that legal activity must be carried out in accordance with certain rules and in compliance with certain standards.

Lawyers consider it necessary to complete the proposed reform as soon as possible, given that it is inextricably linked to judicial reform, which has been going on for more than twenty years. Including "uniform and mandatory rules for admission to the profession of professional provision of qualified legal assistance, a single internal corporate charter and rules of control of a self-regulating organization, a single procedure for providing professional corporate legal assistance and quality criteria, as well as general grounds for exclusion from the profession, dispute resolution between members of the corporation and their proxies. The issue of introducing a mechanism that allows to fully solve the problem of meeting the needs of citizens and organizations in qualified legal assistance (including, pro bono) is being urgently raised" [24, pp. 3-8].

The content of the discussion on the analysis of legal literature and the need to introduce a "lawyer monopoly" suggests that among the main advantages of introducing a "lawyer monopoly" are the following:

- since lawyers and other persons providing legal services who currently do not have the status of lawyers are outside the scope of current legislation, there is a need to protect persons expressing trust from unqualified legal assistance and fraudsters. In turn, the activities of lawyers are regulated by the current legislation;
- 2) there is a need to form a qualified field of legal assistance that operates in accordance with uniform rules and standards;
- 3) the need to introduce a code of professional ethics for a lawyer, providing for the organization of internal and external corporate control (with the participation of the state) over persons who are the main subjects of providing qualified legal assistance, a mechanism for bringing lawyers together with lawyers to disciplinary responsibility in order to evade the necessary performance of their duties.



In addition, according to A.D. Boikov, it is necessary to agree that "the requirements of the principle of legality and social responsibility apply to the bar" [25]. For a lawyer in the country, the state of legality is the most important criterion for the effectiveness of his work in the field of human rights. But by itself, this activity cannot go beyond the law. The means of legal protection of the interests of a person expressing trust cannot contradict the laws, morals and moral norms of the legal profession. Going beyond the legal framework in the organization, provision and evaluation of legal assistance can have negative consequences for a lawyer, up to the loss of his state-legal status.

At the same time, scientists reasonably claim: "the problem of the lawyer's monopoly is one of the most acute problems for the legal community, which has divided current lawyers and lawyers into two opposite poles. Lawyers who do not have the status of lawyers accuse the legal community of lobbying their economic interests in terms of monopolizing the segment of judicial representation in the legal services market" [26].

The researchers assess the following main reasons that prevent the introduction of a "lawyer monopoly" or prevent its inclusion:

firstly, the lack of the necessary number of lawyers to meet the needs of all persons in need of qualified legal assistance;

secondly, the fact that the various taxes, fees and revenues paid by lawyers are at a high level;

thirdly, the high level of payment for legal aid established in legal entities, other organizations and legal service organizations;

fourth, the lack of influence of a person with the status of a lawyer on the quality of legal assistance provided to him, frequent cases of poor-quality legal assistance provided by persons with the status of a lawyer;

fifthly, in the case of reform, the risk of business loss by business entities with their own business and relevant legal knowledge increases, as well as the risk of violation of the rights of consumers interested in relatively cheap service [27, pp. 7-13].

Summarizing the above points and considerations, instead of concluding, it can be noted that today the importance of legal assistance to business entities is expressed in the following:

first of all, lawyers with their own highly qualified, necessary professional qualifications and skills ensure that legal assistance will be provided at the level of quality and high qualification;

secondly, acting on the basis of the constituent legal framework, it carries massive legal obligations (for example, the obligation to protect a suspect, accused, defendant in criminal cases);

thirdly, lawyers have a number of advantages that are fixed by law in accordance with their status (attorney-client privilege, attorney's immunity, lawyer's request, etc.), which increases their value for the business entity several times;

fourthly, in the legal services market, in addition to lawyers, legal services are provided to business entities by organizations of legal consultants, however, the legislation establishes that only lawyers can engage in professional activity as a contractual (voluntary) representative when considering cases in court.

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