The Swiss Federal Supreme Court
The Third Power within the Federal State

2019

Justice is the greatest of all virtues
Praeclarissima virtus est iustitia

Mural dating from 1583, located at the former High Court building in Vicosoprano (Bergell, Grisons)

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The History of the Federal Supreme Court

Established in 1848

The Federal Supreme Court was established in 1848 by the Swiss Constitution of 12 September 1848, which transformed the previous federation of states into a single federal state in the wake of the Civil War. It was tasked with «the administration of justice to the extent that this is a federal concern». However, the powers of the then Federal Supreme Court were limited in scope. It handed down rulings primarily in civil-law disputes between the cantons and the Confederation and in cases involving political crimes against the Confederation and infringements of the fundamental rights enshrined in the new Constitution insofar as these matters were referred to it for resolution by the Federal Assembly. It was composed of eleven non-permanent Justices and sat as the situation demanded in the Swiss capital or, when required by the cases to be heard, at another location designated by the President.

The Federal Supreme Court becomes a permanent court and is tasked with a new remit

The Federal Supreme Court became a permanent court in 1875. This change was precipitated by the new duties conferred upon it by the Swiss Constitution of 29 May 1874. It was tasked with ruling on jurisdictional conflicts between the federal and cantonal authorities and constitutional disputes among the cantons. Its remit also extended to ruling on appeals lodged by citizens against the decisions of cantonal authorities regarding the infringement of constitutional rights but also on matters involving violations of concordats, treaties and federal laws. As a consequence, it became a true supreme court of the Confederation whose task it was to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of Swiss citizens and to ensure the uniform application of Swiss federal law. In the decades following the duties of the Federal Supreme Court expanded continuously owing to the new legislative powers of the Confederation.

In 1875 the Federal Supreme Court had nine ordinary Justices, who were prohibited from pursuing any other occupation, and two court clerks. In time the number of Justices and court clerks had to be continuously adapted to accommodate the Court’s growing case load. It also became necessary to create divisions because the number of cases to be heard no longer permitted them to be adjudicated in plenary sessions.

Lausanne was designated as the seat of the permanent Federal Supreme Court. The Court first moved into quarters in Casino de Derrière-Bourg, a building formerly located in the vicinity of Place St. François. This building has since been demolished. The Court then moved into the purpose-built Palais de Justice in Montbenon, where it sat for the next forty years. In 1926 it moved its seat to the Mon-Repos courthouse, built in the park of the same name.

The Federal Supreme Court today

The Swiss Constitution of 18 April 1999 confirmed and consolidated the role of the Federal Supreme Court. It stipulates that the Federal Supreme Court is the supreme judicial body of the Swiss Confederation in civil, criminal, administrative and constitutional matters, and that it administers itself independently and is answerable only to the law. The Federal Supreme Court exercises the administrative supervision over the other federal courts.

In 2007, the former Federal Insurance Court, which was established in 1917 and seated in Lucerne, was integrated in the Federal Supreme Court. Its duties are now discharged by the social insurance law divisions of the Federal Supreme Court. These divisions remained in Lucerne and are located in the former administrative building of the Gotthard Railway Company on the shores of Lake Lucerne.

The Role of the Federal Supreme Court

The Federal Supreme Court ensures uniform application of Swiss federal law within the 26 cantons of Switzerland.

The highest judicial authority within the federal state

As the court of final appeal, the Federal Supreme Court issues final rulings on disputes between individuals, between cantons, between individuals and the government, as well as between cantons and the federal authorities. In this function, the Federal Supreme Court covers all legal domains in principle: civil and criminal law, debt enforcement and bankruptcy law, as well as public and administrative law (including social insurance law). The Federal Supreme Court is responsible in particular for protecting the constitutional rights of citizens.

Virtually no cases are heard in Lausanne or Lucerne in the first instance. Initially, cases are dealt with mostly by the courts of first instance, whose designations vary from canton to canton, and by the cantonal authorities responsible for administrative law. In all civil or criminal matters, the cantons are required to additionally establish a second (higher) judicial instance. In public law, the cantonal administrative and social insurance courts serve as courts of first instance to the Federal Supreme Court. Apart from a few exceptions, other judicial authorities at the federal level also serve as the first instance before cases are referred to the Federal Supreme Court.

Interpreting the law takes front and centre stage

The work of the Federal Supreme Court varies considerably from the cantonal and federal courts of first instance. The federal Justices do not re-establish the facts of the case; they can be corrected by the Federal Supreme Court only if it finds that they have been incorrectly established in a flagrant manner by the lower court, or that they have been based on a violation of law.

The federal Justices only address questions of law. The Federal Supreme Court ensures that federal law is uniformly applied and that the boundaries set by federal law are not transgressed in the course of the enactment, application and interpretation of law and the administration of justice. As a result of its rulings, the Federal Supreme Court contributes to the development of law and its adaptation to changing circumstances.

Appeals

Anyone seeking justice essentially has four legal recourses for lodging an appeal with the Federal Supreme Court: the three types of standard appeal (relating to civil, criminal and public law disputes) and the subsidiary constitutional appeal. Under the three standard appeal categories, any type of grievance is admissible: incorrect application of the law and infringement of constitutional rights. This makes it easier for individuals to have recourse to the law.

If a standard appeal is not admissible, then cantonal rulings may be appealed by means of the subsidiary constitutional appeal. This appeal only addresses issues of the infringement of constitutional rights.

Rulings

The divisions of the Federal Supreme Court generally render their rulings in panels consisting of three Justices. Five Justices may sit on a panel when fundamental legal issues are at stake or when one of the Justices requests this.

In the great majority of cases rulings are passed by way of circular. This is not possible unless all of the Justices agree to the proposed draft ruling.

Rulings are handed down in public deliberation when the Justices are not unanimous, the division president orders this or when one of the Justices requests this. In this case the Justices deliberate and render their decision in the presence of the public. First the draft ruling and any draft opposing ruling are read, and then the other Justices express their opinions. In doing so, each of the Justices speaks in their native language. When the deliberation is concluded, a vote is taken by a show of hands.

Decision

Generally speaking, the Federal Supreme Court renders its rulings in the language of the decision being contested. However, the parties to the proceeding are free to draft their petitions in one of Switzerland's four national languages; the petitions are not translated.

If an appeal is granted, the lower courts need as a general rule only re-examine the case if the Federal Supreme Court is unable to rule itself due to insufficient facts.

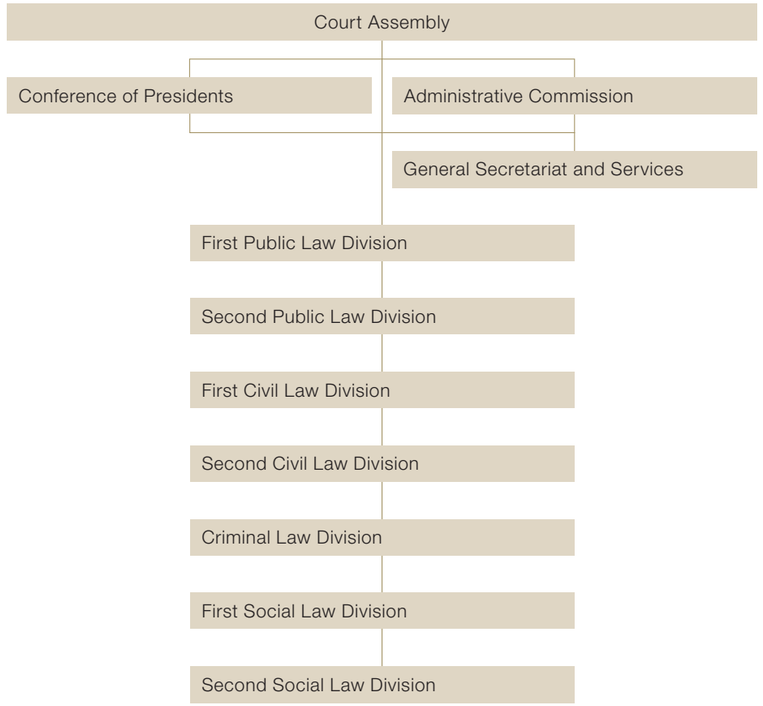
Federal Criminal Court, Federal Administrative Court and Federal Patent Court

Judicial reform saw the creation of further federal judicial authorities. The Federal Criminal Court in Bellinzona officially opened its doors on 1 April 2004. The Federal Administrative Court temporarily opened its doors on 1 January 2007 in Bern and was relocated to its definitive site in St. Gallen in mid-2012. The Federal Patent Court opened its doors at the same location at the beginning of 2012. In some cases, the decisions of these three federal courts of first instance may be appealed to the Federal Supreme Court. All three courts are subject to the administrative supervision of the Federal Supreme Court.

The European context

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which has been in force since 1953, protects basic human rights at a European level. Switzerland has been a member of the Council of Europe since 1963 and therefore must guarantee the protection of human rights as provided for by this Convention. Under certain conditions a party may appeal a decision of the Swiss Federal Supreme Court to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and request that it should be reviewed to determine if a violation of the Convention has occurred.

Organisation



Supervisory bodies

The supervisory bodies are the Court Assembly, the Administrative Commission and the Conference of Presidents. The Court Assembly consists of all ordinary Justices and is mainly responsible for the Court's internal organisation. It designates the divisions, appoints their presidents and issues the procedural rules for the Court. The Administrative Commission is responsible for managing the Court's administration. It is comprised of the President of the Federal Supreme Court, the Vice-President and one other Justice. The Conference of Presidents consists of the presidents of the various divisions and is responsible for the coordination of judicial decision-making among the divisions. The President of the Federal Supreme Court acts in an advisory capacity. The Secretary-General participates in meetings held by the Court Assembly, the Administrative Commission and the Conference of Presidents in an advisory capacity.

Federal Justices

A total of 38 Justices sit on the bench of the Federal Supreme Court. Currently 14 women and 24 men serve as federal Justices. Of the federal Justices currently serving on the bench, three have Italian, 12 French and 23 German as their native language. The Justices are forbidden from engaging in any gainful occupation outside of their work as federal Justices. The federal Justices have the status of government officials.

The federal Justices are proposed by the Judicial Committee and elected by the United Federal Assembly (National Council and Council of States) for a term of office of six years. They can be re-elected an unlimited number of times until the age of 68. Anyone who has the right to vote at the federal level may be elected a federal Justice; the law does not prescribe any legal training. In practice, however, only proven jurists from the judiciary, practicing legal profession, academia or from the public sector are elected.

Deputy federal Justices

The Federal Supreme Court numbers 19 deputy Justices, who are also elected by the Federal Assembly. Of the deputy Justices currently sitting on the bench, two have Italian, seven French and ten German as their native language. Ten of the deputy Justices are women. The deputy federal Justices serve in a part-time capacity, otherwise they are professors, practicing lawyers or cantonal justices. As a general rule, they serve as replacements for Justices who have recused themselves or have taken ill, or when the Court's docket has become overly full. In the proceedings on which they sit they have the same rights and obligations as the ordinary federal Justices.

Court clerks

The court clerks are the judicial staff of the Justices. Previously their primary task was to draft the written judgements after the decisions had been rendered in court. Due to the increasing case load of the Court, the court clerks are now also tasked with drafting the draft ruling in many cases. They also are involved in an advisory capacity in the preparatory stages of proceedings and during deliberations. They draft the final text of rulings based on the remarks made by the members of the division. Currently 132 court clerks serve on the Federal Supreme Court, approximately half of whom are women.

Presidency of the Court’s Assembly

President and Vice-President

Ulrich Meyer
President

Martha Niquille
Vice-President

At the suggestion of the Federal Supreme Court, the United Federal Assembly elects the President and the Vice-President from the pool of ordinary Justices. They are elected for a term of two years and can be re-elected once. The President chairs both the Court Assembly and the Administrative Commission and is the official representative of the Federal Supreme Court.

The Federal Supreme Court divisions

The 38 federal Justices are elected by the United Federal Assembly. The Federal Supreme Court is composed of seven divisions, with five or six Justices each. The tasks of the divisions differ according to the legal domains they cover (public law, private law, criminal law and social law).

First Public Law Division

Guarantee of ownership, national and regional spatial planning and construction law, environmental protection, political rights, international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, road traffic (including the revocation of driving licences), citizenship, guarantees of due process. In criminal proceedings: appeals against interlocutory rulings.

Second Public Law Division

Rights of foreigners, taxes and duties, public commercial law (e.g. state liability, subsidies, radio and television), fundamental rights such as freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of language and economic freedom.

First Civil Law Division

Code of Obligations (law of obligations), insurance contracts, intellectual property rights, competition law and international arbitration.

Second Civil Law Division

Civil Code (law of persons, family law, law of succession and property law), proceedings concerning debt recovery and bankruptcy.

Criminal Law Division

Criminal matters arising from substantive criminal law (including the execution of penalties and measures) and from the Code of Criminal Procedure (except appeals against interlocutory rulings in criminal proceedings).

First Social Law Division

Disability insurance, accident insurance, unemployment insurance, cantonal social insurance, family allowances, social assistance, military insurance and civil service law.

Second Social Law Division

Old-age and survivors’ insurance, disability insurance, loss-of-income payments, supplementary benefits, health insurance and occupational pensions.

Federal Justices, Deputy Federal Justices and Court Clerks

First Public Law Division | Federal Justices

François Chaix

Thomas Merkli

Peter Karlen

Jean Fonjallaz

Lorenz Kneubühler

Giuseppe Muschietti

Deputy Federal Justices

Marie-Claire Pont Veuthey

Richard Weber

Court Clerks

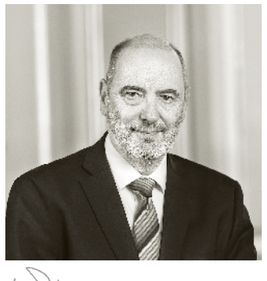
Georg Pfäffli	Christian Parmelin	Dominique Alvarez
Peter Uebersax	Nils Stohner	Christine Sauthier
Matthias Härri	Beat Dold	Pascal Baur
Olivier Kurz	Bénédicte Tornay Schaller	
Tiziano Crameri	Adrian Mattle	
Marc Forster	Sandrine Arn	**Court Clerk Pool**
Andreas Gilg Störi	Karin Sidi-Ali	Andrea Gadoni
Alexandra Gerber	Franz Kessler Coendet	Mélanie Nasel
Philipp Gelzer	Fabienne Kropf	Alexandre Tinguely (from 1.9.19)

Second Public Law Division | Federal Justices

Hans Georg Seiler

Andreas Zünd

Florence Aubry Girardin



Yves Donzallaz

Thomas Stadelmann

Stephan Haag

Deputy Federal Justices

Franco Ramelli

Rolf Benz

Federica De Rossa Gisimundo

Cynthia Christen

Markus Berger

Court Clerks

Andreas Feller

Raffaella Ieronimo Perroud

Thomas Hugi Yar

Peter Klopfenstein

Andreas Matter

Emmanuelle Jolidon

Claude-Emmanuel Dubey

Christoph Errass

Martin Kocher

Stéphanie Vuadens

Nadine Mayhall

Christophe Tissot-Daguette

Andrea Ermotti

Eleonor Kleber

Sarah Straub

Alexandre de Chambrier

Cornel Quinto

Eloi Jeannerat

Moritz Seiler

Arthur Brunner

Court Clerk Pool

Marco Savoldelli

Daniela Ivanov

First Civil Law Division | Federal Justices

Christina Kiss

Kathrin Klett

Fabienne Hohl

Martha Niquille

Marie-Chantal May Canellas

Deputy Federal Justices

Franco Ramelli

Bernard Abrecht

Court Clerks

Antoine Thélin

Géraldine Godat Zimmermann

Giorgio Piatti

Thomas Widmer

Christian Luczak

Matthias Leemann

Emmanuel Piaget

Diane Monti

Christian Kölz

Daniel Brugger

Tanja Schmidt

Linus Hug

Nicolas Curchod

Matthias Gross

Second Civil Law Division | Federal Justices

Christian Herrmann

Elisabeth Escher

Luca Marazzi

Nicolas von Werdt

Felix Schöbi

Grégory Bovey

Deputy Federal Justices

Thomas Geiser

Beatrice Van de Graaf

Aileen Truttmann

Court Clerks

Andrea Braconi

Adrian von Roten

Dominique Mairot

Véronique Jordan

Marco Levante

Urs Peter Möckli

Ombline de Poret Bortolaso

Simon Zingg

Valentin Monn

Flavia Antonini

Annick Achtari

Sabrina Gauron-Carlin

Caroline Hildbrand

Debora Friedli-Bruggmann

Marie Dolivo

Ralph Ludwig Buss

Stéphanie Feinberg

Gina Gutzwiller

Court Clerk Pool

Lorenz Sieber

Criminal Law Division | Federal Justices

Christian Denys

Laura Jacquemoud-Rossari

Niklaus Oberholzer

Yves Rüedi

Monique Jametti

Deputy Federal Justices

Danièle Brahier Franchetti	Beata Wasser-Keller
Yvona Griesser	Sonja Koch
Cordula Lötscher	

Court Clerks

Véronique Paquier-Boinay	Ludivine Livet	Noemi Rohrer
Markus Boog	Thomas Held	
Walter Briw	Corinne Andres	
Marlène Kistler Vianin	Alexander Moses	
Mengia Ladina Arquint Hill	Véronique Klinke	**Court Clerk Pool**
Damien Vallat	Aude Bichovsky Suligoj	Andrea Gadoni
Rosaria Sara Ortolano Ribordy	Caroline Schär	Adreas Traub
Roberto Faga	Stéphanie Musy	Vanessa Thalmann
Lea Unseld	Niklaus Matt	Stefan Weber
Doris Pasquini	Alexandre Dyens	Alexandre Tinguely (until 31.8.19)
Anne Cherpillod	Numa Graa	Flavia Bianchi

First Social Law Division | Federal Justices

Marcel Maillard

Jean-Maurice Frésard

Alexia Heine

Martin Wirthlin

Daniela Viscione

Deputy Federal Justices

Andreas Brunner

Christian Joël Geiser

Pierre Boinay

Court Clerks

Patrick Beauverd

Claudia Kopp Käch

Roger Grünvogel

Elisabeth Berger Götz

Isabel von Zwehl

Dorothea Riedi Hunold

Beatrice Polla

Christian Hochuli

Jaromir Jancar

Christoph Grunder

Claudia Durizzo

Silvia Schüpfer

Mélanie Fretz Perrin

André Nabold

Ares Bernasconi

Jenny Castella

Franziska Martha Betschart

Philipp Wüest

Selin Elmiger-Necipoglu

Court Clerk Pool

Sandrine Paris

Second Social Law Division | Federal Justices

Brigitte Pfiffner

Ulrich Meyer

Lucrezia Glanzmann

Francesco Parrino

Margit Moser-Szeless

Deputy Federal Justices

Andreas Brunner

Christian Joël Geiser

Pierre Boinay

Court Clerks

Rolf Widmer

Jean-Marc Berthoud

Josef Fessler

Marcel Attinger

Brigitte Keel Baumann

Petra Fleischanderl

Florian Cretton

Johanna Dormann

Francesca Cometta Rizzi

Lukas Grünenfelder

Klaus Williner

Olivier Bleicker

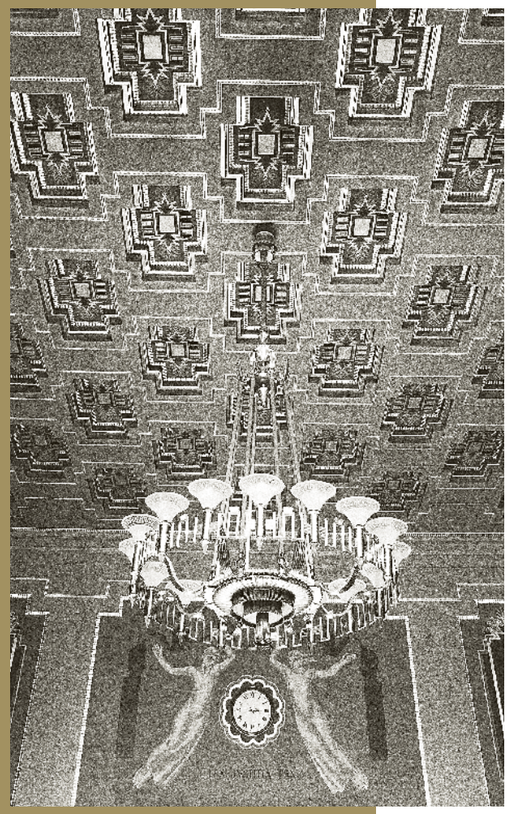
Janina Huber

Diana Oswald

Stéphanie Perrenoud

Barbara Stanger

Nicole Möckli



Secretary-General's Office and Services

- Secretary-General
  - Secretariat, Support Staff, Media Relations
- Legal Information and Documentation
- IT
- Resources
  - Human Resources
  - Financial Resources
- Operations
  - Court Registries
    - 5 Divisions Court Registries
  - Court Registry and Administration Lucerne
    - Maintenance, Security and Ushers
  - Maintenance and Security
  - Ushers

The Secretary-General's Office is the administrative headquarters for the Court Assembly, the Administrative Commission, the Conference of Presidents and the President of the Federal Supreme Court. It provides support for all staffing, organisational, administrative and financial matters. It is also the steering and supervisory body for the court services.

The court services support the Justices and the court clerks in their judicial activities. The scientific services provide the key tools for office communication, file administration, the library, legal databases, etc. The chancelleries manage the court files and are responsible for issuing the rulings. The logistics services ensure that the Court can operate in an orderly and smooth fashion.

General Secretariat | Secretary-General and Division Heads

Paul Tschümperlin
Secretary-General

Jacques Bühler
Deputy Secretary-General

Lorenzo Egloff
Head of Resources

Peter Josi
Assistant Secretary-General,
Media and Communication

Rebecca Jutzet
Assistant Secretary-General

Marc-Antoine Borel
Assistant Secretary-General

Services | Service Heads

Michel Riedo | Legal Information and Documentation

Daniel Brunner | IT

Marcello Trianni | Human Resources

Pierre-Alain Joye | Financial Resources

Thierry Leresche | Maintenance and Security

Jérôme Eltschinger | Ushers

Silvia Gantner | Court Registries Lausanne

Andrea Weber Polz | Office of the General Secretariat

Marie-Catherine Müller-Bouquet | Court Registry and Administration Service Lucerne

Facts and Figures

History

1848	With the new Federal Constitution the transition from a confederation to a federal state is realised and a non-permanent supreme court is introduced.
1874	As a result of a constitutional amendment, the Federal Supreme Court becomes a permanent institution.
1917	The Federal Insurance Court is established in Lucerne.
1959	The Council of Europe founds the European Court of Human Rights.
1968	The Federal Insurance Court becomes an independent division of the Federal Supreme Court, but remains in Lucerne.
1998	The European Court of Human Rights becomes a permanent institution based in Strasbourg.
2000	The Swiss electorate approves judicial reform. The newly extended buildings in Lausanne are inaugurated.
2004	The Federal Criminal Court is established in Bellinzona.
2007	The Federal Insurance Court is merged with the Federal Supreme Court: the two new Social Law Divisions are based in Lucerne. The Federal Administrative Court is established.
2012	The Federal Patent Court is established in St. Gallen. The Federal Administrative Court relocates to its definitive site in St. Gallen.

The Swiss Federal Supreme Court in 2018

Pending cases as of 1st January 2017	New cases filed	Decided	Pending cases as of 31st December 2019
First Public Law Division			
424	1295	1314	405
Second Public Law Division			
584	1235	1182	637
First Civil Law Division			
306	757	771	292
Second Civil Law Division			
326	1301	1275	352
Criminal Law Division			
681	1389	1602	468
First Social Law Division			
355	906	926	335
Second Social Law Division			
326	905	959	272
Others			
4	7	11	0
Total			
3006	7795	8040	2761

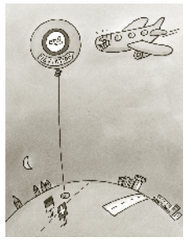
Extracts from the Court's Rulings

The rulings handed down by the Federal Supreme Court extend to all conceivable situations in life, as the following selection from the wide variety of the Court's rulings shows.

Ballot measure on applications for naturalisation

ATF 129 I 217 of 9 July 2003, First Public Law Division

In a ballot measure the voters of a community approved the naturalisation of Italians and voted against the naturalisation of persons from the former Yugoslavia. The rejection of the appellant's application for naturalisation was appealed to the Federal Supreme Court. The Court ruled that this violated the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of a person's origin (article 8(2) of the Swiss Constitution) and one's entitlement to a reasoned decision (article 29(2) of the Swiss Constitution).



Airport operating regulations

ATF 137 II 58 of 22 December 2010, First Public Law Division

Germany unilaterally introduced flight restrictions in German airspace for flights approaching and departing from Zürich-Kloten. The Federal Supreme Court was unable to deal with this matter. However, it was subsequently tasked with hearing a case involving southerly approaches introduced under «preliminary operating regulations» enacted by Flughafen Zürich AG, the operator of the Zürich-Kloten Airport. This caused approaching planes to fly over numerous residential areas. The Federal Supreme Court found that southerly approaches were permitted to a limited extent but that no new capacity could be approved. Definitive operating regulations were to be coordinated with the (pending) proceeding involving SAIP planning (SAIP = Sectoral Aviation Infrastructure Plan).

Entitlement to assistance when in need

ATF 130 I 71 of 14 January 2004, Second Public Law Division

A man's application for public assistance was granted subject to his participation in an employment programme. The man refused to participate on the grounds that he had «issues with military/governmental institutions of coercion». The Federal Supreme Court found that discontinuing public assistance did not violate article 12 of the Swiss Constitution (right to assistance when in situations of need).

Sterilisation omitted; indemnification of costs for the support of an (unplanned) child

ATF 132 III 359 of 20 December 2005, First Civil Division (now: First Civil Law Division)

During her second Caesarean section a woman wanted to have a tubal ligation performed so she could not have any more children but the doctor forgot to perform the procedure. The result: the woman gave birth to a third child. In its ruling the Federal Supreme Court held that although the child did not constitute damage or loss the hospital was nevertheless compelled to compensate the parents for the child's maintenance costs.

Owner of access road bothered by leaves falling from neighbour's branches projecting over the road

ATF 131 III 505 of 16 June 2005, Second Civil Division (now: Second Civil Law Division)

The owner of an access road in an exclusive residential area was irritated at the leaves that fell onto the street from a neighbour's trees in autumn. According to the Federal Supreme Court no excessively high emission was involved, which is why the woman was not allowed to cut off the branches extending over the road.

Fare evasion

ATF 137 IV 99 of 25 January 2011, Criminal Law Division

A woman was riding on a public bus without a valid ticket. According to the Public Transport Act in effect at the time, whoever did not validate their ticket themselves was prosecuted. However, the law did not provide for any punishment for those engaging in fare evasion, which is why the Court found that the woman could not be punished. NB: the law has since been amended.

Procurement of proof of an inability to work by a private detective

ATF 132 V 241 of 20 March 2006, First Division of the former Federal Insurance Court (now: First Social Law Division)

A mechanic claimed that he was unable to perform heavy physical labour on account of an accident. However, a private detective hired by the liability insurer filmed him while performing demanding garden work. The Federal Supreme Court held that the evidence obtained in this manner was lawful and could be used by the Swiss National Accident Insurance Fund (SUVA).

Obligation to pay benefits for search and rescue costs

ATF 135 V 88 of 27 January 2009, Second Social Law Division

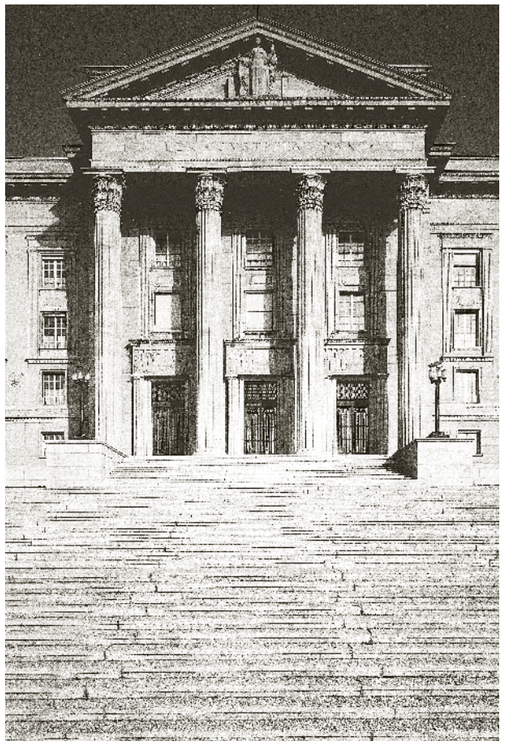
A mountain climber was caught unawares by fog at an altitude of 3150 meters. He called the emergency number (144) and was evacuated unharmed by helicopter. The Federal Supreme Court ruled that the climber's health insurance did not have to pay for the rescue because no injury to the man's health or an accident had taken place.

The Court's Buildings

The Mon-Repos Building in Lausanne

The Federal Supreme Court's Mon-Repos Building houses 28 magistrates and 200 staff members, and is a symbol of the Swiss Constitutional State.

The current Mon-Repos Building is – after the Casino Building at Place St. François and the court building in Montbenon – the third Federal Supreme Court building in Lausanne. The Court moved into this building designed by architects Prince, Béguin and Laverrière in 1927. Due to the pressures of a growing case load and the resulting increase in work towards the end of the last century, it was necessary to rent external office space and, as a permanent solution, forge plans to extend this court building. In 2000, two additional wings were inaugurated. Since then, the 28 Justices and the approx. 200 members of staff again work under the same roof.



The Gotthard Building in Lucerne

Upon being established, the former Federal Insurance Court was located at Adligenswilerstrasse in Lucerne for 85 years. At the end of 2002, it was transferred to the Gotthard Building, then owned by the Swiss Federal Railways and centrally located at the lakeside. Designed in 1887 by architect Gustav Mossdorf as an administrative building for the historic Gotthard Railway Company, it was extensively renovated and restored in 2002. Since 2007 it houses the two Social Law Divisions, which ensued from the former Federal Insurance Court. The Gotthard Building is home to 10 federal Justices and 80 members of staff.

Swiss Federal Supreme Court

Av. du Tribunal-fédéral 29, CH-1000 Lausanne 14
Telephone +41(0)21 318 91 11 Fax +41(0)21 323 37 00

Schweizerhofquai 6, CH-6004 Lucerne
Telephone +41(0)41 419 35 55

E-mail: direktion@bger.ch

Documentation

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