

REPORT

ON THE CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING LAWYERS AND SPECIFIC ASPECTS WITHIN THE JUSTICE AREA IN GEORGIA

(Updated on January 2026)

This report provides an overview of the key aspects of the functioning of the Georgian Bar to date.

The Georgian Bar Association (GBA) plays a central role in organizing and overseeing the legal profession in Georgia. As of now, it unites a total of 11, 267 licensed advocates, professionals who have fulfilled the necessary legal education, training, and licensing requirements to practice law in the country. These advocates are legally eligible to represent clients in court, provide legal advice, and participate in various legal proceedings. However, out of the total number of licensed advocates, 5,660 are currently active members of the GBA.

The legal profession in Georgia boasts a history of over a century, while the Georgian Bar Association itself has been in existence for nearly two decades. Over these years, the Georgian Bar has successfully sustained and significantly expanded its activities, ensuring the effective functioning of the crucial institution guarding the rule of law. Georgian Bar Association represents a proactive and efficient self-regulatory body, safeguarding the professional and ethical standards of the legal community in Georgia. Establishing a self-governing entity, uniting legal professionals across the entire nation and gaining international support from esteemed organizations such as the CCBP represent notable achievements. This not only fosters solidarity and collaboration within the legal community but also strengthens the profession as a whole by promoting a unified voice and approach to legal issues. It is noteworthy that these milestones would have been unattainable without the ongoing support on entities such as the CCBP, IBA, AEA-EAL and the national Bars of partner countries.

Prof.Dr. Irakli Kandashvili has been elected as the Chairman of the Georgian Bar Association

In December 2025, Prof.Dr. Irakli Kandashvili was elected as the Chairman of the Georgian Bar Association following the second round of elections. The electoral process was conducted in accordance with the established legal and procedural framework governing the activities of the Georgian Bar Association and was characterized by broad participation of its members. The election resulted in the appointment of new leadership, marking an important development in the institutional life of the Bar Association.

The election of the President is expected to contribute to the further strengthening of the Bar Association's role in safeguarding the independence of the legal profession, enhancing professional standards, and promoting effective self-governance within the legal community.

Recent Developments in the Justice Sector in Georgia and the Role of the Georgian Bar Association

In recent years, Georgia's justice sector has experienced significant developments, reflecting both ongoing challenges and the strengthening of professional legal standards. The Georgian Bar Association has played a proactive and central role in addressing these matters, advocating for the protection of lawyers' rights, upholding professional secrecy, and supporting the rule of law.

Throughout 2024–2025, the GBA actively intervened in multiple cases where lawyers' professional activities were impeded. These included instances of restricted access to clients, interference during investigative actions, and threats or attacks against lawyers. The Association provided legal and collegial support to affected lawyers, coordinated pro bono assistance across major cities, and ensured that detainees received appropriate legal representation. The GBA also maintained a 24/7 hotline to monitor and respond to violations of lawyers' professional rights.

Moreover, GBA was actively cooperating with other stakeholders, including Public Defender's Office in Georgia. On October 8–10, a working meeting was held between the Public Defender of Georgia and lawyers specializing in criminal justice. During the meeting, participants discussed shortcomings identified by the Public Defender's Office, including restrictions on contacting lawyers, confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations, the rights of persons detained under administrative procedures, and other important issues.

GBA held an international conference on the “Convention on the Protection of the Lawyer’s Profession.”

On 8 November 2025, the Georgian Bar Association, in cooperation with the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL), organized an international conference entitled *“The Convention on the Protection of the Lawyer’s Profession: An Effective Instrument for Ensuring the Rule of Law.”* The event also commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Georgian Bar Association, providing an important opportunity to reflect on the progress achieved in strengthening the independence, professionalism, and institutional development of the legal profession in Georgia. The thematic focus of the conference emphasized the significance of international mechanisms designed to safeguard lawyers' rights and ensure that legal professionals can carry out their duties free from undue interference. In this context, special attention was given to Georgia's ratification of the Convention and its wider adoption across the European continent, highlighting the Convention's role as a cornerstone for protecting the legal profession regionally and internationally.

The conference gathered a distinguished group of participants, including presidents and representatives of bar associations from multiple countries, the Vice President of the Council of

Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), the President of LAWASIA, the Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia, as well as an expert from the Council of Europe's Working Group on the Protection of Lawyers (CJ-AV). Their contributions offered comparative insights into best practices, and challenges faced by the legal profession across different jurisdictions.

Overall, the conference served as a high-level platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and strategic reflection. It reinforced the central role of the legal profession in supporting democratic reforms and advancing the rule of law.

Training Series

As part of its continuing legal education program, the Georgian Bar Association conducted a series of trainings on key and current legal topics identified through a prior survey:

- **Collective Labour Disputes** – The training explored issues related to freedom of association, national and international labour standards, and the role of trade unions as representative bodies of employees.
- **Artificial Intelligence in Intellectual Property Law** – Participants discussed the concept of intellectual and creative activity, definitions of copyright, the significance of the author, and legal issues surrounding AI-generated works.
- **Construction Control** – This session focused on types of construction control, the powers of regulatory authorities, and procedures for handling construction violations.

These trainings aim to provide lawyers with practical knowledge on contemporary legal challenges and developments. Each workshop featured both theoretical and practical components.

Additionally, a "Training of Trainers" session focused on labour rights and environmental rights were carried out. These sessions aim to prepare experienced lawyers to serve as trainers themselves, enabling them to **share their knowledge and expertise with colleagues across the legal profession**. By equipping trainers with the necessary skills and up-to-date legal knowledge, the program ensures the **sustainable dissemination of practical legal insights**, strengthens professional capacity within the GBA, and promotes wider understanding of key legal issues among practicing lawyers.

The Introduction of Specialized Practice Areas within the Georgian Bar Association

In 2024, the Georgian Bar Association (GBA), in partnership with Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and the German-Georgian Law Institute, introduced a voluntary system of narrow specialization for lawyers. The model was developed following an in-depth study of the German and Swiss systems and is designed to provide lawyers with advanced, practice-oriented qualifications in specific areas of law.

In 2025, the GBA organized several sector-specific specialization courses, including **Construction and Architectural Law** and **Tax Law**. Upon successful completion, participants received a qualification certificate issued by the *Institut für Anwaltsrecht* at LMU Munich and the German-Georgian Law Institute, and were officially granted the status of **Specialized Lawyer** in the respective field. To date, around 100 lawyers have obtained this status. Moreover, Lawyers who successfully completed the specialized course in Construction and Architectural Law within the framework of professional specialization for attorneys visited Germany on an official trip.

The GBA continues to expand this initiative in response to the growing demand for sector-specific expertise within the legal community. Building on the success of the first specialization programs, the Bar Association is currently developing new specialization courses in Labour Law and Medical Law.

International Cooperation

Following his election as the Chairman of the Georgian Bar Association, Prof. Irakli Kandashvili has actively engaged in strengthening the Association's international cooperation. During the reporting period, a particular emphasis was placed on maintaining and expanding dialogue with international and regional partners, including professional associations, international organizations, and donor institutions active in the field of justice and the rule of law.

Prof. Kandashvili participated in and held a series of overview and coordination meetings with international partners aimed at discussing ongoing and prospective areas of cooperation. These meetings focused on key priorities such as the independence of the legal profession, professional ethics, continuous legal education, access to justice, and alignment with European standards.

Through these engagements, the Georgian Bar Association reaffirmed its commitment to constructive international cooperation and the exchange of best practices, while exploring opportunities for joint initiatives, capacity-building activities, and expert support. The meetings also served to ensure continuity of cooperation and to align future activities with the strategic priorities of the Georgian Bar Association under the new leadership.