

LEGAL EDUCATION IN WARTIME: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

Modern challenges associated with the full-scale armed aggression of the rf against Ukraine have exacerbated the need for qualitative changes in the legal education system. In conditions of war, the training of lawyers who are able not only to operate with the norms of national legislation, but also to effectively apply the provisions of international humanitarian law becomes particularly relevant. Massive violations of the norms of the Geneva Conventions, in particular the use of prohibited methods of warfare, attacks on civilians and infrastructure, require new knowledge and competencies from legal professionals. Knowledge of international criminal law, the principles of jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, and mechanisms for documenting war crimes are becoming an integral part of the professional training of future lawyers.

Currently, legal education in Ukraine requires a deep transformation, since in addition to fundamental theoretical training, students must be able to acquire practical skills that meet modern conditions of professional activity. Practice-oriented training, simulations of real procedural actions, involvement in the educational process of practicing lawyers (investigators, prosecutors, attorneys, judges) significantly increase the effectiveness of knowledge acquisition and form professional legal thinking. In these conditions, the development of emotional intelligence, the ability to make informed decisions in complex, conflict or crisis situations also becomes extremely important.

Special attention should be paid to the issue of organizing a full-fledged and mandatory internship in legal institutions, because only practical experience allows students to deeply learn the material and form a professional identity. The lack of proper coordination between higher education institutions and legal institutions regarding internships creates social inequality among students and reduces the overall level of their training. Thus, the reform of legal education should be carried out in the direction of forming specialists who meet modern challenges and are able to ensure the rule of law even in conditions of emergency situations, armed conflicts and post-war reconstruction.

1. The importance of studying the norms of international humanitarian law

Legal education has always been the basis for ensuring justice, protecting human rights and upholding the rule of law. It forms generations of specialists who stand guard over the law, protect the freedoms of citizens and ensure the stability of society. It is lawyers who act as mediators between the state and its citizens, transforming the norms of law into real instruments of justice. In peacetime, this is a guarantee of the development of a democratic state, and in times of war, the basis for the struggle for the truth, documenting crimes and bringing aggressors to justice. That is why the importance of legal education in the modern world, especially in the context of military aggression against Ukraine, is gaining particular relevance.

The rf invasion of Ukraine, which began in 2014 with the occupation of Crimea and part of Donbas, and in 2022 escalated into a full-scale war, became an example of gross and systematic violations of international humanitarian law. As a result of armed aggression, the world witnessed the use of prohibited types of weapons, bombing of civilian objects, mass killings of civilians, torture of prisoners and destruction of cultural heritage. Such actions are a direct violation of the norms of international law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their additional protocols. They prove that even in the 21st century, when humanity declares the priority of human rights, the world community is not immune from a return to the cruelty of wars of the last century. This, in turn, confirms the need to train specialists who have knowledge in the field of international and humanitarian law and are able to act professionally in conditions of armed conflicts. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 became a fundamental document in international humanitarian law, in particular, they defined in detail the “serious violations” of the rules of warfare, which today are classified as war crimes¹. They have become the basis for the creation of mechanisms of international justice that allow bringing to justice those guilty of violating humanitarian norms. In the modern world, compliance with these principles is not just a moral requirement – it is an indicator of the civilization of the state.

A modern lawyer must not only know national legislation, but also possess international legal competence. He needs to understand the activities of the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the role of organizations such as the UN, the OSCE or the Council of Europe. Possession of knowledge of the Rome Statute of the ICC, the Geneva Conventions, the Hague Conventions, the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and

¹ Шульга В. О. Порухення прав людини та міжнародне гуманітарне право. *Юридичний вісник*. 2024. С. 113–118. DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/ruuv.v5.2024.20>

Fundamental Freedoms makes it possible to work effectively in the field of international legal relations. For Ukraine, this is of particular importance, because our state is currently an example of how international law can and should work to protect peace, human rights and justice.

International law is the basis for regulating relations between states and an important mechanism for ensuring global security. Its observance determines the level of legal culture of states and societies. Recognition of international norms is a prerequisite for membership in a civilized world community. However, world practice shows that even the most clearly formulated norms can be violated if there are no effective mechanisms for their enforcement. That is why modern lawyers must not only know international standards, but also be able to implement them, identify facts of violations and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. This emphasizes the importance of constant improvement and adaptation of international law to new challenges faced by the world community in the context of modern armed conflicts².

The issue of documenting war crimes, which has today become one of the key areas of legal activity in Ukraine, deserves special attention. In conditions of war, lawyers, investigators, human rights activists and journalists work together, recording facts of violations of international humanitarian law. They collect eyewitness testimony, conduct photo and video recording of crimes, use satellite images, analyze information from open sources. Such work requires a high level of professionalism and in-depth knowledge of the procedures for the admissibility of evidence in international legal proceedings. Each fact must be documented in accordance with the requirements of international standards, because only then can it become evidence in court. That is why the training of future lawyers should include not only the study of theory, but also practical training in the field of documenting war crimes and preparing materials for international courts. International humanitarian law is the main mechanism for protecting human rights and dignity during armed conflicts. Its main goal is to limit the impact of war on the civilian population, protect those who do not participate in hostilities, and ensure humane behavior towards all participants in the conflict³.

Legal education in Ukraine must be transformed in accordance with modern realities. Curriculums should include mandatory courses in international humanitarian and criminal law, study of the practice of the

² Капітан О. І., Саміло А. В. Міжнародне гуманітарне право як результат викликів збройних конфліктів. *Електронне наукове видання «Аналітично-порівняльне правознавство»*. 2024. С. 892–899. DOI <https://doi.org/10.24144/2788-6018.2024.05.136>

³ Мерник А. М. Роль і важливість міжнародного гуманітарного права у захисті прав людини під час війни. *Права людини і громадянина в умовах воєнного стану: виклики та механізми захисту*. 2024. С. 77–80.

International Criminal Court, familiarization with the activities of international human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch. In addition to theoretical training, it is important to develop practical skills: conducting trainings, simulations of trials, participation in international, volunteer projects and internships in human rights centers. This approach will allow to educate a generation of lawyers capable of working both in the national and international legal sphere, ensuring the protection of human rights even in the most difficult conditions. However, along with the reform of curricula, no less important is the change of approaches to the legal education system itself. The modern world requires a lawyer to be flexible, able to quickly adapt to changes and work with large amounts of information. The digitalization of society leads to the emergence of new challenges – from cybercrime to issues of personal data protection and artificial intelligence. Therefore, the educational process should integrate modern technologies: electronic databases of judicial practice, virtual simulators, simulation platforms, interactive training modules. This will help students not only learn the material, but also learn to apply it in real conditions.

An important aspect of the development of legal education is the formation of professional ethics. A lawyer is not just a carrier of knowledge, but a person who has the moral strength to make difficult decisions and remain objective even under pressure. This is especially true in wartime, when lawyers are faced with emotionally difficult situations – crimes against humanity, the death of civilians, the destruction of cities. Therefore, during training, future specialists should be instilled not only legal culture, but also humanistic values - respect for human dignity, tolerance, justice.

At the same time, it is important to take into account international experience. Countries that have experienced military conflicts, such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, or Croatia, already have developed models of post-war justice and training for investigating crimes. Ukraine can use these developments to create its own system of transitional justice, which will allow combining the prosecution of criminals with the restoration of justice, compensation for victims, and social reconciliation. In this process, the role of legal education will be key, because it is trained lawyers who will be able to ensure transparency and legality of procedures.

International cooperation in the field of legal education is no less important. Joint educational programs, double degrees, academic mobility of students and teachers contribute to the exchange of experience and improving the quality of education. Ukrainian universities are increasingly cooperating with European partners, in particular within the framework of the Erasmus + programs. This opens up the opportunity for students to study

at leading universities in Europe, get acquainted with the practice of international law, and return to Ukraine with new knowledge.

International humanitarian law is designed to limit the consequences of armed conflicts, protect those who do not take part in hostilities, and ensure humane treatment of all participants in the conflict. It reminds us that even during war there are moral boundaries that cannot be crossed. For Ukraine, which is currently the arena of the struggle not only for its independence, but also for the preservation of international law, understanding these principles is of great importance. It is thanks to international law that Ukraine can defend its positions on the world stage, demand responsibility from the aggressor, and protect the rights of its citizens. In this context, the training of specialists capable of competently applying the norms of international humanitarian law is a strategic task of the state.

Reforming legal education should become one of the key areas of development of the legal system of Ukraine. It is necessary to expand international cooperation between universities, create joint educational programs with European institutions, and involve foreign specialists and practitioners in teaching. It is important that future lawyers have access to the latest international research, databases, court decisions, and documents of international organizations. This is the only way to ensure the formation of a competitive, modern specialist capable of operating in a globalized world.

Consequently, international humanitarian law and legal education are so closely interconnected that the development of one is impossible without the improvement of the other. Training lawyers who have knowledge in the field of international law is an important condition not only for restoring justice after the war, but also for preventing similar crimes in the future. It is on the level of legal culture, professional ethics and education of lawyers that the world will be able to learn to stop aggression by legal, rather than military, methods.

So, reforming legal education in the direction of strengthening the study of international and humanitarian law is not only a requirement of the time, but also a necessary condition for the formation of future justice. Through the training of competent specialists, it is possible to ensure effective protection of human rights, fair punishment of the guilty and restoration of confidence in the law as the main instrument of peace. Legal education should not just provide knowledge – it should form a generation of lawyers for whom the law, justice and humanity are life principles. It is such specialists who are able to ensure not only compliance with the law, but also the restoration of humanity in wartime, which is the true calling of a modern lawyer and the highest manifestation of his professional mission.

2. Creating appropriate learning conditions for acquiring practical skills

Analyzing the educational process in modern conditions, where the legal system faces new challenges every day, the issue of the quality of legal education is becoming increasingly relevant. Do universities really train real specialists capable of working in martial law? This issue is especially relevant for higher education institutions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, because their graduates must be not only theoretically prepared, but also ready for practical work from the first day of service, in particular – during the investigation of crimes under martial law, but this is not always the case, due to the insufficient level of practical training. Therefore, it is extremely important today to talk about the need to involve current investigators, judges, lawyers and prosecutors in conducting practical classes at universities. It is their experience that will become a bridge between theory and practical activity.

In modern conditions, during martial law, our state and society need highly qualified and practically trained lawyers capable of performing their tasks qualitatively, in particular – and bringing those guilty of committing war crimes to justice. That is why one of the most pressing issues is the significant and qualitative transformation of legal education. In the context of active education reform, legal education deserves special attention, since the reform of legal education is a prerequisite for the sustainability of most reforms in the global state dimension. This is primarily due to the importance of the legal profession, which requires proper training of higher education applicants, the formation of quality knowledge, values, and developed practical skills⁴. Currently, it is not enough for lawyers to have only theoretical knowledge – modern students critically need to acquire practical skills that are as close as possible to the realities of professional activity in order to fulfill their professional duties as quickly and qualitatively as possible. To this end, higher education institutions need to create appropriate and appropriate conditions for the training of future lawyers today. Special attention in the training of future lawyers should be paid to the practical orientation, which is focused on the development of professional legal knowledge, the formation of professional thinking, the ability to apply legal norms to identify problems of legal regulation and ways to solve them⁵.

⁴ Головань Т. Г. Юридична клінічна освіта в контексті забезпечення якості вищої освіти в Україні: виклики сучасності. *Правничий часопис Донецького національного університету імені Василя Стуса*. 2023. С. 46–51. DOI 10.31558/2786-5835.2023.1.1.6

⁵ Сидоркіна Р. Д. Практична орієнтованість навчального процесу як важлива умова забезпечення якості професійної освіти. *Управління якістю освіти: досвід та інновації : матеріали других Всеукраїнських педагогічних читань, присвячених 80-річчю від дня народження доктора педагогічних наук, професора В. С. Пекельної*. Павлоград. 2018. 112 с.

The reform of the National Police of Ukraine and its orientation to European standards in their relations with citizens have necessitated qualitative changes in the professional training of future police officers, in particular, to increase its practical component⁶. One of the important areas of such changes is the conduct of all practical classes in practice-oriented disciplines (such as criminal procedure) using modeling (simulation) of procedural actions at specialized training grounds. Conducting such classes will allow higher education applicants not only to consolidate the already acquired knowledge of procedural legislation, but also to form, under the mentorship of teachers, clear and understandable algorithms of behavior in the conditions of a real legal process. This can be implemented through flexible teaching schedules, providing opportunities for professional implementation through teaching activities, conducting field trips with cadets (in courts, police departments, expert institutions, etc.), modeling real situations during practical classes in certain disciplines with the participation of practitioners in offline or online format at specialized training grounds, during which students will have the opportunity to ask questions that interest them and practitioners will be able to provide constructive feedback on the actions of future lawyers. For example, we can take the training materials and practice of conducting classes on pre-trial investigation at the training grounds of the Dnipro State University of Internal Affairs, which have shown high effectiveness in forming the professional competencies of future investigators. As an example, interrogations of minors using the Green Room and Procedural Interview methods at the Child-Friendly Crisis Room training ground of the Department of Internal Affairs, which is actively used by investigators to conduct interrogations of minors, including those who have suffered from SNPK, and by cadets during their training⁷. The Child-Friendly Crisis Room training ground of the Department of Internal Affairs, was created to train specialists from the National Police and other child protection agencies to practice the algorithm for establishing the fact of unlawful actions against a child. The Child-Friendly Crisis Room for children is two adjacent rooms (a therapy room and a work room) as well as a separate training room where students are placed for classes. Thus, while one group of cadets conducts an interrogation, the other group supervises their work, identifies and records shortcomings and positive aspects, which

⁶ Рогальська В.В. Інтерактивні методи навчання в системі професійної підготовки курсантів з питань процесуального забезпечення прав потерпілих від злочинів. *Інновації в науці та освіті: виклики сучасності: матеріали наукових есе учасників стажування. Варшава-Львів*. 2018. С. 123–128.

⁷ «Кризова кімната, дружна до дитини»: використання у практичній діяльності». *Дніпровський державний університет внутрішніх справ*. URL: <https://dduvs.edu.ua/2024/10/22/kryzova-kimmnata-druzhnya-do-dytyny-vykorystannya-u-praktychnij-diyalnosti/>

are subsequently discussed for educational purposes under the guidance of the instructor⁸.

The university cadets regularly practice conducting interrogations at the specified training ground as part of their training and optional classes⁹. Dnipro State University also actively uses the Educational and Training Complex for Training Investigators in Documenting War Crimes, which consists of 7 model locations: “Place of Mass Execution”, “Place of Burial”, “Place of Remains of Ammunition and Explosives”, “Car with Bullet and Debris Marks”, “Place of Destruction of a Civil Infrastructure Object”, “Place of Shelling”, “Torture Room”. Training at this complex allows you to practice, in typical and atypical conditions, the tactical and procedural features of conducting such investigative (detective) actions as: inspection, search, exhumation, investigative experiment, interrogation, taking testimony from technical devices and technical means that have the functions of photography, film shooting, video recording, or means of photography, film shooting, video recording, etc., the use of certain measures to ensure criminal proceedings (detention and temporary seizure of property), as well as improve your knowledge and skills in recording them, including using unmanned aerial vehicles and the “Investigation Protocols” application¹⁰. At the same time, in our opinion, such innovative approaches should become mandatory for all practical classes in higher education institutions of law in order to train lawyers who are able to act effectively in complex and non-standard situations.

One of the significant problems of modern legal education is its excessive theorization. Students of higher education institutions of law must study a large number of legal doctrines, legislative acts and legal positions of national and international courts, but do not have the opportunity to see their application in practical activities. As a result, graduates face problems during their internship and at the initial stages of work when drafting procedural documents, conducting procedural actions and communicating with participants in criminal proceedings. Applicants for higher education need to hear not only the voice of the academic community, but also experienced

⁸ К.В. Бахчев, В.П. Кононець, Н.В. Павлова, В.В. Плетенець, В.В. Рогальська, А.Г. Гаркуша, М.В. Зімбаровська Алгоритм дій працівників Національної поліції з суб'єктами, які здійснюють заходи щодо захисту дітей, постраждалих від насильства: методичні рекомендації. ДДУВС. 2020. 136 с.

⁹ Актуальні навички та практична спрямованість. *Дніпровський державний університет внутрішніх справ*. URL: <https://dduvs.edu.ua/2024/03/23/aktualni-navychky-ta-praktychna-spryamovanist-dlya-kursantiv-dduvs-provedeno-fakultativny/>;

¹⁰ Робота із застосуванням «Слідчі протоколи»: воркшоп для курсантів ДДУВС. *Дніпровський державний університет внутрішніх справ*. URL: <https://dduvs.edu.ua/2025/06/17/robita-iz-zastosunkom-slidchi-protokoly-vorkshop-dlya-kursantiv-dduvs/>

specialists. Prosecutors, investigators, judges, lawyers can not only share their experience, but also reveal practical and problematic aspects of legal activities that arise during the performance of their official duties.

One of the ways to overcome this gap between theory and practice, in our opinion, is to maximally involve investigators, prosecutors, lawyers, judges in practical classes, because it is they who are faced with real cases every day, have knowledge in the field of application of modern legislation and have the opportunity to transfer their experience and practical knowledge to young specialists. This practice has also been implemented within the walls of the Dnipro State University of Internal Affairs, but it is desirable that it be implemented on a permanent basis and spread to other universities, because it is such meetings that are most fully capable of forming the professional vision of future lawyers.

In the context of increasing psychological burden on lawyers in martial law, the next extremely important direction of reforming legal education is the development of emotional intelligence and mediation skills. These are skills that can and should be developed at any age. After all, they affect the ability to effectively transmit and perceive information, the ability to make effective decisions, learn and memorize material qualitatively, work in conflict and stressful situations, and manage a team¹¹. It is not enough for a modern lawyer to know the law – he needs to be able to hear a person, understand his emotions, and be able to resolve existing conflicts peacefully. This issue will become especially relevant in the post-war period, when society will be going through a difficult phase of recovery.

The issue of mandatory internship in various legal institutions and institutions requires special attention, because practical experience is something without which it is impossible to imagine the full scope of knowledge of a trained specialist. Internship and internship in higher education institutions with specific training conditions is the preparation of a cadet for service in the National Police of Ukraine. During internship and internship, future investigators not only learn to draw up procedural documents, but also to communicate with victims, witnesses, and suspects, which is really important for acquiring skills in professional activity. This is a real test of the professional motivation of higher education applicants, because it is in real conditions that it becomes clear whether they are ready to wear shoulder straps not only on their uniforms, but also in their souls. Internship and internship are a key stage in the training of a future police officer and are a kind of bridge between theory and practice. During seminars and practical classes in such

¹¹ Любченко М. І. Емоційний інтелект як невід’ємна навичка майбутнього юриста. *Адаптація правової системи України до права Європейського Союзу: теоретичні та практичні аспекти*. 2023. С. 39–42.

disciplines as criminal law, criminal procedure, forensics, criminology, pre-trial investigation – higher education students analyze theoretical aspects of rule-making and judicial proceedings, but only in practical units can cadets really face reality: real offenses, the complexity of collecting evidence, responsibility for decisions made. They begin to see not only the letter of the law, but also the mechanisms of its implementation – in police departments, investigative units, courts, prosecutor's offices. Such practice gives the cadet the opportunity to see how the rules of law are applied in life and what is the role of an investigator, prosecutor, judge, head of a pre-trial investigation body. This is living training that forms not only knowledge, but also skills: analytical thinking, attention to detail and the ability to communicate with participants. However, there are cases when internships turn into a formality. In our opinion, such problems can be solved with the right approach of management and mentors, when the practice is organized systematically, with clear tasks, support from an experienced specialist and the ability to analyze each practical step. For a cadet of a higher education institution of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, practice and internship are not just "useful experience", they are an integral part of becoming a specialist and a police officer. Without this, knowledge remains dry, and service is unconscious. In our opinion, it is necessary to create conditions in which practice really becomes an educational process: with a clear program, mentor, feedback system and the opportunity for the student to participate in real practical simulations. These are the first steps towards professional identity. At the Dnipro State University of Internal Affairs, conditions are created for internships in state institutions, but unfortunately, many students in other higher education institutions are forced to independently look for opportunities and places for internships. This creates social inequality: not everyone has the connections or resources to organize a full-fledged and high-quality internship. That is why the state must take responsibility for organizing practice, ensuring a sufficient number of places and clearly coordinating this process between higher education institutions and legal institutions.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that modern legal education must change flexibly and systematically. Changes must correspond to the times, ahead of them and prepare those who will protect human rights and restore justice. In conditions of martial law, transformation should not be declarative, but comprehensive and practice-oriented. The training of a modern lawyer is not only the transfer of knowledge, but also the formation of a personality capable of acting decisively and responsibly in crisis conditions. The practical component of the educational process is a powerful factor in the formation of legal thinking of applicants for higher legal education, has a positive effect on improving their legal culture, allows eliminating the

imbalance between demand and supply of qualified workers in the labor market, contributes to the international image of higher education in Ukraine¹².

Today, a future lawyer must be not only an expert in the law, but also a strategist, communicator and psychologist. The proposed changes should become the national standard of legal education. The state must provide methodological and organizational support, as well as form a clear vision of the role of a lawyer in rebuilding the country. It is the quality of legal education that determines who will administer justice, protect citizens in complex processes, represent Ukraine at the international level, fight corruption and restore justice.

CONCLUSIONS

Legal education in Ukraine must undergo a qualitative transformation that goes beyond the simple updating of curricula. It must focus on training a new generation of professionals – competent, resilient to challenges, able to act effectively in both peace and war. The study of international humanitarian law, a deep understanding of the norms of the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute, the ability to collect and record evidence of war crimes are critically necessary skills for a modern lawyer. In a modern armed conflict, a lawyer must act not only as a lawyer, but also as a specialist in documenting violations, a representative of the interests of victims before international institutions, and a guarantor of justice in a legal system under the pressure of war. At the same time, the training of lawyers must be inextricably linked to practical activities: simulation classes, training grounds, interaction with representatives of the professional community, and mandatory internships in legal institutions. These components allow to consolidate theoretical knowledge, to form skills of effective law enforcement and to ensure readiness to work in conditions of stress, uncertainty and conflict. Involving current investigators, prosecutors, judges and lawyers in the educational process is not only a step towards improving the level of training of future specialists, but also an opportunity to develop practical thinking, which is necessary in daily work. Such cooperation will help future specialists to understand the specifics of the work, to formulate professional skills and ethical guidelines even during their studies. A special role in this process is played by the development of emotional intelligence – the ability of a lawyer not only to think logically, but also to understand the

¹² Сидоркіна, Р. Д. Практична складова навчального процесу як важливий чинник формування правової культури здобувачів вищої юридичної освіти. *Актуальні питання юридичної науки в дослідженнях молодих вчених*. 2024. С. 20–22.

emotions of others, to overcome conflicts peacefully, to maintain stability and professionalism in difficult situations.

Reforming legal education should become not only a response to current challenges, but also part of the strategy for restoring statehood, strengthening justice, and forming a new generation of lawyers capable of acting in the interests of society, protecting national interests in the international arena, and ensuring the inviolability of human rights and freedoms in the most difficult historical circumstances. Therefore, it is important to create conditions today for the constant and systematic involvement of practitioners in the educational process. Only in this way will legal education meet the real needs of the legal system and effectively train specialists capable of operating in the complex legal situation of Ukraine.

SUMMARY

The work reveals key aspects of the need to transform legal education in Ukraine in the context of the ongoing armed aggression of the rf, which has led to a significant increase in the need for specialists capable of acting effectively in wartime and post-conflict reconstruction of the state. The authors emphasize the importance of systematic study of international humanitarian law as one of the fundamental elements of modern legal education. Special emphasis is placed on mastering the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as on studying the mechanisms and procedures for documenting war crimes. It is noted that future lawyers must possess not only theoretical knowledge, but also practical skills in working with evidence, recording violations of international law and interacting with international judicial institutions.

Particular attention is paid to the need to create appropriate conditions for acquiring practical competencies in higher education institutions. This includes, in particular, the introduction of simulations of procedural actions, the development of training and practical training grounds, and the involvement of practicing lawyers in teaching practice-oriented disciplines. The importance of introducing mandatory internships for students of legal specialties is substantiated as a tool for ensuring full-fledged professional training and bridging the gap between theory and practice. Attention is also paid to the development of "soft skills" of a lawyer, in particular emotional intelligence and mediation skills, which are critically important in the work of a lawyer, especially in conditions of increased psychological stress during the war. As a result, the authors conclude that the reform of legal education should be comprehensive, deep, and focused on the real challenges facing Ukrainian society. The creation of a modern model of legal training is the basis of a legal state and a just society.

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