

THE JURISPRUDENTIAL LANDMARK: ANALYZING THE SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTIONS OF KHADICHA SULAYMONOVA

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Annotation: This article elucidates the life and legacy of Khadicha Sulaymonova, the first female Uzbek jurist, tracing her trajectory from her initial entry into the legal profession to her monumental contributions to the national judicial system and her distinguished diplomatic endeavors on the international stage.

Keywords: Khadicha Sulaymonova, international conferences, the judiciary, legal history, the Nurkhon incident, Minister of Justice, equitable jurist.

At the dawn of the 20th century, Uzbekistan underwent a profound socio-political and cultural metamorphosis. This era heralded a transformative period, particularly concerning women's education and civil liberties. Amidst this climate of change, numerous courageous and intellectually driven women emerged. Among them, Khadicha Sulaymonova holds a place of distinction, having left an indelible mark on the history of Uzbek jurisprudence. She is revered not only as the first female Uzbek legal scholar but also as a pivotal figure who shaped the legal consciousness of the entire society.

Born on July 3, 1913, Khadicha Sulaymonova grew up in an era where a woman's pursuit of knowledge—especially in a complex field like law—was an anomaly. At the age of 17, she was profoundly moved by the resolute and persuasive courtroom oratory of Tojixon Shodiyeva, who was serving as a prosecutor. This encounter ignited an unwavering ambition within her; she expressed her desire to become a jurist to her mother, Otinchi aya, who became a staunch advocate for her daughter's aspirations. In 1931, after graduating from a nine-year Russian school, she embarked on her professional journey. To master the intricacies of the legal system, she enrolled in preparatory courses at the Research Institute of Soviet Construction and Law. A year later, she was admitted directly into the second year of the Jahon Obidova Institute of Soviet Construction and Law in Tashkent.

A Distinguished Professional Trajectory

Throughout her brief yet exceptionally prolific life, Sulaymonova served as a paragon of professional excellence. Her career was marked by a series of high-profile appointments: 1935–1938: People’s Judge and Member of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR; 1956–1958: Minister of Justice of the Uzbek SSR; 1959–1964: Chairperson of the Legal Commission under the Council of Ministers; 1964: Chairperson of the Supreme Court of the Uzbek SSR.

Academic Achievements and Global Representation

Sulaymonova’s academic contributions were equally monumental. She authored over 80 scholarly publications, including the seminal three-volume work *"The History of the Soviet State and Law in Uzbekistan."* Her academic ascent was meteoric: in 1945, she became the first Uzbek woman to earn the title of "Candidate of Legal Sciences" after defending her dissertation at the Moscow Institute of Law. By 1951, she successfully defended her doctoral thesis, attaining the rank of Doctor of Juridical Sciences. In 1956, she reached the pinnacle of her academic career by becoming the first female academician of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. Beyond her scholarly and domestic duties, she was a formidable statesman on the international stage. She eloquently represented the interests of Uzbekistan and the progress of Uzbek women at international congresses and conferences in global hubs such as Amsterdam, London, Cairo, Tokyo, and Prague.

Conclusion

Today, her memory is enshrined in the names of streets in Tashkent, the Republican Center for Forensic Expertise, various scholarships, and a dedicated museum at the Tashkent State University of Law. Khadicha Sulaymonova’s destiny is a luminous testament to the power of unrelenting perseverance in the face of adversity. She was not merely a "first"; she was a visionary who set the gold standard for dedication and integrity in the legal profession. Her life serves as an eternal beacon for contemporary jurists, particularly young women, proving that any barrier can be dismantled through erudition, fortitude, and courage.

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