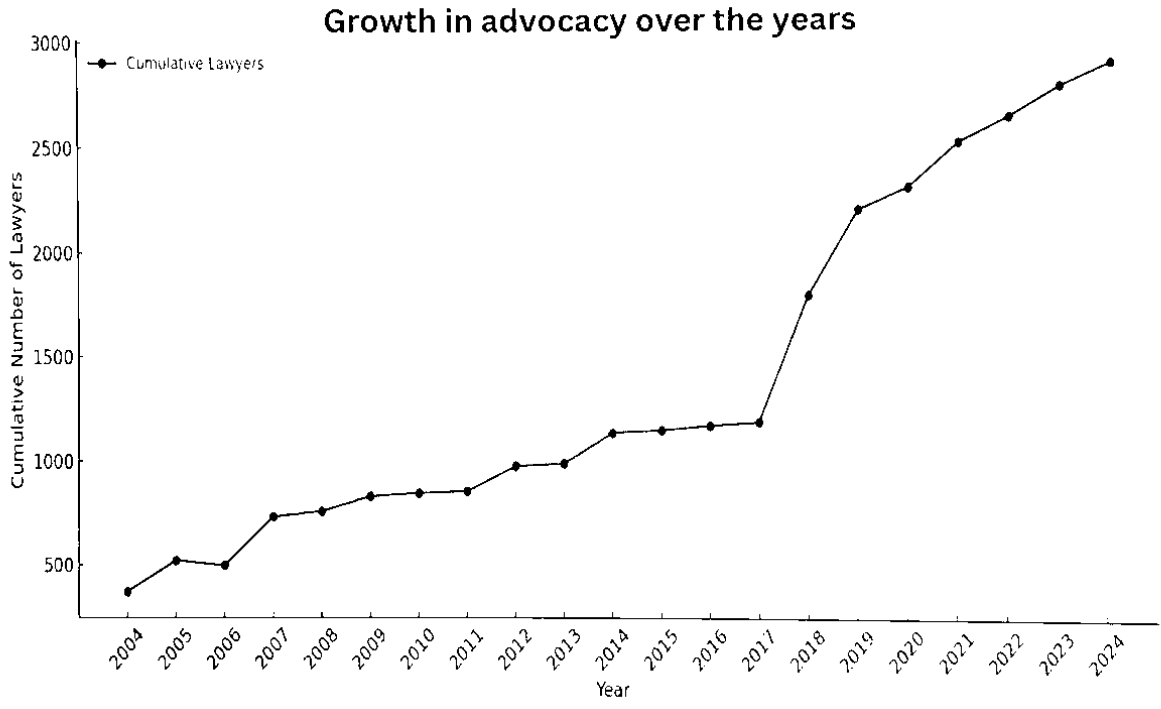


The Azerbaijani Bar Association has made significant strides in modernizing its legal framework and operations over the past year. The most notable development has been the Association's embrace of digital transformation, aimed at enhancing access to legal assistance and improving overall efficiency.

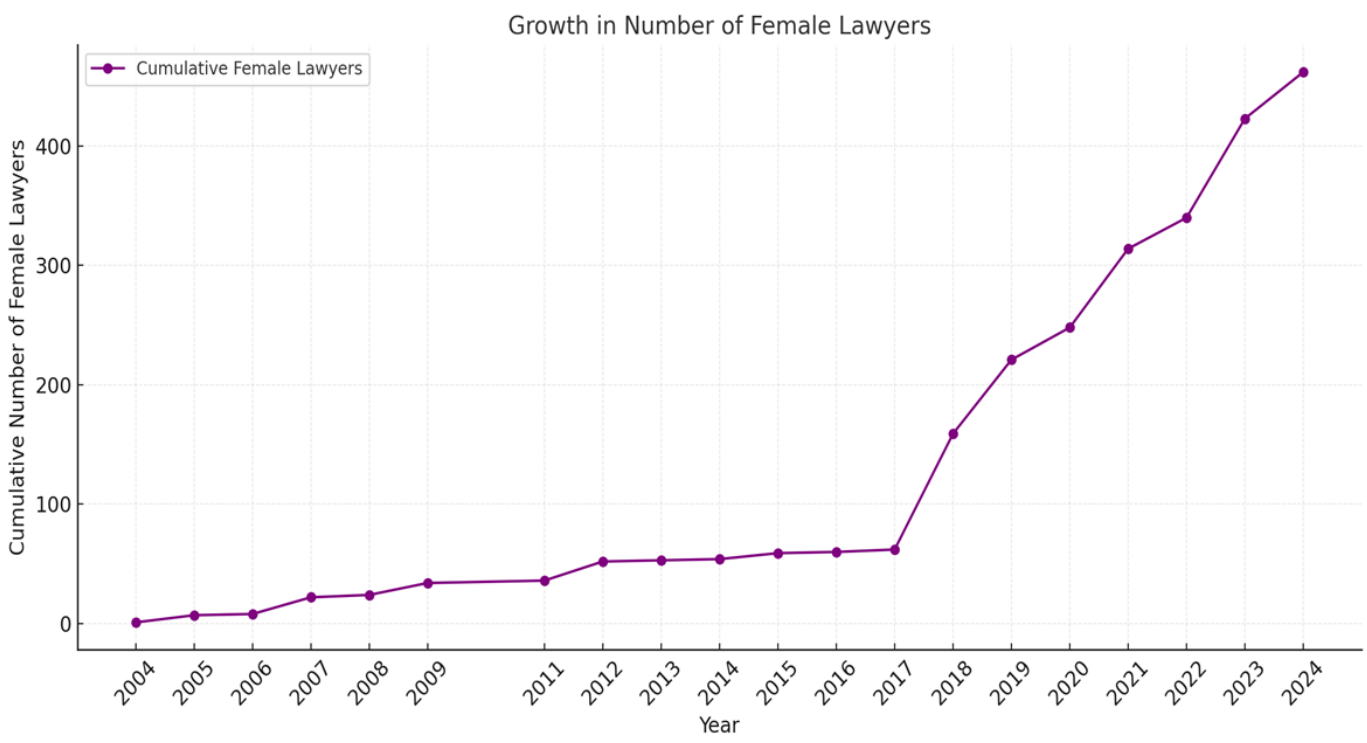
A key innovation in this process has been the complete digitalization of the lawyer's order in 2024. This milestone allows lawyers and clients to sign contracts electronically from any location, ensuring convenience, saving time, and reducing administrative burdens. Additionally, the introduction of a mobile application has further streamlined legal services, making it easier for clients to connect with legal professionals and manage their legal affairs seamlessly. The app was officially presented this year and has been well received by the legal community and the public alike.

In addition to technological advancements, the Azerbaijani Bar Association has expanded its institutional structure by establishing two new committees: the Administrative Law Committee and the Deontology Committee. These committees will play a crucial role in refining legal practices, upholding professional ethics, and improving administrative legal procedures. Furthermore, groundwork has been laid for the establishment of the Ecology Law Committee, which will address pressing environmental legal issues and contribute to the development of sustainable legal frameworks. Notably, Azerbaijan's participation in COP 29 has played a significant role in shaping climate-related legal policies, leading to the creation of a Climate Law Committee to further legal initiatives on climate change and sustainability.

Another significant achievement of the Azerbaijani Bar Association has been the steady increase in the number of lawyers across the country. This growth is indicative of the rising interest in the legal profession (pic.1) and the effectiveness of the Association's initiatives to support legal practitioners. Notably, there has also been an increase in the proportion of women lawyers (pic. 2), reflecting the progress made towards gender inclusivity and equal representation in the legal sector.



Pic 1.



pic. 2

The Azerbaijani Bar Association has also maintained a strong commitment to protecting children's rights by ensuring effective legal defense, preventing violations, and restoring infringed rights. A key focus has been organizing legal awareness

initiatives on various child rights topics, promoting human rights through mass media, and fostering legal consciousness in society. As part of these ongoing efforts, numerous activities have been conducted this month.

In collaboration with UNICEF Azerbaijan, the Bar Association held specialized training sessions on "Child-Oriented Legal Aid (The Role of Lawyers in Defending Children's Rights in Criminal, Administrative, and Civil Instances)." These trainings were conducted in regional and suburban areas to benefit individuals who are unable to travel to the city for legal assistance.

Additionally, in the lead-up to March 8th - International Women's Day, the Azerbaijani Bar Association provided free legal aid and support to women and children in need.

The Azerbaijani Bar Association remains actively engaged in promoting gender equality within the legal profession. Members participated in several international conferences, including the European Young Bar Association (EYBA) conference in Istanbul, focusing on innovation, technology, and globalization in law. The conference highlighted the importance of gender equality, emphasizing its significance on International Women's Day. Furthermore, the Association took part in the "Women Leaders in Law Warsaw Summit 2024," bringing together distinguished female legal professionals across Europe to discuss key challenges, opportunities, and strategies for women in the legal profession. Topics such as eliminating barriers, mentorship programs, diversity, and inclusion within legal institutions, as well as legislative improvements, were extensively covered. Additionally, the Association participated in the "Making Law Accessible for All" conference in Vienna, organized in collaboration with the European Association of Lawyers (AEA-EAL) and "Women in Law," to advance gender equality and inclusion within the legal sector.

Moreover, ABA is continuing its active involvement in the local and international arenas, fostering the prestige of legal profession and broadening its horizons.

Another noteworthy accomplishment has been the publication of the journal "Azerbaijani Lawyer" four times a year. This year, the journal has gained international indexing, further elevating its recognition and impact in the legal community.

These advancements collectively underscore the Azerbaijani Bar Association's commitment to modernization, ethical legal practice, and professional development. By leveraging digital tools, expanding its structural framework, and promoting gender diversity, the Association continues to strengthen the legal profession in Azerbaijan and ensure better access to justice for all citizens.