**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN**

(پاکِستانِ اسلامی)

**BACKGROUND AND LEGAL SYSTEM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LEGAL SYSTEM</strong></th>
<th>Common law system with constitutional mandate to accommodate Pakistan’s status as an Islamic state.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLITICAL SYSTEM</strong></td>
<td>Federal Republic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEAD OF STATE</strong></td>
<td>President, elected by an electoral college for a five year term. The members of the electoral college are drawn from the Senate, National Assembly and provincial assemblies. The President is eligible for reelection for no more than two consecutive terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEAD OF GOVERNMENT</strong></td>
<td>Prime Minister, elected by members of the National Assembly for a five year term (members of National Assembly are elected by popular vote). The Prime Minister is eligible for reelection for no more than two consecutive terms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBNATIONAL ENTITIES</strong></td>
<td>Balochistan, Northwestern Frontier Province, Punjab and Sindh (provinces); Federally Administered Tribal Areas (territory); Islamabad Capital Territory (capital territory).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBLOCAL ENTITIES</strong></td>
<td>Provinces are divided into 120 districts (zillas), which are further divided into Tehsils. Tehsils may be composed of municipalities or villages. Note: the Pakistan administered portion of the disputed Kashmir region is divided into the Azad Kashmir (further divided into seven districts) and Federally Administered Northern Areas (further divided into six districts).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Washington University Manual of International Legal Citation
Pakistan, Islamic Republic of

**TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM:** ISO 15919, IAST, ALA-LC.

**LANGUAGES**
Urdu (official language), English (language of government and elite), Balochi, Brahui, Burushaski, Hindko, Pashtu, Punjabi, Sindhi, Siraiki.

**CONSTITUTION**

**OFFICIAL NAME**

**ENACTMENT**
Adopted April 10, 1973 and as of December 31, 2003, has seventeen amendments.

**CITATION FORMAT**
PAK. CONST. (1973) art. <article number>.

*Example*
PAK. CONST. (1973) art. 58(2)(b).

**STATUTES**

**GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**
At the federal level a bicameral Parliament (*Majlis-e-Shoora*) consists of the Senate and the National Assembly. The Senate contains 100 seats, indirectly elected by the Provincial Assemblies. The National Assembly contains 342 seats, which are directly elected.

The provincial legislatures are unicameral provincial assemblies which are directly elected.

**LEGISLATIVE PROCESS**
Federal Statutes: a legislative bill is proposed by any member of the Senate or the National Assembly. A bill may also be introduced by the Federal Government. Once a bill is approved by both the Senate and the National Assembly, it is sent to the President for assent. Upon receiving the Presidential Assent, the bill becomes an Act—or enacted law.
Pakistan Code (1836 to 1988).

Gazette of Pakistan (August 15, 1947 to present).

A Collection of the Federal Acts, Ordinances, President’s Orders and Regulations for the Year [year] (1980 to present).


Statutes of Pakistan and Punjab (1971 to present).

Statutes of Pakistan and West Pakistan (1956 to 1970).

Statutes of Pakistan and Punjab (1948 to 1955).

The Unrepealed Central Acts (1834 to 1954).

Law reporters such as All Pakistan Legal Decisions (1949 to present) and the Pakistan Law Journal also carry the text of statutes.

Provincial legislation is found in the Punjab Code, The Sindh Code, the Baluchistan Code and the NWPF Code.

**CITATION FORMAT**

<name of law>, <name of reporter>, No. <law number>, <date of passage>, <page number>.

**Example**

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Act, Gazette of Pakistan, No. XXXIV, December 3, 1997, 1.
Pakistan, Islamic Republic of

**CODES**

**CIVIL CODE**  
Currently unavailable.

**CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE**  

**COMMERCIAL CODE**  
Currently unavailable.

**CRIMINAL CODE**  

**CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**  

**CASE LAW**

**JUDICIAL OVERVIEW**  
The judicial system consists of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, provincial high courts, the Federal Shariat courts and statutory courts.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan consists of the Chief Justice and sixteen judges. The Chief Justice is appointed by the President after consultation with the Prime Minister and the judges are appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice. Members of the Supreme Court of Pakistan may remain in office until the age of sixty-five. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has original, appellate and advisory jurisdictions and under these roles it determines the constitutionality of laws, issues opinions on matters referred to it by the President and issues judicial decisions.
The Federal Shariat Court consists of eight Muslim judges, appointed by the president. The Federal Shariat court rules on matters of Islamic law.

The provincial high courts are the highest courts within a province, judges of the provincial high courts are appointed by the president. The provincial high courts have original and appellate jurisdictions and are responsible for judicial review of the acts of the Federal Government and provincial governments. The provincial high courts also have jurisdiction to enforce constitutional rights.

The statutory courts are subordinate to the provincial high courts and have civil or criminal jurisdictions.

**REPORTERS**

All Pakistan Legal Decisions (1949 to present).

Federal Court Reports (1950 to 1956), continued by Pakistan Supreme Court Reports (1956 to present).

Pakistan Law Digest (supplemented by Yearly Law Reports and Monthly Law Digest).

Pakistan Law Reports, Karachi series.


Civil Law Cases.


Pakistan Tax Decisions.

**CITATION FORMAT**

<case name>, (<year>), <volume> <reporter> <page> (<court, if not indicated by reporter>) (<jurisdiction>).

**Example**

Currently none available.
Pakistan, Islamic Republic of

SOURCES

The CIA Factbook

U.S. Dept. of State, Background Note
http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3453.htm

Infopak, the Information Gateway to Pakistan
http://www.infopak.gov.pk


SPECIAL THANKS

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