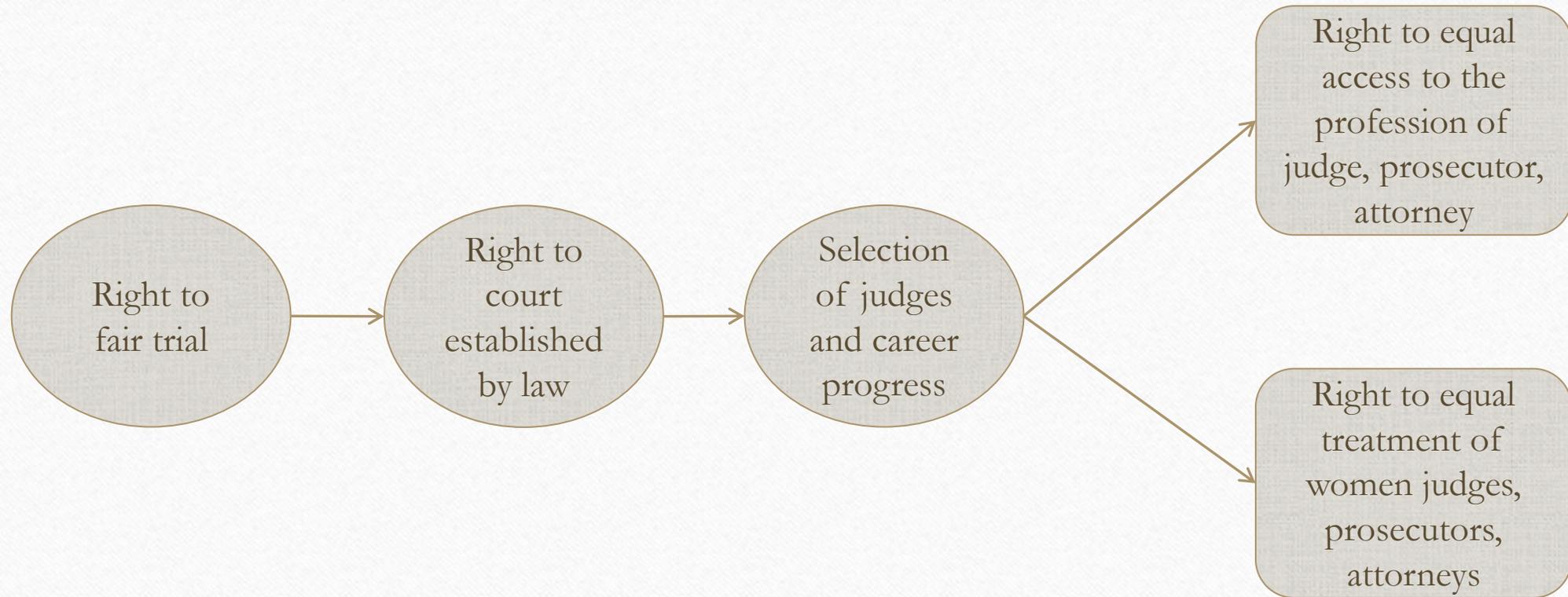


Right to competent court
established by law: gender
equality aspects

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- The problem has never been discussed in such aspect;
- In Ukraine there is no gender statistics in regards to judiciary;
- We can understand the problem by examining major misbalances presented in the following quotations;

Quotations are taken from the book “To be a Judge” (2013) built on 21 interviews with judges from 7 different regions of Ukraine.



“

Woman should become a super professional to be adopted at the men's level. Figuratively speaking she needs to drive a professional man into the corner. Because otherwise he'll clearly understand that he hadn't reached the required level, hadn't known anything, hadn't read anything or had read by the "diagonal" and not "with a pencil." And when you defeat your opponent by knowledge, you'll always be a winner.”

Presumption of incompetence: the woman should become a SUPER professional in order to be equally treated with respect to men of the same profession

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As for my family, there is another conversation. I got married when I was 30 years old. I gave birth to my son. My husband didn't understand any problems connected with my job. He could not understand that while sitting in the deliberations room with two male judges I was actually discussing the case instead of doing “anything else”. It annoyed him that he had to wait with a child near the door while I was finishing my work.”

In order to build career woman needs to sacrifice her personal life

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Unfortunately I divorced. Dissatisfaction that my husband felt broke our marriage and we agreed to divorce.

It is my way, but it is very difficult. I had much to sacrifice in order to achieve something on this way: health, friends, contacts, the time I can devote to my child and family. I didn't have any personal time at all. ”

In order to build career woman needs to sacrifice her personal life

“ One woman prosecutor always demonstrated her unwillingness to comply with the requirements to the behavior of participants in trial, including the requirement to stand up while answering questions of the presiding judge. I asked the prosecutor whether she knows her rights and obligations and whether she needs additional explanation. She replied that she is aware of the current legislation. I thanked her, asked the prosecutor to rise and noted that the court considers to clarify to the prosecutor her obligation to stand up while answering questions of the presiding judge. After that there were no attempts from her side to show “who is the boss”.

In courts women judges/prosecutors/attorneys are treated with indulgence and are not taken seriously enough

“

I think that the judge is not allowed to any excessiveness in demonstrating her wealth. For example, expensive jewelry.... Trial participants will take into consideration everything: your make-up, your haircut, your jewelry. All this is the subject of evaluation and discussion. Therefore, demonstration of these things can be explained as bribery and corruption.

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In courts women judges are often not taken seriously because of their own behavior

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My children know that their mother is a judge, but they also know that they shouldn't tell anybody about it. Because the mother holds public office and someone may want to know about their mother. Also about their father, themselves, about everybody. Children know that because of them someone can have an influence over their mother. So they say that their mother is just a lawyer.”

Women judges more often face political pressure or blackmail, because of presumption of women's weak character

“

It's harder to work for woman judge. Motivation ... In addition to job there's the weight of educating children, household worries. Whatever it was, even if the family has a housemaid, permanent or temporary, the woman still has great emotional and physical overload. Always ...

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