

Professor Shoakbar Shorakhmetov: A Life of Integrity and Dedication

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Abstract: Shorakhmetov Shoakbar Shorustamovich was born on August 26, 1931, in Chimkent, during a time of great hardship. He lost his father during World War II and grew up in poverty. He had to walk long distances each day to attend school (10-12 km), which shows his early determination and resilience.

Inspired by incidents of injustice in his village (the unlawful detention of Tengaev) and his neighbor Adhambek Rustambekov, who worked in prosecution, he decided to pursue a legal career. After passing the entrance exams, he studied law at the Central Asian State University in Tashkent, where he excelled academically and earned respect for his leadership. He was muscular and well-built, so he got the nickname "Frank Gutt" (after the American wrestler).

His professional journey began as a secretary in the Zadaryo region of Namangan. In 1957, he was elected as a judge in the same district, where his decisions earned national recognition – none were ever overturned. In 1960, driven by a passion for scholarship, he resigned and pursued postgraduate studies at the All-Union Institute of Law in Moscow under the mentorship of E.A. Fleishits.

Throughout his career, he made lasting contributions to civil procedural law in Uzbekistan. In 1980, he wrote the first Uzbek-language textbook on the subject and went on to publish nearly 150 academic works. He made a significant contribution to expanding legal education and mentoring thousands of students.

In recognition of his service, he was named “Honored Lawyer of Uzbekistan” in 1983 and awarded the “Mehnat Shuhrati” Order in 2001. Until the end of his life, Professor Shorakhmetov remained a respected scholar, educator, and symbol of integrity in Uzbek legal history.

Besides his academic achievements and scholarly work, Professor Shoakbar Shorakhmetov was known for his remarkable personality – honest, sincere, and deeply human. Those who knew him personally often recall not just his intellect but the unique way he carried himself.

As Professor Omonboy Oqilov described, he was a straightforward person who valued honesty and speaking his mind. However, his directness was never harsh – it remained within the bounds of respect and humanity. His words never hurt or offended; instead, they reflected clarity and sincerity.

His interactions with students were always warm and respectful. Rustam Ruziev remembered how Professor Shorakhmetov would affectionately refer to young scholars as “mulla yig‘it” (young scholar). While it might have sounded like a formal gesture of politeness, it was in fact a sign of encouragement, trust, and genuine care for their growth in the path of knowledge.

At first glance, he might have appeared strict or serious—his presence carried a sense of dignity and discipline. But behind that exterior was a kind-hearted teacher with a poetic soul. As Professor Bobokul Toshev noted, although his demeanor could seem intimidating, in truth he was compassionate, gentle, and an engaging conversationalist with a sincere heart.

His daughter, Umida Shoakbarovna, also shared a glimpse of his character at home. “He always found time to listen to a child’s concerns,” she said. “Just a little attention and warmth could open the door to a child’s heart.” Their household was filled with quiet respect, and he never raised his voice, which is a sign of the deep peace and mutual understanding that defined his family life.

As a third-year student at the Tashkent State University of Law, I find his life story deeply motivating. Professor Shorakhmetov never made excuses, even in the face of hardship. He pursued his dreams with discipline and strong determination. Not only did he excel academically, but he also maintained a commitment to physical fitness and personal growth.

What inspires me most is his long-term dedication to building the legal field in Uzbekistan — not only by practicing law but by writing textbooks that are still in use today. Though he is no longer with us, his work and influence remain.

Bibliography

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