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Analysis of the most unusual court decisions in the world practice in terms of the right to justice

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Abstract. The relevance of the research is to identify ineffective methods of administration of justice in the world judicial practice to ensure the effectiveness of the judicial system in Ukraine. The purpose of the research is to identify and analyse the most unusual court cases in different countries from the Middle Ages to the present day to determine the level of public access to justice as a guarantee of the protection of human rights and ensure the rule of law and equality of all before the law and the court. The methods used to explore the subject include: the dialectical method, formalisation method, cognitive method, Aristotelian method, hermeneutical method, logical and legal method, systemic method, structural and functional method, axiomatic method, methods of induction and deduction, methods of analysis and synthesis. The research establishes how accessible justice and law were to people in different eras. The specific features of court proceedings in the Middle Ages are determined. The most unusual cases that have become known in many countries of the world, including the "Stella Case" and the "Cuckoo Case", are examined; the essence of the "Stella Award" phenomenon is covered; some curious cases in Ukraine and other countries of the world are explored. The author analyses several court cases of ancient times and cases that have been considered in modern court practice. The most unusual curious court cases where the accused were not at all human, and animals and objects are explored and described. The author examines unusual court cases in Ukraine. The provisions enshrined in this work are of practical value primarily for judicial officers and persons seeking judicial protection

Keywords: court, plaintiff, defendant, access to court, unusual cases, verdict

Introduction

For many centuries, the court has always been described as a place of justice and law. Fates were decided there, history was made, and rights were protected. Each era has its specifics of judicial proceedings, but they are united by one thing – effective protection of human rights. Thus, the Roman Empire already had fully functioning judicial bodies that resolved various disputes on various issues (Vodiannikov, 2020). The judiciary is a guarantee of legality and justice in every country.

Judicial protection and proper access to justice are the guarantees of effective human rights protection. The jurisdiction of judges extends to any dispute, and the rights and interests of every person should be protected regardless of the subject of the dispute and the seriousness of the crime committed (Vaughn *et al.*, 2015). Considering the above, it is necessary to cover the essence of the right to access justice and analyse the place and role of the court thousands of years ago and nowadays.

Researching court cases and analysing them allows for establishing the level of judicial protection and justice in different periods. Comparing the level of justice in different centuries allows for tracing the development and improvement of the judiciary and its emergence as an independent and impartial body whose main purpose is to protect rights as effectively as possible.

Everyone has access to justice and a fair trial (Luzhanskyi, 2010). It implies that a person can go to court if their rights are violated, and their case must be considered – this is what guarantees effective and legitimate justice. The court should be the guarantor of human rights protection. As noted by S. Chorna (2020), "the functioning of effective mechanisms for the protection of human rights is one of the signs of a state governed by the rule of law".

Sometimes the subject of a court hearing has a different form from the usual model of justice. There are cases in court when cases involving the protection of the rights of animals or statues are considered, and the defendants can be objects or the dead. In addition, quite unusual decisions can be made in courtrooms that demonstrate the incompetence of specific judicial bodies.

Innovations in any field have always caused different reactions among the people they affect. The field of legal regulation and judicial proceedings is a fundamental area of public life, thus, it is not surprising that unconventional claims or approaches to the conduct of judicial proceedings evoke a strong reaction from the public. Unusual for the conventional opinion court practices are still emerging today. For example, a study by D. Eichert (2021) demonstrates that using Twitter as a tool for digital diplomacy and communication by the International Criminal Court has both advantages and disadvantages. Among the positive aspects of this innovation, the author considers the entry of legal proceedings into a modern platform. The disadvantage of the

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International Criminal Court's posting on Twitter is the limited jurisdiction of the institution due to the restriction on the volume of messages on the social network. In addition, using a web resource for diplomacy could indicate a gradual loss of the Court's impartiality and objectivity.

Binder *et al.* (2018) compare the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits the death penalty for capital murder, with jurisdictions that have executed nearly five hundred people in the United States since 1973. The researchers argue that the death penalty is unconstitutional if the murder was unintentional. For example, if there was a case of the death of a homeowner robbed by a criminal, but the death was caused by fright or severe stress and not by the intentional actions of the thief, the criminal cannot be convicted of murder but rather of theft, as this would be a violation of constitutional law in the United States. Thus, despite the validity of such amendments as the Eighth Amendment to the US Constitution, in some cases, the death penalty is still imposed on criminals, which is not standard judicial practice in a democratic country of the 21st century.

The purpose of the research is to analyse some of the most unusual cases that have been considered by the court in different countries and different periods. The study of unusual cases is intended to demonstrate how the principles of the rule of law and equality of all before the court are ensured. Unusual court cases in this research are defined as those that have elements that vary from the standard model of court cases (e.g., an animal rather than a human as the defendant, etc).

The main objectives of the research were: to describe the "right of access to court" and "protection of fundamental rights"; to explore unusual cases that were decided in ancient Rome and Greece; to conduct an analysis of the most unusual court cases in the world; to explore unusual cases that were considered in Ukraine.

The research is relevant as the courts receive a large number of lawsuits that must be classified according to their importance and expediency. The study of unusual trials conducted in different historical eras will identify a methodology for making rational decisions in ambiguous court cases. Such an analysis will be useful for saving the time and material resources of both litigants and judicial officers in Ukraine. The work is of scientific value as it highlights the ways to ensure the human right to fair justice through the prism of unusual trials.

Materials and Methods

One of the most important methods used in this study is the dialectical method, which was used to analyse the most unusual cases as a confirmation and guarantee of the right to access justice and to clarify the content of the right to access court and the right to a fair trial. The logical method of scientific cognition was used to identify and distinguish the specific features of the right to access to court and the protection of fundamental human rights. Using the methods of synthesis and theoretical analysis, the most unusual cases in the world and Ukraine were explored.

The Aristotelian method of research was used to analyse the specific features of court proceedings in different periods. Using the systematic method, it was established that the court has considered and is considering cases in which only people can be parties to the court, and animals and even objects. The logical-semantic method is used to deepen and analyse some unusual and curious cases from ancient times to the present and to characterise the activities of judges. By using historical and comparative legal methods of scientific research, the author clarifies the specific features of the judicial system of the Middle Ages and compares them with the realities of today.

The hermeneutic method is used to identify the essence of the right to a fair trial and the protection of human rights. The comparative legal method was used to compare the resolution of cases before and after the Middle Ages. The synthetic method was used to explore various court cases that have been considered worldwide and in Ukraine in particular.

The effective methods of the research were the axiomatic method, the task of which was to identify the reasons behind the absurdity of some court cases, and the construction of a scientific theory, in which some statements (axioms) are accepted without evidence and then used to obtain the rest of the knowledge according to specific logical rules. The method of formalisation, which reflects knowledge in a known sign and symbolic content; methods of system analysis, theoretical generalisation, induction and deduction were used to develop conclusions based on the results of this research.

Results and Discussion

Non-trivial court cases from the Middle Ages as an example of the rule of law

Every person in the world has the right to access court and a fair trial. At the national and international levels, several different regulations guarantee the above rights to varying degrees. At the national level of each country, some regulations establish the procedure for access to justice and the consideration and resolution of cases, and international regulations that are adopted and ratified by several countries and are binding on them. The main international acts that regulate and guarantee access to justice include the following: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), etc.

The above international regulations guarantee equal and impartial access to justice for the protection of their rights and interests of all persons, as Ukrainian legislation is no exception, as the Constitution of Ukraine (1996) guarantees and ensures the right of access to court and fair trial to every person.

The right of access to court is a guaranteed and enforced right of people to apply to the judiciary without hindrance to protect their rights and interests (Godzimirska *et al.*, 2022; Katić *et al.*, 2018). In turn, the right to a fair trial is a human right, which is enshrined in several regulations, to a public hearing by an independent and impartial court (Carvacho *et al.*, 2022).

Occasionally, quite unusual issues are resolved during court hearings. Such cases are being considered nowadays, and examples are dating back to the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages were unpredictable and occasionally strange with their laws and traditions, and with their judicial system and order (Bubalo, & Čerkić, 2022). Thus, in 1386, in the city of Falaise, located in France, a case of the murder of a three-month-old child was considered, where the accused was a pig (Evans, 1906). All the time during the investigation and the trial, the pig was in jail and even had its lawyer. All stages of the trial were conducted: witnesses were interrogated, case

materials were collected – all relevant procedures were followed. The court sentenced the pig to death, put on human clothes and took it to the scaffold. On the square where the execution occurred, they gathered both people and pigs, arguing that it would set an example for other animals. The person who executed the sentence hung the pig, pulling a human mask over its face. Bringing the pig to justice was justified primarily by the fact that animals are morally responsible and therefore should be fully accountable for their actions. After this case, there were about 60 more similar cases in history.

In Rome in 897, there was a case in which the accused was Pope Formosus himself, although he was dead (Chamberlin, 2003). This case was known as the "Corpse Synod" and it is believed that the trial of this case marked the beginning of a corrupt era in the history of the papacy (Bilal & Tubbs, 2016). To understand the absurdity of this case, it is necessary to begin the research with the life of Formosus himself and the reign of Pope John VIII. To understand the absurdity of this case, it is necessary to begin the research with the life of Formosus himself and the reign of Pope John VIII. Pope John VIII turned against Formosus and accused him of violating a law that prohibited bishops from ruling several places at once-a law that was supposed to prevent bishops from developing their domains (Collins, 2009). In 891, Formosus was elected pope and his reign lasted 5 years. During the court hearing, the accused was asked several questions, but the deacon answered these questions. The prosecution demanded that the papacy of the Formosus and all decisions made by him in the course of his duties be invalidated, as they considered him a supporter and protégé of the famous Italian clans. Thus, according to the decision, the pope was convicted and ordered to cut off the fingers with which he made the sign of the cross, and he has dragged down the street, with his clothes off, and buried in a grave where foreigners were buried.

When exploring the above case, it is advisable to determine the specific features of the judicial system of the Middle Ages. The Middle Ages are defined by the establishment and development of such modern countries as France, England, Germany, Italy, etc. For the proper functioning of these countries, the development of their economies and socio-political life, it was necessary to establish effective mechanisms for the protection of various spheres of life and human rights, in which the judiciary played a significant role. In England, for example, the common law and the adversarial principle dominated, with the parties to the case initiating the judicial resolution of the dispute. Another significant characteristic of the trial in England at that time was that the defendant was not obliged to prove his innocence, as the prosecutor had to prove his guilt. In addition, the Middle Ages in England were distinguished by the development of procedural law and, in this regard, more effective judicial protection of human rights (Slinko, 2019). France and Germany in the Middle Ages are defined by the emergence of common law and the development of the inquisitorial form of justice, which replaced the accusatory adversarial process (Slinko, 2018; Hamilton, 2022). In addition, procedural law is being developed, and the powers of judges are being expanded. The court in the Middle Ages gradually became a class-based court (Coretti, 2019). It meant that there were separate courts for the clergy, nobility, and citizens. The courts of the Middle Ages can be described as being in their infancy, as they were mostly at the disposal of higher authorities, nobles or kings. It is clear that the judicial system of the Middle Ages was far from perfect and required significant development and improvement.

Bringing animals to justice and punishing them was not unusual in the Middle Ages, as it was quite common for the legal, legislative, and judicial systems to hold animals accountable as humans. In addition, animal trials included investigation, interrogation, witness testimony, provision of a lawyer, and other procedures, and torture could be used against them. Even nowadays, there are animal prisons, mostly for monkeys that pose a danger to humans.

One of the most illustrative cases in which animals were accused is the case of the conviction of rats, and the lawyer who defended the animals became world famous. According to this case, rats were tried before a church court for destroying a barley crop (Evans, 1906). It caused a disaster in the province of Burgundy, as the loss of crops meant famine for the inhabitants. Therefore, the population of the province turned to the authorities and clergy, organising rallies to take action to stop the destruction of the crops and punish the perpetrators. In 1522, a trial was held against the rats, where they were accused of spoiling and stealing the barley crop, and the bishop's vicar asked to excommunicate and anathematise them. The animals would have been convicted if their defence lawyer had not been Barthelemy de Chassaigneau, one of the most successful lawyers of the 16th century, who, due to his intelligence and legal skills, was able to save the rats from punishment. The modern structure of the judiciary and the nature of the cases to be heard are undoubtedly different from the Middle Ages when the consideration of unusual cases was a common practice.

Unusual lawsuits in the history of modern legal proceedings

The history of medieval case law is distinguished both by unusual cases and by the number of such cases in modern history and case law. Occasionally, absurd lawsuits are brought by judges themselves. In the capital of the United States, Washington, D.C., a case was heard on a judge's lawsuit against dry-cleaners who had ruined his favourite pants. He estimated the material damage and non-pecuniary damage he suffered at $65 million. However, the judge who heard the case proved to be more competent and refused to rule in the plaintiff's favour. The judge filed a similar lawsuit several more times, but the positive decision he expected was never made (Court Opinion of the District Court of Appeal of Colombia..., 2020).

There was a similar dispute in Ukraine. Thus, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, a woman filed a lawsuit for compensation for damage to her property. According to the circumstances of the case, she agreed with a dry cleaner to whom she handed over several items. When she arrived to get her belongings, she noticed that a woman's cashmere coat, the colour "coffee with milk" by Nero, had been damaged during dry cleaning (Decision of the Zhovtnevyi District Court of Dnipropetrovsk…, 2019). In turn, representatives of the dry cleaners noted that the coat had already been handed over to them with defects, which was confirmed in the contract receipt. The expert later concluded that there were no grounds to believe that the chemical cleaning of the product had been performed in violation of the technological process and cleaning regimes. As a result of the case, the court ruled in favour of the dry cleaning company and dismissed all of the plaintiff's claims.

However, history knows unusual cases that have become known throughout the world. One such case is "Stella v. McDonald's" (Gerlin, 1994). The case became one of the most unusual cases in the United States and later in the world. There is even a "Stella Award" presented for the most ridiculous lawsuits. The incident that became the crux of Stella's case occurred in 1994 when Stella Liebeck and her grandson stopped by a "McDonald's" fast food restaurant to order coffee. After receiving her coffee, sitting in the passenger seat, Stella opened the coffee, pulled the lid sharply and spilt the coffee on herself, resulting in third-degree burns of 6% of her skin and less severe burns of 16% of her skin. The victim was 79 years old at the time of the incident.

During the treatment, which lasted eight days, Stella underwent several surgeries that totaled $10,000. The victim's family asked "McDonald's" to pay them $20,000 for treatment, but "McDonald's" offered only $800. After several unsuccessful lawsuits, Stella Liebeck hired a lawyer who had already won several successful cases where "McDonald's" was the defendant. Previously, he won two lawsuits against "McDonald's", where his clients suffered burns, although in one case the negligence was on the part of a waiter who spilt coffee on a woman. The fast-food chain "McDonald's" was frequently a defendant in cases of custody of clients, and before Stella's case was heard, about 700 similar cases were considered.

When bringing the case to court, Stella Liebeck's lawyer, Reed Morgan, argued that the coffee spilt by the victim was too hot, approximately 80 degrees (which ultimately resulted in the case is won), and Morgan referred to previous cases that were almost identical and which he had successfully won. Before the trial, the victim's lawyer offered "McDonald's" $90,000 in compensation, and later increased it to $300,000, but "McDonald's" categorically refused to pay such an amount. During the trial, due to his skill, Morgan managed to convince the jury that "McDonald's" should pay the victim the world's income for two days of work. The jury agreed with the defence and the defendant had to pay the victim her income for two days of work, namely $2.7 million and $200,000 in compensation for medical treatment. The amount of $2.7 million is mentioned in many versions of the case, but the final amount to which the parties jointly agreed was $600,000 (Cain, 2007).

Thus, the victory was based on the convincing position of the lawyer, who proved that the coffee served at "McDonald's", according to the instructions, was 82-84°C, and should be less – at least 70°C, since the temperature of coffee at 80°C is simply impossible to drink and is considered life-threatening. In addition, the defence counsel referred to the fact that this was not the only case in the activities of "McDonald's" in which customers were harmed. In each case, "McDonald's" settled for a small compensation, and in Stella's case, they hoped for this. Another important argument was that the company had done nothing to protect its customers after all these incidents. In court, defending the company's position, the "McDonald's" lawyer referred to the fact that they care about their customers not drinking "cold coffee" and he claimed that the cup said "Beware, hot coffee!" (Gerlin, 1994). However, such arguments did not convince the jury and the judge, and they issued a decision finding "McDonald's" guilty and awarding Stella Liebeck compensation.

Unusual lawsuits involving well-known individuals and companies

In addition, the case where the defendant was the illusionist David Copperfield was quite unusual (Report and recommendation of the United States District Court..., 2007). According to the case file, illusionist Christopher Roller filed a lawsuit for patent infringement. In substantiating his claim, he noted that the defendant, David Copperfield, was using his "divine powers" without permission, which he had allegedly patented. As it emerged in the course of the case, the plaintiff did not apply for a patent and, accordingly, did not receive one. David Copperfield filed a counter-motion, arguing that the claim should be dismissed as the patent claimed by the plaintiff does not exist. Upon this motion, the plaintiff filed an amended complaint. It claimed that Copperfield, in collusion with other people, intended to kill him. The court dismissed the plaintiff's claim and prohibited him from bringing similar claims in the future, as Christopher Roller did not provide any evidence or facts to support his claim.

Unusual things happen in everyday life, and in various areas of life, such as fashion or culture. For example, Christian Louboutin sued the Dutch company "vanHaren", which violated intellectual property rights, namely trademark rights (Judgment of the Court..., 2018). The year 1992 was marked by the development of the world-famous "red sole" by designer Christian Louboutin. He used his assistant's red nail polish to paint the soles of his black shoes red, which to this day remains a classic worn all over the world, from ordinary people to the first ladies of the world.

The history of the lawsuit dates back to 2012, when "vanHaren", together with Halle Berry, presented the Fifth Avenue shoe collection. The collection included black pumps that had a specific feature, namely a red sole. In this regard, Christian Louboutin filed a lawsuit for the illegal use of the trademark that it invented. After the trial, the Hague District Court issued a ruling in which it temporarily banned the sale of shoes with red soles by "vanHaren". However, the company disagreed with the court's decision and filed an appeal, which was considered by the European Court of Justice. During the trial, the company's lawyers and representatives argued that Louboutin could not have rights to the "red sole" as under the laws of the European Union (EU), "the shape of the product that gives it the significant value" is not considered an element of a trademark in the EU.

After substantiating the positions of both parties and considering the case, the Court ruled in favour of Christian Louboutin, noting that the designer was not trying to protect the shoes themselves but the idea of using the colour applied to the soles of the shoes. After the decision was made, the designer himself spoke on this issue and said: "The protection of the red sole as a Christian Louboutin trademark has been confirmed by the European Court of Justice. The red colour applied to the soles of high-heeled shoes is a distinctive feature that Christian Louboutin has been using for many years" (Judgment of the Court..., 2018).

Comparison of the results of research by other scholars with the analysis of unusual court cases

Although the cases under consideration departed in many ways from conventional processes, it is difficult to accuse the judges of being unprofessional. If unusual lawsuits were heard in a courtroom and received a specific verdict, the

plaintiffs' right to fair justice was implemented. Comparing the level of guarantees for access to justice in judicial institutions in the past and today, it can be said that there are some problems in this area currently.

Unimpeded access to fair and impartial justice is regularly explored by scholars from different countries. Yu. Matat (2017) in one of his works lists the main problematic areas of judicial practice in providing access to justice. Among the main obstacles to the exercise of this right, the author identifies the low level of legal capacity of the applicant to file a civil action, appeal in criminal proceedings or obtain a court decision; access barriers, including time limits and court costs; inability to provide sufficient legal aid; and lack of jurisdiction of defendants in civil cases. Drawing a parallel between these statements and the cases analysed in this study, it can be concluded that similar problems with access to justice have been present before. For example, the "Corpse Synod" case lasted several years, which indicates that the trial was delayed and the court decision was postponed. In the case of Stella Liebeck, jurisdiction was avoided only by engaging a lawyer with experience in similar cases.

The work of Y. Sopyan (2021) examines the process of struggle for the provision of basic human rights to children of migrant workers in Malaysia. Along with the difficulties in providing the right to justice to vulnerable groups in society, the Malaysian state of Sarawak has a very acute problem of providing basic rights to children of illegal labour migrants. According to the researcher, the main problem in ensuring the right of access to court for such children is that they must first be granted citizenship. The research states that more than 43,000 stateless children live in the state, which significantly complicates the fight for any rights. The example of this work demonstrates the similarity between the problem of access to court due to the lack of legal regulations and the problem of unusual court hearings in the past centuries. But while in the case of the unusual cases of the Middle Ages, one can explain such trials by the lack of a legal framework for the administration of justice, in the case of Malaysian children, the problem lies in the too-slow consideration of the issue of granting citizenship to specific groups of the labour population.

In some countries, even if citizens have access to fair justice, there are issues with its provision due to innovations. Thus, in the work of researcher D.Q. Anderson (2020) notes that in Singapore, in the course of mediation development, doubts have arisen about the reliability of involving a third party in the trial. The originality is perceived by the judiciary as unreliable, which can result in a lack of transparency in court verdicts. It can be observed that both the absence or restriction of the right of access to court and obstacles in the judicial system to grant such a right can become significant problems in guaranteeing the right to justice.

Based on the analysis of court cases, it can be concluded that unusual court cases have gained significant publicity mainly due to the lack of a legal foundation for settling such claims. However, notably, in all of the cases listed and explored, the rule of law and equality of participants before the law were observed. It demonstrates the necessity to make significant efforts to empower citizens in different countries (and guarantee the rights of stateless persons) and to improve existing legal documents to ensure unimpeded access to the courts.

Conclusions

To summarise, the right of access to court is a guarantee for every person to receive a fair court decision on the issue at hand without hindrance. In general terms, this right existed in the Middle Ages, when the first judicial bodies were just beginning to be established. The legal, legislative and judicial system has evolved over a long period to effectively protect human rights. A considerable number of legal provisions have been adopted at both the national and international levels, which have enshrined the right of everyone to access justice. And the consideration of unusual cases only confirms that everyone can apply for the protection of their rights, and the court, in turn, as the guarantor of justice, will ensure that this right is implemented. The purpose of the work was achieved through a comprehensive analysis of both unusual cases in the history of the world and Ukrainian legal proceedings and a look at the problem of the right to justice through the prism of human rights guarantees.

To maximise the protection of their rights, everyone is guaranteed the right to a fair and impartial trial. It is confirmed by the example of the cases reviewed within the framework of the study. The analysed court cases indicate that the judicial system has developed gradually until it has reached the features of effective human rights protection, as the court is becoming more and more independent and autonomous in the administration of justice every year. However, even at the current stage of development of public access to a fair trial, there are obstacles in the form of limited rights and awareness of citizens, long duration and high cost of participation in court proceedings, new political discourses that contradict the established principles of the judiciary, etc. To guarantee equal access to judicial institutions, it can be effective to review and improve existing legislation in countries that guarantees the provision of basic human rights to all segments of the population.

The practical significance of this research is to track the evolution of the provision and implementation of the right to justice to improve the Ukrainian judicial system for the effective operation of courts. A study of the level of efficiency of the judicial system in the post-war years in different countries could have a positive impact on the development of the subject of fair justice. In the future, the following issues should be explored: how accessible Ukrainian courts are to every citizen; what criteria should be used to determine the appropriateness of a lawsuit; and how the justice system should proceed in cases where a case is determined to be not appropriate, to avoid violating the human right to access to the court.

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Аналіз найбільш незвичайних судових рішень у світовій практиці з огляду на реалізацію права на правосуддя

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Анотація. Актуальність дослідження полягає в потребі виокремити недієві методи здійснення правосуддя у світовій судовій практиці задля забезпечення ефективності судової системи в Україні. Мета статті – встановити та проаналізувати найбільш незвичайні судові справи в різних країнах починаючи з часів Середньовіччя та закінчуючи сьогоденням для з'ясування рівня доступу населення до правосуддя як гарантії захисту належних людині прав та забезпечення принципу верховенства права і рівності всіх перед законом та судом. Серед методів, за допомогою яких здійснюється дослідження теми, можна виділити: діалектичний метод, метод формалізації, правопізнавальний метод, формально-юридичний метод, герменевтичний метод, логіко-юридичний метод, системний метод, структурно-функціональний метод, аксіоматичний метод, методи індукції та дедукції, методи аналізу та синтезу. У статті з'ясовано, наскільки були доступними для людей правосуддя та право в різні епохи. Установлено особливості розгляду судових справ у Середньовіччі. Досліджено найбільш незвичайні справи, які стали відомими в багатьох країнах світу, серед яких «Справа Стелли» та «Справа про кукурікання півня»; розкрито суть явища «Премії Стелли»; вивчено окремі курйозні справи в Україні та в інших країнах світу. Проведено аналіз кількох судових справ давніх часів та справ, які розглядалися в сучасній судовій практиці. Досліджено та схарактеризовано найбільш незвичайні курйозні судові справи, де обвинуваченими були не тільки люди, але й тварини та предмети. Проаналізовано незвичайні судові справи на території України. Положення, які закріплено в цій роботі, становлять практичну цінність насамперед для працівників судових органів, а також для осіб, які звертаються за судовим захистом

Ключові слова: суд, позивач, обвинувачений, доступ до суду, незвичайні справи, вирок