



## 5.2. Major judicial and constitutional reforms

The 26<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendment, passed in October 2024, and the 27<sup>th</sup> amendment of November 2025, have significantly changed the judiciary's structure and way of functioning. [1089](#) The 26<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution removed the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to hear cases through action taken of its own accord (*suo motu*), [1090](#) restricted the term of the Supreme Court's chief justice to three years, [1091](#) and granted the government a role in appointing the chief justice. [1092](#)

The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution, signed into law by President Asif Ali Zardari on 13 November 2025 after it had been adopted in both houses of the federal legislature, [1093](#) provides for the creation of a new Federal Constitutional Court. The new court has taken over many previous functions of the Supreme Court, [1094](#) including jurisdiction to adjudicate on constitutional matters, [1095](#) and has been granted powers to override Supreme Court decisions. [1096](#) The Supreme Court's role has in turn been reduced to handling non-constitutional civil and criminal cases. [1097](#) The new amendment also strengthened the government's influence over the appointment of judges. [1098](#) Besides the chief justice and other judges of the Federal Constitutional Court, those of the Supreme Court are now also appointed by the country's President [1099](#) and the Judicial Commission of Pakistan which not only includes judges of the highest courts, but also MPs and senior executive officials. [1100](#)

The 27<sup>th</sup> amendment also grants, save exceptions, lifelong immunity to the country's President. [1101](#) Moreover it rewrote Article 243 of the Constitution to create the new supreme military position of Chief of Defence Forces (CDF), a post designed to be held automatically by the sitting chief of the Pakistani Army. [1102](#) For more detailed information on implications of the 27<sup>th</sup> amendment on the armed forces, see section [3.1.1. Pakistan Army](#).

In November 2025, a federal representative stated that consultations were ongoing within the cabinet regarding a 28th Constitutional Amendment Bill. It was said that the bill would focus on local bodies, health, and the National Finance Commission (NFC), [1103](#) addressing longstanding tensions between the federal and provincial governments over fiscal powers. [1104](#)

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