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Review

Of the *member* of the dissertation council for the Dissertation of Mikhail Arkadievich Revazov on the topic: «Constitutional Law Requirements to the Language of Normative Acts and Their Application in Judicial Practice», submitted for the degree of candidate of legal sciences in scientific specialty 5.1.2. Public law (state law) sciences.

The Dissertation of Mikhail Arkadievich Revazov is an important exploration of the rules relating to legal communication, the purpose and effect of such rules, and how they have been implemented.

The thesis is well-organized and develops the overall argument in an orderly and persuasive way. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, and references. It is grounded on methodical and detailed study of relevant judicial opinions, and relevant literature -- both older works and contemporary articles from a number of different languages – is cited, discussed, and effectively incorporated into the analysis. The work offers an important contribution and is written in a way that makes it accessible even to scholars unfamiliar with the area.

The Introduction offers a useful overview of the whole project, stating clearly what the issues the dissertation hopes to explore and why they are of practical and theoretical importance, and how they fill in gaps in the existing scholarly literature. It also lists scholarly conferences where some of the dissertation's ideas have been presented.

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Chapter 1 develops the dissertation's topic through the introduction of terminology and a discussion of the general concerns underlying the constitutional regulation of legislative language. It lays the basic foundation for the advanced analysis by considering essential elements of communication, before applying them to the problems of *legal* communication.

Chapter 2 investigates the source of legal requirements for legislative language in guaranties of equality and legal certainty. The chapter offers a careful discussion of issues relating to «publication», including problems arising from publication in multiple languages.

Chapter 3 offers a summary and critique of the administrative processes and judicial decisions relating to the rules regarding legislative language. It also explores the connections between requirements of clear legal communication and the fight against corruption, as well as the role of dictionaries in legal decision-making in Russian, U.S., and EU courts.

The Conclusion offers a helpful summary of the work, while also recommending how the investigations begun in the dissertation could be fruitfully continued.

The relatively few suggestions and criticisms I have, minor relative to the overall achievement of the work, are offered below, in a constructive and collegial spirit:

The valuable research already done in this dissertation would become even more useful if elaborated in theoretical (and comparative) contexts. For example, how do the requirements for the language of normative acts discussed in the dissertation fit in with

Lon L. Fuller's theoretical discussion of the «principles of legality»? And, in general, how, if at all, do the «rule of law» ideas of Russia vary from analogous ideas in other countries?

Secondly, some scholars have argued that while legal rules should be clearer and more transparent than they currently are, the objective of making the content of most normative acts understandable by citizens (who are not legally trained) is not reasonably feasible. I think that if the ideas of this dissertation are developed in future publications, that line of criticism should be discussed at greater length.

Considering the above, I believe that Mikhail Arkadievich Revazov's Dissertation on the topic: «Constitutional Law Requirements to the Language of Normative Acts and Their Application in Judicial Practice» meets the requirements of specialty 5.1.2. Public law (state law) sciences.

The Dissertation is a scientific qualification work that resolves a scientific problem important for the development of the relevant field of science.

No violations of paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Order No.11181/1 as of November 19, 2021 "On the Procedure for Awarding Academic Degrees at St. Petersburg State University" have been detected.

The Dissertation meets the criteria of dissertations for the academic degree of candidate of legal sciences, established by the specified Order. The Dissertation is recommended for the defense at St. Petersburg State University.

Member of the Dissertation council

D. Phil. (doctorate) and J.D. (law degree)

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