

ANOTHER DISSERTATION DEFENCE HELD AT THE ACADEMY

At the meeting of the Scientific Council DSc.24/2026.31.01.Yu.01.02 under the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan held on 22 October 2026, a dissertation entitled **“Improving the Investigation of Embezzlement and Misappropriation Crimes Based on Modern Trends”** was defended by **O’tkixon Baxriddinovich Bahodirov**, Senior Lecturer at the Academy, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law in the specialisation 12.00.09 – “Criminal Procedure. Criminalistics, Operational-Search Law and Forensic Examination”.

The aim of the research is to develop proposals and recommendations for improving the investigation of embezzlement and misappropriation crimes based on modern trends.

The object of the research is the system of social and legal relations arising in the course of investigating embezzlement and misappropriation crimes.

The subject of the research comprises the provisions governing the procedural and legal framework for investigating embezzlement and misappropriation crimes, investigative actions conducted in cases involving such crimes, statistical data, and the application of modern trends in judicial and investigative practice in this field.

The scientific novelty of the research consists of the following:

The need for cases involving embezzlement and misappropriation to be handled by specialised investigative bodies has been substantiated in order to improve the quality of investigations into such crimes;

The need to ensure the participation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its bodies in audits conducted during the investigation of economic crimes has been substantiated, with the aim of ensuring that such investigative actions are carried out objectively, to a high standard, and effectively;

The necessity of reviewing applications, reports, and other information concerning crimes at the pre-trial stage, conducting inquiries and preliminary investigations in criminal cases, carrying out prosecutorial supervision remotely, and ensuring the prompt acquisition of necessary information has been substantiated;

The need to seize the property of suspects and accused persons, as well as to implement, using information and communication technologies, the restrictive measures prescribed by law in respect of accused persons who have been placed on a wanted list, has been substantiated in order to compensate for material damage caused by criminal acts and improve the effectiveness of this process.

The practical results of the research are as follows:

Authorial definitions have been developed for the concepts of “theft crime”, “digital theft”, “functionalised investigative mechanism”, and “investigation of embezzlement and misappropriation crimes”. Their substance and meaning have been substantiated from a comparative legal perspective in the dissertation;

The methodological approaches to identifying the characteristics of embezzlement and misappropriation have been classified;

The need to introduce short-term professional development courses for investigators, involving specialists in judicial and legal matters and economics, specialists from the Department for Combating Economic Crimes, and forensic accounting experts, has been substantiated. The courses are aimed at improving the methodology for investigating embezzlement and misappropriation crimes;

The need to develop a methodological guide entitled “Methodology for Investigating Embezzlement and Misappropriation Crimes” has been demonstrated;

Issues relating to the introduction of specialised training programmes for investigators on handling digital evidence have been outlined;

Well-founded proposals have been developed to strengthen the legal mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation in investigations into embezzlement and misappropriation cases;

The need to develop and implement standard investigative algorithms and checklists for investigating embezzlement and misappropriation crimes has been established. This includes preparing methodological roadmaps that clearly define the stages investigators are required to undertake, such as preliminary rapid threat assessment, seizure of documents, reconciliation of accounts, seizure of property, and witness selection, and applying these roadmaps as a unified standard across all investigative units;

Well-founded proposals have been developed for establishing a specialised independent investigative body composed of legal and economic experts to investigate corruption-related crimes.