

**Pekka Hallberg • The President of the Supreme Administrative Court**

## **Civil Servants' Ethics**

People seem to share a universal conception of the right and of the wrong, a kind of an ideal of justice. Judicial system is essentially multi-layered and could be compared to a tree, the needles of which represent the changing statutes, the branches the more stable principles of legislation, and the trunk the value basis. However, the essential is the invisible – the roots which contain ethical values and morality. Responsibility for the development of justice is a fundamental part of a lawyer's ethics. It also involves civic responsibility for using the basic right of self-expression and criticism of the system. While one single correct solution does not exist in the legal system, this does not eliminate the striving for the ideal of justice. Civil servant ethics calls for more responsibility for social justice and concern for the content of justice.