

## EXAMPLE OF INTERPRETATION

### PAKISTAN'S QANUN-E-SHAHADAT ORDER, 1984 (LAW OF EVIDENCE)

#### ORIGINAL TEXT FOR LITERAL OR GRAMMATICAL INTERPRETATION

##### Article 17. Competence and number of witnesses

(1) The competence of a person to testify, and the number of witnesses required in any case shall be determined in accordance with the injunctions of Islam as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah.

(2) Unless otherwise provided in any law relating to the enforcement of Hudood or any other special law,

(a) in matters pertaining to financial or future obligations, if reduced to writing, the instrument shall be attested by two men, or one man and two women, so that one may remind the other, if necessary, and evidence shall be led accordingly; and

(b) in all other matters, the Court may accept, or act on, the testimony of one man or one woman or such other evidence as the circumstances of the case may warrant.

#### CONTEXTUAL INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSE IN ARTICLE 17

1. (1) the competence of a person to testify, and the number of witnesses required in any case shall be determined in accordance with the injunctions of Islam (*Main clause*)
2. as laid down in the Holy Quran and Sunnah (*Adverb clause of manner, modifying, "shall be determined" in 1*)
3. (2) unless otherwise provided in any law relating to the enforcement of Hudood or any other special law (**a**) in matters pertaining to financial or future obligations, if reduced to writing (*Adverb clause of condition, modifying, "shall be attested", "shall be led" in 4 and 6*)
4. the instrument shall be attested by two men, or one man and two women (*Main clause*)
5. so that one may remind the other, if necessary (*Adverb clause of purpose, modifying, "shall be attested" in 4*)
6. and evidence shall be led accordingly (*Main clause*)
7. and unless otherwise provided in any law relating to the enforcement of Hudood and any other special law (**b**) in all other matters (*Adverb clause of condition, modifying, "may act" in 8, coordinate to 3*)
8. the Court may accept, or act on, the testimony of one man or one woman or such other evidence (*Main clause*)
9. as the circumstances of the case may warrant (*Adjective clause, qualifying, "such other evidence" in 8*)

**CLASSIFICATION OF ARTICLE 17:** It contains four main clauses and five subordinate clauses

