

**PROTS O.**

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**CONCEPT AND TYPES OF DEFORMED LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS:  
DEBATABLE QUESTIONS**

Modern Ukrainian society is going through a difficult and controversial process of political, social and economic transformation, which leads, along with positive changes, to a number of “adverse” effects, one of which – and perhaps the most serious according to its consequences – is a negative change in the public consciousness, including legal one.

Describing deformed legal consciousness as its negative state, it is necessary first of all to find out what state of legal consciousness should be considered as positive one. Since the concept, the structure of legal consciousness, its types and forms are among the most studied problems of general theoretical law, it seems possible to determine the following features of legal consciousness based on a synthesis of the essential characteristics of legal consciousness defined by various scholars: legal consciousness is a form of social consciousness, the object of cognition and reflection of which is law and legal reality; legal consciousness includes ideas, theories, feelings, perceptions, values, expectations, attitudes formed in society, various social groups and individuals in the course of their inclusion in the legal life; legal consciousness determines the person’s ability to exist in a legal space to fulfill legal requirements, enforce rights and freedoms and to be responsible; within the legal consciousness reflection, and cognition take place at the same time: on the one hand, the man cognizes itself, determines its own level of development, on the other – understands legal reality; legal consciousness is a self-reflection, reflection of the legal reality through the prism of individual interest, which is why justice acts as an element of motivation of actions of individuals, social groups in accordance with the requirements of law; legal consciousness is both the result and the process reflection and cognition of legal reality; legal consciousness serves as the basis for development of law and legal understanding.

