

Chief Justice of Russia's Supreme Court Dies at 72

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Irina Podnosova. **Mikhail Tereshchenko / TASS**

Irina Podnosova, the Chief Justice of Russia's Supreme Court, has died at the age of 72, Russian media [reported](#) Tuesday.

Podnosova, who was [appointed](#) to the court's top post in April 2024, died of cancer, a source told the business newspaper Kommersant. She reportedly continued working while undergoing treatment.

She succeeded longtime Chief Justice Vyacheslav Lebedev, who died in February 2024 following a prolonged illness, becoming the first woman to hold the position. Lebedev had led the court since 1989.

Russia's Supreme Court later [told](#) the state-run TASS news agency that Deputy Chief Justice Yuri Ivanenko would serve as acting chief justice.

Podnosova, a [former classmate](#) of President Vladimir Putin, was appointed by the upper-

house Federation Council on the president's recommendation. Supreme Court chief justices serve six-year terms.

A graduate of Leningrad State University in 1975, Podnosova began her judicial career in 1990 as a judge at the Luzhsky City Court in the Leningrad region. In 2020, she was appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and led its Judicial Collegium for Economic Disputes.

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