

## **A new exploration of “Duanli” in the Song dynasty**

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### **Abstract**

“Duanli” was an important part of the legal system in the Song and the Yuan dynasties. In the Song dynasty, “Duanli” was based on the cases, as well as connected closely with the statute law, which played an irreplaceable role in the judicial judgment. The style of “Duanli” was more and more normalized in the Song dynasty, which tended to the statute law and occupied an important position both in the legislative and judicial activities. The nature of “Duanli” is a legal form, and is also a case law. The wide use of “Duanli” in the Song dynasty was not accidental, yet it was the origin of various elements’ influence such as politics、economic and society. Besides, the complementary and alternative functions of “Duanli” determined that it can run parallel with the statute law.

Keywords: Song dynasty, Duanli, legal form, case law