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**ABA** RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

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# RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

# Update

April 2009

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## FEATURED STORY

### Public Defenders Offices Help Women Empower Each Other



Oleksandra Kyrychenko is the head of the Union of Veterans at the Lyutens'ki Budyshcha Village Council, Poltava region, Ukraine. A highly respected and popular elderly woman, men and women in her village look up to Oleksandra for her leadership. Her life, though, was quite a challenging journey. For many years, Oleksandra returned home not knowing how she would be greeted by her husband or even where she would be spending the night. Due to her abusive relationship with her husband, she often fled to her sister's home. When she had all but given up, a seminar on legal protection for rural populations, which she attended at the invitation of her friend, Hanna Skarha, renewed her hope. [Read more](#)

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## MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

 **Video: Mediation Training in Liberia**



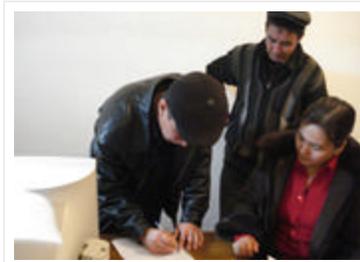
**S**ince 2006, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in Liberia, through its U.S. Agency for International

## EVENT

Development-supported access to justice program, has offered mediation skills trainings. About 1,100 Liberian elders, town chiefs, non-governmental organization representatives, lawyers, youth and women's group leaders participated in the trainings. [Read more »](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

### *Pro Bono* Legal Service Helps Keep a Family Together



**W**ith the support of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), legal aid clinics continue to improve people's lives. Had it not been for the legal aid clinic in Lebap, Tangriov Halbay's family would have been separated, with its members on either side of the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan border. His wife,

originally from Uzbekistan, has lived in Turkmenistan for 10 years. Her repeated attempts to secure Turkmen citizenship were unsuccessful. Turkmen immigration services were about to deport his wife and children, who were denied citizenship as a result of their mother's unresolved citizenship issues, when Halbay consulted the legal aid clinic. [Read more »](#)

## ASIA

### ABA ROLI, China Anti-Domestic Violence Network Train Police, Judges and Advocates



**T**he ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the China Anti-Domestic Violence Network trained more than 100 police officers and anti-domestic violence advocates from 18 Chinese cities about police response to domestic violence. The two training programs, which were held between February 12 and 15, were followed

by a police-trainers' training on February 16. The trainings focused on concrete skills police can employ in responding to domestic violence calls. [Read more »](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

### Mentoring Program Launched for Female Law Students in Kosovo



**T**he Gender and Minorities Committee of the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA), with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) support, launched its women in law mentoring program in an April 8 event, which connected 25 female lawyers, prosecutors and judges with 25 female law students enrolled at the University of Pristina's master's degree program. The mentoring program will support and encourage women who are planning to enter the legal profession. [Read more »](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

### Judicial Reform Index Released in Albania

**O**n April 10, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) released the fourth volume of the *Judicial Reform Index (JRI)* for Albania at the Magistrates' School in Tirana. The release event, which featured presentations by High Court Judge Arjana Fullani, U.S. Agency for International Development Albania Mission Director Roberta Mahoney and ABA ROLI assessor Kathy Ladun, was broadcast on major Albanian radio and television stations. [Read more »](#)

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### ABA ROLI Commences Its Culture of Lawfulness Program in Panama

**A**s Panama takes its initial steps toward implementation of an accusatorial criminal justice system, it confronts a series of challenges. Citizen distrust of justice sector institutions is one challenge. According to a 2006 Inter-American Development Bank survey, 46% of Panamanians believe that the justice system fails to punish criminals. [Read more »](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

### Advocates Training Center Officially Registered in Kyrgyz Republic

**T**he Advocates Training Center (ATC) in Kyrgyzstan was officially registered as a public foundation with the Ministry of Justice in December 2008. The ATC, with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) support, has been providing training to licensed advocates since last July. ABA ROLI, in partnership with the Centre Prava public foundation, provides funding and material support to the ATC. The ATC has so far offered seven continuing legal education (CLE) trainings to 190 advocates. [Read more »](#)

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