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## Mobile Military Court Held in DRC's South Kivu



On January 19, Congolese justice sector officials launched the first mobile military court in Kamituga, located about 105 miles (170 km.) from the provincial capital of South Kivu, Bukavu. The mobile court was supported by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and its Congolese partner non-governmental organization Program for the Restoration of Justice in Eastern Congo, which provided transportation for prisoners and victims.

"The courts provided needed and appreciated access to justice for Kamituga's citizens," noted ABA ROLI's Washington, D.C.-based program manager, Hadja Tall, who accompanied the mobile court team. "For some attending the cases, seeing justice in action, right before their eyes, made it seem much more tangible and attainable." Read more »

#### ASIA

At a Domestic Violence Training in Beijing, a Judge Shares Her Experience and Passion

MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

ABA ROLI Celebrates 20 Years with a New Online Feature, Anniversary Gala

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Ithough her youthful appearance and casual demeanor may belie the fact that Liu Qun has been a judge for over twelve years, when she speaks, her experience, wisdom and passion for her



work are immediately apparent. Until recently, Judge Liu served as the Deputy Chief of the Civil Division at the Yuelu District Court in Changsha City, Hunan Province, China and she is currently the Chief of the Case Filing Division at the same court. In 2008, China's Supreme People's Court (SPC) gave its approval for nine local courts across China, including the Yuelu District Court, to begin issuing, on a trial basis, China's first domestic violence protection orders. While only nine courts were originally designated as pilot sites, many more have since applied to participate in the project. The capacity of these pilot courts to issue civil protection orders in domestic violence cases marks a major breakthrough in anti-domestic violence advocacy. Read more »

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

# Judicial Accountability: Making the Standards Count in the Middle East



n March 28–29, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) co-hosted a regional workshop with the Ministry of Justice of Bahrain. The program brought together judges and government officials from 11 countries in

the Middle East and North Africa, which fell into two categories—those nations that have recently adopted principles of judicial conduct and those nations that may develop such standards in the coming years. Read more »

wenty years ago, with the support of prominent U.S. jurists and lawyers, visionary members of the American Bar Association created a program that would later become the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). This year, we will commemorate this milestone with a special website featuring program highlights, success stories and first-hand accounts by our overseas volunteers and staff—all gathered over the past two decades. Read more »

# When did the ABA consolidate its international rule of law programs into the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)? A. 1997 B. 1996 C. 2007 D. 2006 Test your knowledge

#### ASIA

## Anti-Corruption Reporting Project Launched in the Philippines

upported by the U.S.
Agency for International
Development (USAID)
and the ABA Rule of Law
Initiative (ABA ROLI), the

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

# ABA ROLI Delegation Visits Haiti



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

# Raising the Bar on Bar Exams in Bahrain

ar exams are indispensable tools for determining if a candidate is qualified to practice law, and mandatory bar exams can help raise the quality of available legal services. The ABA Rule of

Philippine Public Transparency Reporting Project (PPTRP) website, Pera Natin 'To! (This is our money!), launched on March 23. More than 70 representatives from 37 public and private sector organizations attended the event, held at the University of the Philippines. The anti-corruption reporting project aims to improve understanding of public accountability and governance, and to promote collaborative engagement by journalists, activists, civil servants and citizens. Read more »

ollowing an invitation from the Haitian government, a delegation from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) traveled to Port-au-Prince in late March. The purpose of the trip was to meet with Haitian officials to discuss how to best support the country's ongoing recovery from January's devastating earthquake. Read more »

Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) work in Bahrain has included collaborations with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute (JLSI) to support development of the country's first bar exam. Currently, ABA ROLI assists with the development and implementation of a mandatory bar exam. Once implemented, this will raise the requirements for admission to the Bahraini bar, which currently demands only a law degree and a two-year internship. Read more

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#### **EUROPE AND EURASIA**

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Center Opens in Rostovon-Don

n April 16, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) Russia program, through its Rule of Law Partnership Project (RLPP) funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, launched the first independent alternative dispute resolution (ADR) center in Rostov-on-Don, Russia. More than 50 guests attended the Rostov Mediation Center's (RMC's) ribboncutting and opening festivities, which were jointly hosted by the Rostov District Court and the Russian Academy of Justice. The Academy of Justice's support illustrates the willingness of the professional community to embrace the idea of mediation as an alternative to the resolution of disputes through litigation. The advantages of this newly established alternative to litigation include the considerable relief provided to the over-burdened Justice of

#### ASIA

# Small Claims Courts Broaden Access to Justice in the Philippines

n March 18, the Supreme Court of the Philippines implemented the Rule of Procedure for Small Claims Cases, authorizing all first-level trial courts to hear small claims cases. Developed over two years of collaboration with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the U.S. Agency for International



Development (USAID), the new rules utilize existing judicial infrastructure to expedite cases and improve access to justice in more than 1,000 courts nationwide. Read more »

### MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Video: Forensic Investigation Workshop Concludes in Nepal ( )

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the Peace courts, the deeper and more lasting resolution of disputes through amicable settlement, and the avoidance of the difficulties in the enforcement of judgments. Read more »



A three-minute video clip from Nepalnews.com highlights a recent ABA Rule of Law Initiative forensic training workshop in Nepal. View clip »

#### ASIA

Chinese Delegation Attends Annual Conference of the American Bar Association's Section on Energy, Environment and Resources

hina's environmental bar is playing an increasingly important role in implementing environmental laws, with its members advising government agencies, counseling corporations, representing victims of environmental harms and consulting policymakers. The All China Lawyers Association's Environmental



and Resources Law Committee (ERLC)—established in 2001 and comprising China's top environmental lawyers—is a national voice for China's environmental bar. Read more »

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