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Update

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FEATURED STORY

Vietnam Bar Leaders Tour the United States



In July and August, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) hosted a delegation of 12 Vietnamese officials, educators and lawyers for the first phase of a U.S.-Vietnam bar exchange program funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The 28-day study tour was designed to support the development of a professionally skilled, civically engaged and ethical Vietnamese bar.

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MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

ABA ROLI Honors Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights with its 2009 Rule of Law Award

On August 1, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) awarded Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) its 2009 Rule of Law Award. Representing her organization, ZLHR Executive Director Irene Petras attended the Rule of Law Luncheon and Award Ceremony in Chicago and received the award from ABA President H. Thomas Wells, Jr. The award recognizes the ZLHR's efforts to uphold the rule of law and to fight for the human rights of Zimbabwean citizens. [Read more »»](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ABA ROLI Expands its Continuing Legal Education Program in Egypt



The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), the Cairo Regional Centre for International Arbitration (CRCICA) and Cairo University organized two seven-week continuing legal education (CLE) programs in spring 2009. The trainings, which were attended by 50 young lawyers and recent law graduates, covered practical legal skills in

legal research and problem solving, memo writing, contract drafting, oral advocacy and negotiation. [Read more »»](#)

MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Podcast: ABA ROLI's Legal Skills Center Helps Reform Legal Education in Liberia

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in cooperation with the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia, runs a legal skills center. The center is helping to improve legal education and to better prepare law students and recent graduates for their legal career. The center offers scholarships to third-year law students and coordinates the placement of scholarship graduates to work as field attorneys with partner government and non-governmental organizations during their first year of practice. In this podcast, Margaret Snoeren, ABA ROLI deputy country director, discusses the center's establishment and impact. [Listen to the 8-minute audio](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Law Students and Government Officials Discuss Anti-Corruption Efforts



In its recent world corruption perception ranking, Transparency International placed Ukraine at 134, which highlights the dire need for raising public awareness about corruption and its negative impacts. To enhance anti-corruption initiatives, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) held a July 6 roundtable at the Parliamentary Library of Ukraine. Participants discussed the Guidelines on the U.N. Convention against Corruption and the state of anti-corruption efforts. [Read more »»](#)

ASIA

ABA ROLI Develops a Handbook for Philippine Executive Judges

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) recently began a program to assist the Philippine judiciary with educating its executive judges, which is the title given to the country's presiding judges. While appointees to the position are typically promoted on the basis of their qualities as jurists, in the past they did not receive any specialized training on human resources, budgets and other important administrative functions that help the court function properly. [Read more »»](#)

AFRICA

ABA ROLI and the Carter Center Train New Attorneys



The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the Carter Center sponsored an advocacy training for 20 new Liberian attorneys. The trainees received their certificates of completion from M. Wilkins Wright, president of the Liberian National Bar Association. [Read more »»](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

ABA ROLI Conducts National Professional Ethics Conference in Russia

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), under its Rule of Law Partnership Project in the Russian Federation, facilitated a nation-wide conference on professional ethics for advocates. The goal of the conference, held in Rostov-on-Don from August 6–7, was to increase the application of normative ethical standards within the legal profession. The conference, which attracted more than 100 participants, also provided an open forum to express opinions and ask questions of the country's leading legal experts. [Read more »»](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Jordanian University Adopts a Professional Legal Ethics Course

Yarmouk University recently adopted a professional legal ethics course, which was developed with the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) technical assistance. Over the past year, a working group of Jordanian law professors developed a course that was both relevant to Jordan's legal system and consistent with international standards. Prior to this effort, none of the 12 Jordanian law schools offered an ethics course. Yarmouk University will lead by launching the course this fall, while others are expected to follow suit soon. [Read more »»](#)



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