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**ABA** RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

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# RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

# Update

December 2008

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## FEATURED STORY

## Domestic Violence Survivors Study Released in China



On December 10, China's Anti-Domestic Violence Network (Anti-DV Network) released the initial findings of China's first study working directly with domestic violence survivors to identify areas in social and advocacy services that are in need of improvement. The study is part of a broader program, supported by the Anti-DV Network and the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), to increase strategic multi-agency coordination in providing support services to domestic violence survivors. [Read more »»](#)

RESEARCH LOG

Voter Registration Chapter Penned by ABA ROLI Experts

American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) Deputy Director Michael Maya and Legal Analyst Brie Allen, who works for ABA ROLI's Research and Assessments Office, co-authored a chapter on voter registration in the recently published book, *International Election Principles: Democracy and the Rule of Law*. [Read more »»](#)



EUROPE AND EURASIA

Azerbaijan Women's Bar Association Dreams of Success

On a weekend in early December, 25 members of Azerbaijan's Women's Bar Association (WBA) gathered for two-and-a-half days of training on organizational development. The 250-member WBA was created in October 2007, with the advice and support of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and with a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. WBA members have attended trainings and workshops developed by ABA ROLI staff in Baku throughout 2008. To build upon those experiences and to help create a more functioning organizational structure, Muhaio Parpieva, an experienced institution building advisor for ABA ROLI in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, came to Baku to train the Women's Bar Association on developing a sustainable organization. [Read more »»](#)



EUROPE AND EURASIA

Armenia's Gavar State University's Legal Clinic Celebrates Fifth Anniversary



LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Ecuadorian Criminal Justice Reform Efforts Marked by Renewed Support

Criminal justice reform efforts in Ecuador have received unprecedented levels of support from in-country stakeholders in recent months. For many years, the issue of criminal justice reform received little

ASIA

Multimedia Spotlight: Small Claims Court Work in the Philippines 



BA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) Country Director Scott Ciment and the

**O**n December 10, Gavarr State University (GSU) celebrated the fifth anniversary of its legal clinic, established with the support of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The clinic provides free legal aid to vulnerable groups in society including women, children and the poor, with a special focus on domestic violence victims. [Read more »»](#)

or no assistance from the public sector, resulting in a deficient justice system. But now, various criminal justice sector organizations are actively participating in—and even leading—the reform process. These emergent leaders are a testament to the nation’s dedication to reform and are indicative of reform efforts’ forward momentum. [Read more »»](#)

**A**rest of the Philippines team have worked diligently to help establish 22 small claims pilot courts in the country. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, ABA ROLI has assisted with the drafting of the small claims courts rules, aided in training judges and court personnel and participated in efforts to broaden the public’s knowledge about the courts. [Read more »»](#)

#### EUROPE AND EURASIA

### Judges’ Association of Serbia Officially Joins Association of European Judges

**A**fter several years as a candidate association, the Judges’ Association of Serbia (JAS), a partner organization of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in Serbia, was proud to officially join Magistrates Europeans pour la Democratie Et les Libertes (MEDEL). MEDEL is the umbrella organization of national judges associations from across Europe. As part of its ongoing commitment to support judicial excellence, ABA ROLI sponsored members of the JAS managing board to attend their first MEDEL conference, which took place in Paris on November 28 and 29. [Read more »»](#)

#### ASIA

### ABA Pro Bono Expert Participates in China Roundtable



**T**he chair of the American Bar Association’s (ABA’s) Standing Committee on *Pro Bono*, Mark Schickman, met in Beijing with representatives from Chinese law firms to discuss strategies for increasing *pro bono* activities and for promoting public service more broadly within the legal profession. Participants in the December 11 meeting included the director of the All China Lawyers Association Legal Aid and Public Interest Law Committee, the China country director from the Public Interest Law Institute, and partners and attorneys from the Jun He Law Firm, the Da Cheng Law Firm, the De Heng Law Firm. The meeting was facilitated by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). [Read more »»](#)

Did you miss the  
ABA Rule of Law Initiative  
Luncheon?



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transcripts

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

The University of Pristina Law School Introduces  
New Courses

**T**he University of Pristina's Faculty of Law has introduced two mandatory classes to the curriculum of third year law studies. The faculty will teach the Legal Methodology course and the Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility course in tandem with legal clinics and seminars during the 2008–2009 winter semester. About 159 students will attend the new courses. [Read more »»](#)

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