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# RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE *Update*

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FEATURED STORY

## Kosovo Celebrates Law Day



On January 16, the president of Kosovo, the Kosovo minister of justice, and more than 500 people joined the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) to celebrate Law Day. ABA ROLI Country Director David Sip moderated the ceremony, held at the Youth Center Red Hall. [Read more » »](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

WEBSITE SURVEY

### ABA ROLI Conducts First International Law School Assessment in Qatar

**A**t the invitation of Qatar University, ABA ROLI conducted a comprehensive assessment of the sole law school in Qatar. The State of Qatar is committed to modernizing its entire educational system to lay the groundwork for a rigorous economic infrastructure as it continues to expand its global influence. [Read more »](#)

No need to knock



Share your thoughts in a brief survey

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

## ABA President, ABA ROLI Delegation Visit Mexico

**A**merican Bar Association (ABA) President Tommy Wells and an accompanying delegation from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) visited Mexico City to convey ABA support for the ongoing criminal justice reforms occurring there, and to express ABA ROLI's willingness to provide technical assistance. From January 12–15, Mr. Wells met with Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora; Mexican Chief Justice and President of the Judicial Council Guillermo Ortiz Mayagoitia; the presidents of the Mexican Bar Association and Inter-American Bar Association; and representatives from the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Agency for International Development. ABA ROLI has recently assisted the Mexican government with alternative dispute resolution programs and is well-positioned to aid in the transition from an inquisitorial to an accusatorial legal system. [Read more »](#)



## EUROPE AND EURASIA

## Serbian Judicial Stakeholders Take Part in Case Weighting Conference

**T**he ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in cooperation with the Judges Association of Serbia (JAS), successfully organized a video conference on case weighting in Belgrade's Sava Center on January 16. Case weighting is a critical tool for determining how many judges are needed in the court system and for apportioning cases among judges. Topics discussed included how case weighting is applied and an overview of two different methodologies for developing a case weighting system. [Read more »](#)

## AFRICA

## ABA ROLI Expands its Programming in the DRC

**T**he Dutch government recently awarded the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) a \$5.2 million grant that will dramatically expand its work on combating gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Currently, ABA ROLI programming on gender-based violence in North Kivu Province is supported by a U.S. Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) grant, while the three-year Dutch grant will expand the program to Maniema Province. [Read more »](#)

## ASIA

## ABA ROLI Continues to Support Vietnam's National Bar Association



**O**n December 4–5, 2008, ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) Vietnam Country Director Allison Moore presented at a conference entitled, "Legal Development in East Asia: China-Vietnam Compared." The event was co-sponsored by the University of Hong Kong and Monash University. Participants included scholars, lawyers and development professionals. [Read more »](#)

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

## Competition Increases Practical Legal Skills in Ukraine

In Ukraine, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) hosted the third annual national client counseling competition for law students between November 30 and December 1. The competition, which ABA ROLI has supported since 2006, used to be held in Ostroh. The 2008 competition was held in Kyiv to accommodate the growing number of participating law schools and was more visible, benefiting from sponsorship by leading law firms, legal organizations and members of the legal community. [Read more »](#)



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