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RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE Update

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FEATURED STORY

Ethiopian Stakeholders Discuss National Plan for Legal Education



In October 2009, Ethiopian legal education experts from public and private law schools, government ministries, the Ethiopian Bar Association and civil society organizations gathered in Addis Ababa for an ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) workshop on enhancing the country's legal education system. The event was held to obtain feedback from key stakeholders on the preliminary findings of ABA ROLI's recent legal education reform assessment and to identify concrete steps that could support legal education in Ethiopia. [Read more »»](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Morocco Develops a New Legal Aid Model

Providing
effective
legal
representation for



the poor is a challenge in Morocco. While regional bar associations administer a system for providing *pro bono* representation for the indigent, assignments often fall to young and inexperienced lawyers. Depending on the type of case, potential clients may not receive any representation at all. With funding from the Embassy of the Netherlands, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) has partnered with the Moroccan Federation of Young Lawyers (FYL) and the Rabat Bar Association to develop a more effective model for delivering legal aid. Once the model is completed, ABA ROLI's partners will advocate for its adoption by Morocco's government.

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EUROPE AND EURASIA

ABA ROLI Publishes Assessments of the Moldovan Legal System



On December 22, 2009, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) presented the findings

ASIA

Beijing Conference Addresses Environmental Law Enforcement in China

On January 9, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in cooperation with the Research Institute of Environmental Law (RIEL) at Wuhan University, hosted a conference on local judicial reforms in environmental law. A Supreme People's Court judge, judges from specialized environmental divisions in four of the country's courts, the deputy director of the Policy and Regulation Department of the

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Fourth Client Counseling Competition Held in Ukraine



From December 12–13, the fourth Ukrainian annual national client counseling competition was held in Kyiv. The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), the U.S.

of its *Judicial Reform Index (JRI)*, *Prosecutorial Reform Index (PRI)* and *Legal Profession Reform Index (LPRI)* assessments for the Republic of Moldova. These reports—introduced to the public in a press conference at the Leograd Hotel in Chisinau—analyze how much the Moldovan legal system conforms to international standards, assess legal reforms and identify the system's strengths and weaknesses.

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Ministry of Environmental Protection, officials from local environmental protection bureaus, prosecutors, environmental law scholars, lawyers and non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives participated in the conference. [Read more »»](#)

Agency for International Development, Ukrinyurkollehiya law firm, the Association of Advocates of Ukraine, DLA PIPER law firm and the Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine jointly hosted the competition. The event involves simulated client interviews and consultations, providing students the opportunity to develop their practical skills to analyze a legal problem and to follow ethical standards. [Read more »»](#)

MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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www.abarol.org/multimedia

Visit often—additional content is added frequently!

RESEARCH LOG

Detention Procedure Assessment Tool to be Piloted in Armenia

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) recently completed the methodology for its latest legal

assessment tool, the *Detention Procedure Assessment Tool (DPAT)*. The new tool, which will be piloted in Armenia in February 2010, encompasses both pretrial detention and sentencing, and evaluates legal frameworks, procedures and practice in light of international standards. This enables a comprehensive legal and factual analysis that identifies strengths and weaknesses and guides future rule of law programming. All *DPAT* assessments will be collected and presented in a standardized format, allowing users to compare the performance of different countries and, via reassessments, to look at a country's performance over time. [Read more »»](#)



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