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ABA RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE *Update*

March 2011

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FEATURED STORY

Philippine Supreme Court Focuses on Courts in Mindanao



Aside from poor governance, a major limitation on access to justice in the Philippines is the lack of adequate resources, personnel and facilities in local courts, especially in more remote areas. Weak basic infrastructure is one of the problems courts in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) face. The lack of equipment not only impedes the prompt and efficient dispensation of justice, but also undermines the public's confidence in the judicial system's capacity to resolve conflicts. [Read more »»](#)

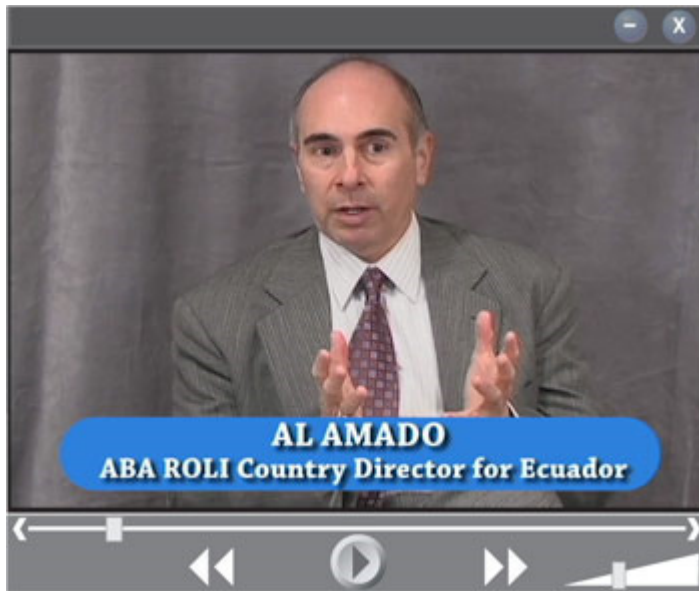


MULTIMEDIA FEATURE

Video: Promoting the Rule of Law in Ecuador

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Jordan Workshops Address Human Trafficking



On January 29, the Arab Women's Legal Network, with support from the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, hosted a human trafficking awareness workshop for 70 female Jordanian judges and public prosecutors. The Amman event was held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma bint Talal. [Read more »»](#)

ABA Rule of Law Initiative country director Al Amado discusses our efforts to promote the rule of law in Ecuador. [Click here to view the 5-minute clip »»](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Roma Leaders and Advocates Participate in First Regional Advocacy Meeting



In late February, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) held the first of four regional meetings for leaders of Roma communities in the Balkans. Roma leaders and advocates from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria, to explore advocacy techniques. [Read more »»](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Female Mentoring and Domestic Violence Education Programs Launched with Qatar University

On March 1, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in partnership with Qatar University (QU), launched a mentoring program for aspiring female lawyers. The program pairs female QU law students with practicing female attorneys. Fifty students and mentoring attorneys attended the event. Dr. Shaikha Jabor Al Thani, QU's vice president, welcomed attendees and said that the program would be helpful for the students' professional development. [Read more »»](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Tajikistan Gender Equality Program Improves Access to Justice



The ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) gender equality program in Tajikistan is helping increase women's access to justice and educating the public on women's rights. As part of the program, which was launched in January 2009, ABA ROLI conducts roving legal clinics in rural areas. Program lawyers provide *pro bono* legal assistance for women, including in filing for child support and in applying for proof of property ownership and other government services. [Read more »»](#)

Intellectual Property Law Moot Court Competition Held in Armenia

In February, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) organized an intellectual property law moot court competition for Armenian law students. The competition, which provided the students with practical experience, emphasized the importance of intellectual property to legal and economic development. Leading up to the competition, participating students learned concepts of *stare decisis* and case precedence, and enhanced their written and oral advocacy skills. [Read more »»](#)



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