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RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE Update

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FEATURED STORY

Pre-Trial Detention Program Helps Release More Than 450 Liberian Detainees



At 11:30 a.m. on a Tuesday, 12 young men are marched up to the main gates inside Monrovia Central Prison. Four of them do not have shoes. Three of them are clutching loose trousers to their thin frames. One of them is shaking with the chills of fever in the heavy mid-day heat. They form a crooked line, disheveled and nervous, not quite able to stand still. But they are all smiling as they anticipate their first taste of liberty. [Read more »](#)

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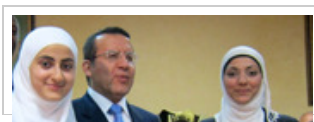
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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

National Moot Court Competition Builds Participants' Legal Skills and Confidence

"I will never fear standing before a judge!" exclaimed Noura Saleh. Noura and her teammate, Niveen



Abdel Rahman, both law students from Al al-Bayt University, had just defeated Jordan University's team in this year's national moot court competition. [Read more »»](#)



ASIA

Forensics Trainings Conducted in Nepal

"Send it to CSI," half-joked Shyam Bhadur Chand, as his gloved hands waved a labeled plastic bag containing a stained fragment of carpet for his colleagues to see. Chand, who works for a Nepali human rights advocacy organization, and a dozen other senior-level government and non-government organization representatives were participating in a mock exhumation in Nepal's remote western city of Dhangadi. [Read more »»](#)

20th Anniversary Trivia


When did the ABA consolidate its international rule of law programs into the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)?

- A. 1997
- B. 1996
- C. 2007
- D. 2006

Test your knowledge



MULTIMEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Audio: Discussion on Combating Gender-Based Violence in the DRC 



On April 26, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative and the Enough Project hosted a panel discussion on combating gender-based violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [Click here to listen to the audio »»](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Civil Society Weighs in on Judicial Monitoring Framework

Continuing its work to improve human rights in the Middle East and North Africa, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) recently organized two substantive meetings on the development of a justice sector monitoring framework. The framework, under development in partnership with the Arab Council for Judicial and Legal Studies (ACJLS), will enhance the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) to monitor the effectiveness of their justice sectors. [Read more »»](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

150 Law Students Complete ABA ROLI-Offered Law Courses



On March 16, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the University of Pristina Law Faculty held a graduation ceremony for 150 law students who completed ABA ROLI's fall 2009 legal courses. [Read more »](#)

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Moldovan Students Participate in Russian-Language Mock Trial

From March 12–14, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) organized the first Russian-language mock trial training in Moldova. A total of 18 law students from Comrat State University and Tiraspol Filial of Moscow Academy of Economics and Law took part in the training held at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in Chisinau. [Read more »»](#)

ASIA

China Conference Focuses on Improving Online Training for Criminal Defense Lawyers

China has implemented important reforms to its criminal justice system in recent years, but exposure to and assimilation of these reforms by the country's approximately 3,500 courts, 200,000 judges and 160,000 lawyers has been strikingly uneven. Awareness and reform implementation vary tremendously depending on the geographic region and its socio-economic development. Lawyers and judges in more remote regions, particularly in western parts of China, often lack access to information about and training on innovations in criminal reform. [Read more »»](#)



EUROPE AND EURASIA

Roundtables Address Criminal Justice System Reform in Ukraine

In Ukraine, criminal justice reform presents many challenges, including the need to balance European values of protecting human rights and liberties with national traditions while building upon legislative achievements. These aims are reflected in the concept to reform the criminal justice system, which Ukraine's president adopted on April 8, 2008. The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) has supported the development of the concept and is working with governmental and non-governmental partners to promote its implementation. [Read more »»](#)

AFRICA

Legal Movies Foster Discussion at Skills Center in Monrovia

A screening of "My Cousin Vinny" kicked-off the Legal Movie Series, which is held twice monthly on Saturday afternoons at the Legal Skills Center, located in the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia and operated by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). [Read more »»](#)

ASIA

Cambodian and Chinese Teams Participate in International Client Counseling Competition

From April 7–10, teams representing 22 countries from around the world competed in the Louis M. Brown International Client Counseling Competition in Hong Kong. Launched in 1985, the competition seeks to promote greater knowledge and interest among law students in client counseling and to



enhance students' skills in engaging clients. The competition encourages students to develop interviewing, planning and analytical skills instrumental to developing lawyer-client relationships and to responding effectively to clients' non-legal needs. [Read more »»](#)

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