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ABA RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE Update

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FEATURED STORY

Women Lawyers Discuss Gender Inequality in Moldova's Legal Profession



Women attorneys in Moldova face significant gender discrimination in their profession. Examples of unfair treatment of women lawyers at the hands of male lawyers and clients are rife. A female defense lawyer lost a male client after he claimed the case was "too complex," requesting a male attorney instead. Another female lawyer was met with harassment and outright revolt from male counterparts when she was promoted as a supervisor, while many more have faced defamation and various forms of discrimination. [Click to read more »](#)

VIDEO: EUROPE AND EURASIA

Armenian Attorney Discusses Community Service as an Alternative to Incarceration in Armenia



Armenia's legal framework requires that individuals be deprived of liberty only when necessary and provides for community service as the main form of

ASIA

Automated System Promises Enhanced Case Reporting for Small Claims Courts



non-custodial punishment. However, as documented in the ABA Rule of Law

Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) *Detention Procedure Assessment Tool for Armenia*, the imposition of community service as an alternative punishment is extremely rare.

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AUDIO: AFRICA

New Legal Information System to Provide Free Access to Liberian Laws

ABA ROLI Country Director in Liberia Kevin George talks about ABA ROLI's efforts to make free online access to legal information available to all Liberians.

[Click to listen to the 9-minute clip »](#)



The Philippine Supreme Court is introducing an automated reporting system that will make it easier for small claims courts to provide the Supreme Court with detailed, consistent and integrated case information. The system—the Small Claims Monitoring System (SC2MS)—will be implemented in all of the country's small claims courts by June.

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EUROPE AND EURASIA

ABA ROLI Trains Ukrainian Trainers on Combating Child Trafficking

From April 18–20, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) trained 10 Ukrainian law professors on investigating and combating child trafficking. Participants of the Kyiv training came from five regions—Kyiv, L'viv, Kharkiv, Odesa and Donetsk—and will lead upcoming trainings for investigators in Donetsk, L'viv and Kharkiv.

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MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Jordanian Law Students Participate in National Moot Court Competition

The final rounds of Jordan's fifth national moot court competition were held on May 7 at the Palace of Justice in Amman, under the patronage of the president of the Judicial Council. Thirty-two law students argued before judicial panels, taking on the role of lawyers in a hypothetical case involving Jordan's *Trafficking in Persons Law* and its *Labor Law*.

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EUROPE AND EURASIA

ABA ROLI Hosts Client Counseling Competition in Kosovo

From May 14–15, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) hosted a client counseling competition for law students in Pristina, Kosovo. The competition, which involved students from five public and private universities, was designed to strengthen the participants' lawyering skills through increased involvement in practical skills activities.

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ASIA

Multidisciplinary Thailand Program Assists Torture Victims

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Seminar Addresses Xenophobia and Hate-Crime Prevention and Victim Protection



The ability to present evidence of psychological injury can form a key component of torture documentation, torture prevention and a victim's claim for reparations. The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) program in Thailand trains lawyers and human rights advocates to work more effectively with survivors of torture and to document evidence of psychological injury.

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From April 20–21, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) held the first of a series of seminars for human rights defenders and representatives of ethnic minority organizations in Kyiv, Ukraine. The event brought together more than 25 representatives of various ethnic groups—including Afghans, Roma, Kazakhs, Armenians and Jews—from the eastern part of Ukraine to exchange experiences and to learn more on protecting the rights of hate-crime victims.

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EUROPE AND EURASIA

Central Asian Lawyers Take Part in a Mediation Skills Conference

In late March, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) gathered 23 lawyers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for the sixth of a series of criminal law conferences. The latest workshop, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, focused on extrajudicial measures—an underemphasized facet of recent criminal law reforms in the region. [Click to read more »](#)



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