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RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE *Update*

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IN THIS ISSUE

Featured Story
Vietnamese Lawyers Visit
China

Regional News

Algeria: New E-Learning
Modules

Burundi: Reintegrating
Child Soldiers

DRC: *New York Times*
Cites ABA ROLI's DRC
Program

Serbia: Right to Know Day
Celebrated

Tajikistan: Increased
Access to Legal Information
for Tajik Advocates



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FEATURED STORY

Vietnamese Bar Leaders Gain Insights During Chinese Study Tour



With their eyes on the future of the legal profession in their own country, a Vietnamese study group spent a week in China visiting national and local bar associations, justice authorities, law firms, legal aid centers and courts. The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) worked with the All China Lawyers Association (ACLA) to arrange the September study tour in anticipation of the 2009 inauguration of Vietnam's first national bar association. [Read more »](#)

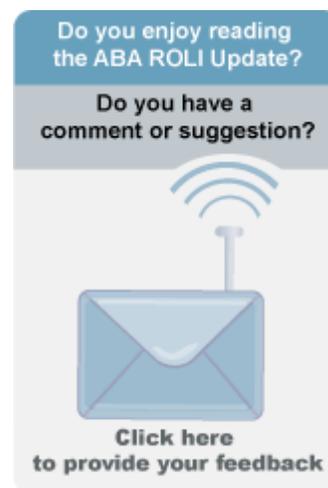
EUROPE AND EURASIA

Technology Connects and Empowers Attorneys in Tajikistan

Easy access to legal information is not always a given, but advocates in Tajikistan are now one step closer thanks to an innovative ABA ROLI program that



connects the country's three main collegia (bar associations) with research assistance and database and Internet connections. This innovation will level the playing field with prosecutors, who continue to enjoy superior access to basic legal information and are therefore advantaged in the courtroom vis-à-vis advocates. [Read more »](#)



ABA ROLI IN THE NEWS

New York Times Cites ABA ROLI's Support of DRC's Rape Survivors

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI) program in the Democratic Republic of Congo was mentioned in an October 17 *New York Times* article. The piece, which was posted on the homepage and was among the most e-mailed stories over several days, detailed the horrific rape crisis in DRC and the challenges in bringing perpetrators to justice. The article cited an ABA ROLI legal clinic that opened in January 2008 in Goma to provide legal assistance and other support to rape survivors. [Read the entire article](#)

To learn more about ABA ROLI's program in DRC and our efforts to combat these atrocities, [listen to our June 2008 podcast](#). 

For more information on our programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, contact Mathieu Ndongo-Koni at [<ndongokoni@yahoo.fr>](mailto:ndongokoni@yahoo.fr).

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Algeria National Judicial Institute Pilots E-Learning Course



In October, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) piloted an e-learning course on the Algerian Family Code for law students and experts at the national judicial training school, *Ecole Supérieure de la Magistrature* (ESM). The three-day workshop, which was held in Algiers, is part of ABA ROLI's regional program in the Middle East and North Africa to develop an innovative e-learning judicial curriculum that provides judges with standardized, quality information on international gender equality principles and local family codes.

During the first day of the workshop, ABA ROLI presented a comprehensive overview of the e-learning project to more than 200 second-year law students and two representatives of the ESM. During the day, trainers explained the value of online learning to maximize learning opportunities without the constraints of location or time. ABA ROLI staff demonstrated how to locate and navigate the modules online. [Read more »](#)

AFRICA

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Did you miss the
ABA Rule of Law Initiative
Luncheon?



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ABA ROLI Helping Reintegrate Former Child Soldiers in Burundi

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) launched its program in Burundi on October 1 to implement a program focusing on reintegrating child soldiers into Burundian society. The program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, will train judges, prosecutors and police on juvenile justice issues, and will provide legal services to former child soldiers. [Read more »](#)

Serbia Celebrates International Right to Know Day

Transparency and access to information are key elements in ensuring public accountability in transitional societies. In Serbia, information about public initiatives and the government too often fails to reach its intended audience—the citizens. On September 26, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported International "Right to Know" Day activities in Serbia. The day, which is celebrated worldwide, promotes open government and transparency. [Read more »](#)

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