

RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE Update

September 2008

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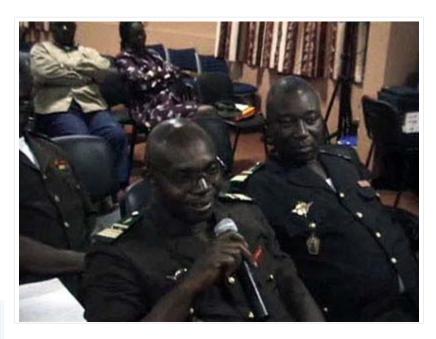
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FEATURED STORY

ABA ROLI Hosts its First Anti-Trafficking Training in Cameroon



Since the passage of a 2005 anti-trafficking in persons (anti-TIP) law, the Cameroonian government has stepped up its efforts to investigate and prosecute criminals involved in human trafficking rings. And yet, many actors in Cameroon charged with overseeing anti-TIP efforts lack sufficient knowledge about the phenomenon or about the 2005 law to effectively combat these crimes. The focus of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI) efforts in Cameroon is to address this lack of capacity by training an array of anti-TIP actors. read more »

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Pro Bono Legal Clinic Opens in Yerevan, Armenia

he opening of Yerevan's first pro bono legal clinic proved worthy of celebration on September 2, with representatives from the Armenian government and judicial system, law schools,



nongovernmental organizations, international donor institutions and the media in attendance. The clinic, which is housed at Open University's law school, will provide free legal services to economically and socially vulnerable groups in Armenian society. Outreach efforts will focus on connecting with refugees and with victims of political violence. Read more »



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

ABA ROLI Promotes a More Robust Accusatorial System in Ecuador

he ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) continues its multidisciplinary approach to promoting improved understanding of the accusatorial system in Ecuador. More than 200 representatives from the prosecutor's office, the National Judicial Council and the judicial police in Cuenca, Quito and Guayaquil attended three conferences held in August. Read more »

EUROPE AND EURASIA

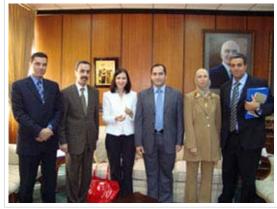
New Disciplinary System and Ethics Code Proven Effective in Kosovo

eports of ethics
violations by attorneys
in Kosovo have
increased dramatically
in less than a year, yet—thanks
to the new disciplinary
system—the Kosovo Chamber
of Advocates (KCA) has been
efficient in resolving these

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Yarmouk University Launches Alternative Dispute Resolution Course in Jordan

n September 18, Yarmouk University, one of the largest and oldest universities in Jordan, launched an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) course for undergraduate and graduate law students. The course, developed with ABA Rule of Law Initiative



(ABA ROLI) support, reflects the university's commitment to modern and practical legal curricula. Read more »

ASIA

ABA ROLI Hosts National Mock Trial Competition in Cambodia

n September 3–5, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) Cambodia program hosted its second annual mock trial competition at the University of Cambodia in Phnom Penh. The competition featured teams from five Cambodian law schools, each competing for the honor of being crowned national champion. The students performed as defense attorneys, witnesses and prosecutors in a case involving a stolen purse. The teams presented their cases to a



cases. The recentlyimplemented ethics code and disciplinary system for attorneys and non-professional members of the legal community have increased the ability of the public to report abuses and the KCA's ability to effectively investigate and respond to those accusations. The ABA Rule of Law Initiative's legal specialists and other staff helped to draft the ethics code and to create the disciplinary system, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development. Read more »

Did you miss the ABA Rule of Law Initiative Luncheon?



panel that included local Cambodian judges and international lawyers.

Read more »

ASIA

ABA ROLI Helps to Establish a Small Claims Court in the Philippines

n mid-September, the Philippines Supreme Court formally approved the small claims court rules and procedures that ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) staff helped to draft. The adoption of these rules and procedures will establish a new branch of the courts, which will be of considerable benefit to Filipino citizens and the court system alike. Due to the serious and debilitating backlog of civil cases in the Philippines, citizens must often wait years to resolve basic litigation. With the creation of the small claims court, minor disputes will be adjudicated much more quickly and the poorest Filipinos will experience greater access to justice. Read more »

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Podcast: Assessing Human Trafficking in Mexico

retchen Kuhner, an expert on trafficking and migrant rights, talks about implementing ABA ROLI's Human Trafficking Assessment Tool in Mexico. She shares insight into the methodology of the tool and the assessment process.

Listen to the audio online »

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