

### **ABA Rule of Law Initiative Update, September 2012**

American Bar Association - Advocacy - Rule of Law Initiative - Newsroom & Events - ABA ROLI

Newsletter

## September 2012





# September 2012

Philippine Supreme Court Adopts Judicial-Affidavit Rule to Decrease Trial Time

On September 5, the Supreme Court of the Philippines unanimously adopted a new procedural rule that mandates the use of judicial affidavits for direct witness testimony in most

cases in first- and second-level courts and quasi-judicial bodies nationwide.

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# Recent Event 2012 Rule of Law Award

Video: 2012 Rule of Law Award Presented to Navanethem (Navi) Pillay









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**Belarus:** Lawyers trained in trial advocacy

**Guinea:** Empowering communities to undertake

reconciliation efforts

**Gulf Region:** Judicial training institutes examine best practices

**Philippines:** Pursuing a new anti-human trafficking strategy

- Russia: Lawyers conduct a US study tour
- **Ukraine:** Preparing advocates for new criminal procedures
- > Video: Pillay on human rights and a sustainable future
- In the News: DRC Mobile Gender Courts Nominated for Award and more...

countries in which we work. Your support allows ABA ROLI to address pressing challenges to the rule of law by training justice sector professionals, supporting local institutions that provide *pro bono* legal assistance to the poor and educating the public about their rights. Donate now

ABA Rule of Law Initiative Rule of Law Award Dinner October 10 • Washington, DC

Join us in honoring our 2012 Rule of Law Award Recipient **Navi Pillay** UN High Commissioner

for Human Rights



Ticket information

**Video:** UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on the Connection Between Human Rights and a Sustainable Future**■** 



Click here to watch the 8-minute clip

ABA ROLI, Partners Pursue a New Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy

In the Philippines, as in many countries, criminal prosecutions against human traffickers can be lengthy and

Belarusian Lawyers Take Part in Trial Advocacy Training



The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) organized a two-day trial advocacy workshop for Belarusian lawyers in August. About 20 lawyers and advocates took part in the workshop, which focused on effective client representation and covered opening and closing arguments, direct- and crossexaminations, and case analysis. Held in Minsk, the workshop is part of a legal capacity building program that the U.S. Denartment of State's often lack appropriate

remuneration for survivors.
The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in partnership with the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law's Development Foundation and with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has been working to promote civil-asset forfeiture as a swifter and surer remedy.

This strategy involves bringing civil lawsuits under the 2001 Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) to seize assets either used in, or purchased with the proceeds of, human trafficking. For those unfamiliar with the act though, pursuing such lawsuits—which involves filing a complaint with the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), which in turn files for a freeze-and-seize order before a judge—can be a complex and daunting Drocess Read more »»

#### **ABA ROLI in the News:**

Peruvian Program to Support the Criminal Justice Sector

#### Peru News Agency

ABA ROLI has launched a new program in Peru to help with justice system modernization efforts. Our work will strengthen *Criminal Procedure Code (CPC)* implementation in various jurisdictions, including in Lima and two other regions. From September 24–28, we conducted the first in a series of five-day-long oral trial skill workshops. Peruvian

Bureau of Democracy,
Human Rights and
Labor supports. Read
more »»

Gulf Judicial Training
Institutes Examine Best
Practices in Judicial
Education

Judicial training institutes in the Gulf face myriad challenges. Many have very small permanent staff and face constant challenges in recruiting qualified instructors to teach judges, prosecutors and lawyers. In September, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in partnership with the Bahrain Ministry of Justice, sponsored a workshop for directors and key staff from judicial institutes in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait

and Bahrain. Read more

Ukrainian Advocates
Prepare for New Criminal
Procedure Code



In July and August, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) developed and Minister of Justice and Human Rights Eda led the inauguration ceremony, accompanied by U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Michael J. Fitzpatrick and ABA **ROLI Peru Country Director** Raul Callingos. These important CPC reforms will accelerate the adjudication process for criminal cases. Through this workshop and similar activities, justice sector leaders will be introduced to oral trial skills to familiarize them with the new protocols, as well as to give them tools to excel within the new system. This work is

funded by the U.S. Department of State. (view in Spanish)

DRC Mobile Gender Courts Nominated for Award

#### Allafrica.com

USAID Ethiopia Joins ABA and AAU Law
School in Launching First Law Textbooks
in 40 Years

#### **USAID Ethiopia**

College Starts Courses for Lawyers, Legal Professionals

#### The Gulf Times

Strengthening Panama's Judicial System

#### Voice of America

conducted a course on Ukraine's new Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) for advocates in five regions of the country. A total of 178 advocates attended the trainings held in Kharkhiv, Alusta (Crimea), Kyiv, Kherson and Rivne.

Read more »»

Guinea Program
Empowers Communities to
Undertake Reconciliation
Efforts



In December 2010, Professor Alpha Condé was sworn in as Guinea's first democratically elected president after a succession of authoritarian governments, whose leaders suppressed opposition and entrenched corruption and impunity. This leadership legacy has created a vast gap between the rich and the poor, eroded public trust in state institutions and contributed to a range of ethnic tensions-which threaten Guinea's stability. Read more »»

Russian Lawyers Conduct

a Continuing Legal Education Study Tour to Chicago

From August 20-23, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) brought 15 Russian lawyers on a U.S. Agency for International Development-funded study tour to Chicago. The lawyers, who lead continuing legal education (CLE) trainings in Russia, met with their American counterparts and discussed strategies for improving CLE regulatory frameworks, emerging trends in continuing education, accreditation, the use of technology, marketing strategies and the differing needs of new and experienced attorneys. Read more »»