

OUR WORK IN AFRICA

In Africa, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) operates country-based programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, Mali and Zambia, as well as a Great Lakes regional program headquartered in Burundi. In general, our programs aim to increase access to justice for poor and marginalized populations, to promote accountability for human rights violations, to strengthen justice sector institutions and to advance human rights, particularly the rights of women. In addition to the programs detailed in this chapter, ABA ROLI implements a program in West Africa to build civil society organizations' and local activists' capacity to more effectively combat discrimination based on real or perceived sexual or gender

identity through the establishment of a network of community-based paralegals.

As we design and implement programs, we work in close cooperation with partners from throughout the justice sector, including national and local government institutions, civil society organizations and local communities. By working alongside ministry of justice officials, judges, police officers and prison personnel—as well as bar association leaders, advocates from civil society and professors and administrators from judicial training institutes and law schools—ABA ROLI is able to prioritize participatory and multi-disciplinary approaches to the design and implementation of programs, thereby advancing sustainable solutions to pressing rule of law challenges.

PAST PROGRAMS IN AFRICA INCLUDE

- ◆ In **BURUNDI**, we collaborated with local non-governmental organizations to provide legal, vocational and psychological assistance to more than 400 former child soldiers.
- ◆ The program also conducted a public awareness campaign and trained 180 lawyers, paralegals, police officers, prosecutors and judges on protecting the rights of minors.
- ◆ Our **CAMEROON** program developed anti-human trafficking courses for police, immigration officers, prosecutors, magistrates and judges, and increased coordination on prosecutions and victim protection.

Our legal education reform program in **ETHIOPIA** supported professors in modernizing out-of-date textbooks and provided practical skills-building activities for law students.

A five-year **LIBERIA** program supported the country's first-ever judicial training institute and its only law school. We also implemented a program that secured the release of more than 2,500 persons from prolonged pre-trial detention, supported greater access to legal information and helped build the capacity of the national bar association.

We educated more than 3,000 **NIGERIAN** police officers on identifying human trafficking victims and on gathering evidence to support prosecutions, developed a national human-trafficking database and provided vocational training to victims.

In **UGANDA**, we supported the drafting of anti-human trafficking legislation and worked with key institutions to facilitate the investigation and prosecution of such crimes and to refer survivors to civil society organizations for support services.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), ABA ROLI collaborates closely with local partners to rebuild justice sector institutions, to combat impunity for rape and other serious crimes, to protect individual and community rights, and to lay the rule of law foundations that can support sustainable peace following years of intermittent civil conflict. Toward this end, our activities employ a range of approaches, from providing legal aid and facilitating mobile courts in remote areas to providing institutional support to government entities and empowering community leaders to advocate on behalf of citizens in communities affected by large-scale mining.



The shockingly high incidences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), often in the form of systemic rape, that in 2008 prompted ABA ROLI to begin providing direct legal services to rape survivors persists, and alongside our partners, we continue to seek innovative ways to fight this pervasive and corrosive violence. Over the years, we have gradually broadened the scope of our work in the DRC to include justice and security sector reform, juvenile justice, technology-based institutional support and capacity-building support for Congolese civil society organizations working to expand access to justice.

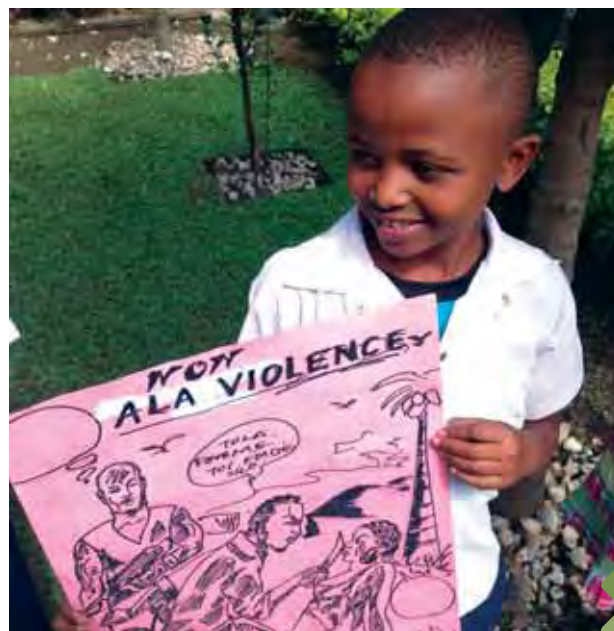
Providing direct legal services

We currently support 20 legal aid clinics in eastern DRC that protect the rights of women, particularly SGBV survivors, using holistic and victim-based approaches. The clinics—which are funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the governments of the Netherlands and Norway—provide a range of services, including counseling, legal aid, case filing, mediation and referrals for psychosocial and medical assistance. Since 2008, we have provided *pro bono* legal counseling to 15,343 survivors and helped file 9,316 cases with local civilian and military authorities, resulting in 1,467 trials and 1,046 convictions. In a tireless campaign to increase public awareness of the persistent problem of SGBV, legal aid clinic personnel have in that time conducted 3,239 SGBV-related public and media outreach activities,

such as screenings of SGBV-related videos and awareness-raising events conducted in partnership with local civil society groups.

Strengthening the legal aid infrastructure and building local capacity to support that infrastructure are key goals of ABA ROLI’s work in the DRC. Four of the clinics that we established are now being independently operated by sub-grantees, while we are in the process of transferring all legal aid activities to local partners.

Together with these formal legal clinics, ABA ROLI administers two paralegal programs based in South Kivu and Maniema provinces. In Maniema, paralegals trained in SGBV issues offer an array of services, including providing



To develop a generation of Congolese citizens who understand the corrosive impact of SGBV crimes, ABA ROLI’s civic education efforts include outreach to children.



◆◆◆ *A defense counselor—along with judges, prosecutors and court personnel—is deployed to Idjwi, South Kivu, for mobile court proceedings.*

legal information to individuals and communities, resolving disputes through mediation when appropriate, referring clients to psychosocial and medical assistance providers, and liaising between community members and attorneys when cases are best handled through litigation or prosecution.

Facilitating mobile courts

To support the Congolese justice sector in guaranteeing access to justice for citizens in remote areas, ABA ROLI has helped deploy court personnel from the provincial capitals to conduct more than 70 mobile courts in rural areas of the North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema provinces. The courts program—which also is funded by INL, USAID and the governments of Netherlands and Norway—secures transportation, lodging and food for SGBV survivors, witnesses, prosecutors, bailiffs, court clerks, defense counsel and judges for the duration of the trial. Such assistance allows the courts to process a backlog of serious criminal cases, providing resolution for victims and justice for the accused, and contributing incrementally toward higher public confidence in the rule of law.

Improving juvenile justice approaches

In South Kivu and Kasai Orientale provinces, ABA ROLI, in partnership with Save the Children International and CARE, has worked to

improve juveniles' experience with Congolese justice services. The program focuses on at-risk children, particularly those separated from their families, subjected to hazardous working conditions or currently in conflict with the law. In addition to assessing the capacity of local non-governmental organizations and the justice sector to monitor child welfare and to deliver protective services, ABA ROLI is working with local bar associations in Mbuji-Mayi and Bukavu to deliver a range of legal services for children, including filing for official government documents, seeking release from illegal or unnecessary detention, appealing for reduced sentences and aiding in the prosecution of adult perpetrators for crimes against youth. This work is funded by USAID.

Using technology to strengthen the justice sector

To enhance civilian protection in North and South Kivu, ABA ROLI facilitates an early warning system that alerts authorities to potential threats or outbreaks of violence in volatile locations. Information collected through this system, which is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), is disseminated through SMS messages and aggregated on an online map accessible by assistance providers and government officials, allowing them to identify the location of the violence and to coordinate a response. Since its inception in June 2012, ABA ROLI's early warning system has received more than 691 reports from remote eastern DRC villages and has coordinated more than 170 responses—32 of which have helped to foil rebel attacks on villages that are home to approximately 150,000 people.

With initial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and together with our partners, we designed and piloted an online case database in South Kivu. The DRC Ministry of Justice (MOJ) selected the database—which provides access to case statistics, summaries and conviction terms—as a blueprint for a nationwide implementation, and ABA ROLI is now working to implement

the model in North Kivu and Maniema, with funding from the MacArthur Foundation. In addition to software development and hardware distribution, ABA ROLI provides training and mentoring on the system for justice sector officials. Upcoming activities include working with the MOJ on a strategic plan for nationwide implementation of the digital database model.

In North Kivu, we are piloting video conference services that utilize a satellite Internet-enabled vehicle. This program, funded by the DRL, has allowed rural police to obtain medical certificates, which are required evidentiary documents for rape prosecutions, from doctors in other locations. The system also has enabled increased coordination between rural police and the Prosecutor's Office in Goma, the provincial capital.

Promoting justice for mining communities

Responsible exploitation of natural resources can drive sustainable economic growth by creating local jobs and by providing governments with revenue that can aid the delivery

of critical services such as education, health, water and sanitation. In communities where large-scale mining is underway, corporations can contribute positively to the social, economic and institutional development of the communities in which they operate. Yet, many Congolese mining communities face severe challenges—including unfair resettlement practices, forced labor, sexual exploitation, childhood malnutrition and environmental degradation—and local leaders struggle to advocate for improved conditions and treatment.

With support from the 11th Hour Project, ABA ROLI and civil society collaborate to promote access to justice for South Kivu communities impacted by industrial mining. Through workshops for civil society representatives and community leaders, we have trained these key stakeholders to identify and document violations of the Congolese mining code and to better understand related laws, international standards and best practices. These activities have empowered local communities to engage constructively with the government and



ABA ROLI's DRC country director, left, speaks with inmates at the Goma Central Prison while delivering board games and a television for the reopening of the prison, which was abandoned and looted during Goma's occupation by a rebel group. The inmates pictured are among the dozen who voluntarily returned to continue serving their prison terms.



In its efforts to increase access to justice and combat impunity, ABA ROLI supports female attorneys and psychologists in combating gender discrimination.

industry. Future initiatives include establishing a network of community-based paralegals in South Kivu and equipping its members with an array of advocacy strategies, including media campaigns, negotiation, mediation, coalition building and litigation, to resolve grievances associated with industrial mining.


Supporting future women lawyers

Since 2011, ABA ROLI has awarded scholarships to 16 female law students at universities in Goma, Bukavu and Kindu. The legal scholarship fund, established through the generosity of a private donor in 2011 to increase the number of women able to pursue the legal profession, has expanded through funding support from another 20 individuals and foundations. Scholarship recipients are selected based both on their academic performance and on their commitment to fighting for women's rights and empowerment in the DRC. The program covers tuition, fees and related expenses for the scholarship recipients' entire legal studies, enabling the young women to devote themselves fully to completing their degrees. In addition, scholarship recipients have the opportunity to gain practical and professional experience in

working on human rights issues while interning at one of our legal aid clinics in eastern DRC.

Fostering sustainable prison reform

Since 2011, we have provided legal assistance to hundreds of Congolese pre-trial detainees, ultimately securing the release of more than 450 individuals from unlawful and excessive detention. Together with community-based prison committees in North Kivu, South Kivu and Maniema, ABA ROLI in 2013 advocated for improved prison conditions.

Among the activities undertaken were pilot projects to establish a prison farm and soap-making enterprises, both of which were income-generating. Stakeholders, including community members, prison administrators, provincial governors and detainees, viewed the pilot efforts as successful, due to their low start-up costs, their potential for teaching productive skills to inmates and their ability to help address persistent shortages in food, medicine and hygiene supplies at the prison. Though the ABA ROLI program ended in 2013, both the community-based prison committees and the income-generating projects continue to operate. 

ARMED WITH NEW SKILLS, AN ACTIVIST DEFENDS THE RIGHTS OF MINING-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO | HUMAN RIGHTS

Makelele Nabale is a teacher who lives in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an area rich in mineral resources. He recalls that in his youth, his village and the surrounding ones relied on agriculture and artisanal mining to sustain their families. Back then, he says, communities were able to live off of, and in harmony with, the land they occupied for generations. The land allowed villagers to feed their families, and they owned their own homes and livestock.

Over the past decade, mining companies have taken an interest in the region's mineral wealth and gradually established a larger footprint in Makelele's village. This brought challenges for locals. Many were dispossessed of their crops and land, sometimes without fair compensation, while others were resettled to other communities following poorly managed settlement cases. Several community members who publicly advocated against the negative consequences were arrested.

Soon, Makelele and others realized that poor government oversight and weak legislation would complicate addressing these challenges, especially since foreign interest in the region's mineral wealth had already begun sparking intra-community conflict. Negotiations with mining companies, many of which relied on community consultation processes, created opportunities for individual chiefs and elders to advance their own self-interests rather than facilitating an inclusive process.

Makelele says that initially he had hoped that the advent of industry would foster social and eco-

nomic development, create jobs for local residents and, ultimately, help combat poverty in surrounding communities. But after first-hand observation of the negative consequences, he began seeking opportunities to voice his concerns to company representatives and local government officials. It was not an easy task.

"I lacked the knowledge necessary to understand my rights," he says, "and did not feel that I was well-equipped to negotiate with the company." He adds that without full understanding of his community's rights, it was difficult for him to convince company representatives to address the concerns. The meetings, he says, "were usually vague and ended with false promises."

In May 2013, Makelele, along with 20 community members from eastern DRC, participated in a series of ABA ROLI-led workshops to empower local leaders to better advocate for their communities. The trainings focused on the rights of mining-affected communities under Congolese law as well as international standards. Discussions emphasized the right to an adequate standard of living, including the right to food and water; the right to land; the right to development; and the right to participation and information. ABA ROLI also trained community leaders to recognize and document human

rights violations and to lobby government agencies and mining companies for their communities' human rights and sustainable development needs.

Makelele credits the trainings with helping him build the skills to engage in a more constructive dialogue with the mining company. "Since the trainings, I've been invited by company representatives to discuss the issues," he says. "I believe that they have finally realized the importance of working with the community, rather than against it."

While long-term and comprehensive agreements between communities and companies have not yet been developed, Makelele says that the trainings have provided him with the "vision of a hound dog," and that he will continue to utilize his newly acquired skills to identify human rights violations and to address them. 🐾



"Since the trainings, I've been invited by company representatives to discuss the issues—I believe that they have finally realized the importance of working in collaboration with the community, rather than against it."

MAKELELE NABALE, LEFT, COMMUNITY ACTIVIST & TEACHER
EASTERN DRC

GUINEA

- ◆ Our Guinea programs help to protect some of the country's most marginalized populations and bring citizens closer to the justice institutions that serve them.
- ◆ ABA ROLI is working to address extended pre-trial detention and to improve women's access to justice by establishing networks of community-based paralegals to provide accessible justice services. In partnership with local civil society organizations (CSOs) and government institutions, we have also fostered the participation of local stakeholders in mining reform initiatives and in drafting legislation that would establish legal frameworks that adequately protect the rights of local communities.

In 2010, Guineans voted for their first democratically elected president, raising the hopes of many. While strides have been made, the country continues to face key challenges, including in transforming the country's vast resource wealth into a vehicle for broader development and in strengthening institutions, including the court system.

Addressing pre-trial detention

The country's prison system is in urgent need of reform, as evidenced by severe

overcrowding and by a lack of access to healthcare and sanitation facilities. Many detainees are held illegally or have not been able to access adequate legal representation. ABA ROLI, with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, is working alongside *Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT)*, a local human rights group, to improve prison conditions and to increase access to justice for the improperly detained.

With ABA ROLI support, *MDT* is creating a network of paralegals to provide *pro bono* legal services to detainees. ABA ROLI and *MDT* developed a paralegal training curriculum and later trained 14 paralegals to serve at detention centers and prisons in Kankan and N'Zérékoré, where they work under the supervision of an *MDT* lawyer. To date, paralegals have advised more than 250 prisoners on their legal rights and have secured the release of at least 57 people. As a complement to this work, ABA ROLI is assisting *MDT* in developing and conducting a training for police officers and prison officials on the rights of prisoners and detainees.



- ◆ During a community forum, organized by ABA ROLI and the Center du Commerce International pour le Développement, a woman voices her concerns about the impact of mining on her land.

Helping ensure women's rights

Accessing justice can be a challenge for Guinean women, as they often lack access to both the courts and legal services, and many are unaware of their rights with regard to land ownership, divorce and inheritance. Our

A PARALEGAL FIGHTS INJUSTICE IN PRISONS GUINEA | ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Fatumatu, a young Guinean paralegal, is so dedicated to visiting prisoners in her hometown of Kankan that she says that the prison “has become a new home.” Splitting her time between the holding cells of local police stations and Kankan’s central prison, Fatumatu meets with prisoners—many of whom are being held unlawfully—who otherwise would have no access to legal representation. Since embarking on paralegal work in July 2013, Fatumatu says she has come across many cases in which false accusations, corruption and poor case management led to unjust imprisonment or prolonged pre-trial detention.

She feels her time working with ABA ROLI on this program has been well spent, as she has already been able to help many illegally detained prisoners win their freedom. One example is that of Amadou*, a man whom she first met in a cramped holding cell at a local police station. While Guinean law requires that detainees appear before a judge within two days of arrest, Amadou had been held without charge for six days. Fatumatu reminded the investigating police officer of the applicable law, but he refused to release Amadou. Frustrated, she enlisted the help of a lawyer from the *Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous (MDT)*, a Guinean human rights group, who advised her to speak to the police station’s deputy director about the case. The deputy director, who had been unaware

that Amadou was illegally held, ordered the officer to charge him formally or to release him. Shortly thereafter, Amadou was freed due to lack of evidence and spared what could have been weeks or months of unlawful detention.

With funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Right and Labor, ABA ROLI and *MDT* have been working since 2012 to provide legal aid to prisoners who, like Amadou, are in unlawful detention in Kankan and N’Zérékoré, two towns in Guinea’s interior. ABA ROLI and *MDT* developed a training curriculum for paralegals, and in November 2013, *MDT* used the curriculum to train 14 paralegals chosen through a competitive selection process.

Many paralegals, including Fatumatu, are law or social science graduates who are interested in human rights and who believe that paralegal work is an opportunity to serve their communities while gaining valuable field experience. The paralegals’ training covered Guinean criminal procedures and international human rights law, and it also helped the paralegals develop client counseling and negotiation skills. Fatumatu and her fellow paralegals are now receiving monthly trainings from *MDT* and have thus far assisted more than 250 prisoners.

For Fatumatu, as with many of the paralegals, the role has become more than just a job. The paralegals provide not only legal



“We are all human.”

FATUMATU, PARALEGAL
KANKAN, GUINEA

advice, but also assistance in addressing other challenges the prisoners face. They advocate for health services and sanitary living conditions, and against overcrowding and abuse by guards. For those in need, the paralegals contact prisoners’ family members, who can provide clothing or food. Fatumatu once bought a detainee medicine with her own money, and, on several occasions, she has reunited prisoners, including minors, with estranged family members.

Although most of the paralegals are recent college graduates, they receive only a small stipend to cover transportation and communication expenses. When asked why she is so motivated to help what is an often neglected group of people, Fatumatu simply says, “We are all human.”

* Pseudonym



A paralegal from Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous, far left, provides advice to a detainee in Kankan Central Prison.

work in Guinea employs a range of strategies to educate women about their legal rights and to empower them in asserting those rights both through formal and informal justice regimes.

With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, ABA ROLI is working with local CSOs to establish networks of community-based paralegals and legal aid clinics. The clinics will offer legal advice and mediation services, as well as referrals to providers of complementary services and to *pro bono* lawyers, when formal recourse through the justice system is necessary. Additionally, strategic litigation will be employed as a means to protect and enforce women's rights in rural communities.

Protecting the rights of mining communities

Guinea is rich in natural resources, but its troubled history—characterized by a succession of authoritarian governments that ruthlessly suppressed opposition and entrenched corruption and impunity—has not

allowed the country to use this wealth to address its social and economic development needs or to alleviate poverty in any significant way. Since 2012, ABA ROLI has assisted Guinean government institutions and CSOs in addressing the potential impacts of mining projects on surrounding communities.

In collaboration with our local partner, the *Centre du Commerce International pour le Développement*, ABA ROLI has advised Guinean ministries on drafting mining legislation that includes sufficient safeguards for communities impacted by mining projects. The draft legislation includes provisions that guarantee sufficient public participation in social and environmental impact assessments, that govern the establishment and management of local development funds and community development agreements, and that adopt resettlement standards that adhere to international best practices. The draft legislation currently is pending adoption, and stakeholders expect that it will pass into law in the coming months. 🌱

ABA ROLI has worked in Mali since 2010, when we began a program to address descent-based slavery in the northern part of the country. We since have expanded our efforts to include a program that assists the Malian government and civil society organizations in developing transitional justice strategies that address serious human rights violations committed during Mali's recent crisis.



Mali's March 2012 *coup d'état*, and the subsequent seizure of large areas of the country's north by a mix of separatist and Islamist groups, turned what had appeared to be a model of West African democracy into a state in crisis. Although Mali's territorial integrity has largely been restored, the problems at the root of the crisis, such as weak institutions and entrenched corruption and inequality, remain. The country's new government now faces dual challenges of more firmly entrenching Mali's democracy, while also addressing the immediate aftermath of the conflict.

Supporting transitional justice

Mali's recent crisis led to a rapid deterioration in the state of human rights, with reports of abuses committed by both rebel groups and the Malian army. With funding from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL), ABA ROLI is working to assist the government and civil society organizations (CSOs) in developing transitional justice policies that reflect the needs of victims, pursue national reconciliation and reestablish respect for the rule of law.

We organize trainings on transitional justice for representatives from civil society and from key institutions, including the President's Office and the ministries of justice and of national reconciliation and development of the north. These trainings provide information on core transitional justice concepts and approaches, and provide case studies

from other nations that have undergone similar transitions. We also designed and will conduct specialized trainings for Ministry of Justice officials and senior magistrates that will prepare the justice sector to prosecute serious human rights violations and adjudicate civil claims resulting from the conflict.

Fostering civil society

To ensure that Mali's transitional justice policies reflect the views of civil society, ABA ROLI is working with Malian CSOs to coordinate related advocacy. In November 2013, we facilitated the launch of a transitional justice coalition composed of 22 CSOs. The launch was the culmination of a participatory process during which CSOs from across Mali's political and social spectrum were invited to attend weekly meetings to discuss a potential coalition and to formulate its mission and goals.



Representatives from Malian civil society organizations discuss a process for forming a transitional justice coalition during a meeting in Bamako.





An ABA ROLI partner representative leads a small discussion group to mobilize community groups' opposition to descent-based slavery in Mali.


The final charter, which all 22 member organizations have adopted, states that the coalition's mission is to "reestablish the dignity of victims of human rights violations and to promote the implementation of mechanisms that give recourse to victims of recent and historical conflicts." We now are offering support to the coalition's working groups—focused on the struggle against impunity, truth seeking and victims' rights— as they formulate policy positions and design an advocacy strategy targeting key policymakers within the Malian government and the international community. Another ABA ROLI partner, Freedom House, is training coalition members on the documentation of human rights violations.

Combating descent-based slavery

Due to unequal social, cultural and economic inter-ethnic relationships, descent-based slavery persists in northern Mali. Since September 2010, as part of a DRL-funded program, we have collaborated with a Malian anti-slavery organization, *Temedt*, to combat descent-based slavery through legal aid,

legislative reform, and social and economic assistance for former slaves. Although our work was affected by the March 2012 *coup d'état*, ABA ROLI and *Temedt* have succeeded in raising the profile of descent-based slavery as a human rights issue in Mali.

In addition to training 120 lawyers and judges on the litigation and adjudication of slavery cases, we have assisted 18 victims in filing cases seeking compensation from perpetrators of slavery—a significant achievement given that very few victims of descent-based slavery had previously turned to Malian courts to seek redress.

With assistance from anti-slavery activists from Mauritania and Niger, who face similar historical legacies and societal perceptions toward descent-based slavery, ABA ROLI has also worked alongside local stakeholders to draft an anti-slavery law, and *Temedt* continues to advocate for this law's adoption. Finally, ABA ROLI and *Temedt* also provide socioeconomic assistance to victims of slavery and have documented the effect of Mali's crisis on former slaves to aid in advocacy efforts. 

Together with Zambian legal organizations, we are implementing a judicial training program that fosters the understanding and application of access to justice and human rights principles. Supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, the program will help foster a more independent and well-trained judiciary that can better protect citizens.



The absence of institutionalized training and continuing legal education has undermined judicial capacity and court efficiency in Zambia. Many judges have difficulty effectively managing their court proceedings and uniformly applying the rule of law within their courtrooms. This is particularly apparent at the local court level, especially in the observance and application of human rights and access to justice standards.

Responding to local training needs

Mindful of the need to base training priorities upon local needs, ABA ROLI and the Zambian National Legal Aid Clinic for Women collaborated to conduct a participatory assessment of justice needs at the community level. The findings of the assessment, which covered six provinces, indicated acute training needs for magistrates at the local court level in both case management and the adjudication of cases. In response, ABA ROLI and local partners will host trainings to meet identified needs.

The assessment results also informed the design and development of judicial training curricula and reference manuals. The courses will draw upon instructional approaches and adult teaching methodologies that will improve the quality and effectiveness of judicial training in Zambia.

The ABA ROLI- and partner-developed trainings will emphasize more systematic enforcement of domestic and international human rights standards by provincial-level magistrates, with a specific emphasis on the rights of marginalized groups. Further, the sessions will explore practical approaches that can be taken by magistrates to increase access to justice, to uphold equality before the law, and to increase respect and protection of women's and children's rights inside and outside of the courtroom.

Additionally, by working with local partners to design the training and to develop resource materials, ABA ROLI is helping to



Supreme Court Judge Elizabeth Muyovwe, center left, and High Court Judge Roydah Kaoma meet with ABA ROLI and other stakeholders to discuss plans for long-term judicial training in Zambia.




ensure the sustainability of enhanced, locally led judicial courses with the potential of integration into the core curriculum of a future judicial training institution in Zambia. ABA ROLI also will host an intensive training-of-trainers (TOT) series for six senior judges from the Zambian Women Judges Association. The trainees would then be charged with facilitating judicial trainings for magistrates in six target provinces: Copperbelt, Lusaka, Southern Province, North-Western Province, Luapula and Central Province.




Formalizing judicial training

Working in close collaboration with members of the Zambian Supreme Court-chaired Steering Committee for the Zambia Justice Information System, ABA ROLI is helping to develop and execute a participatory three-phase

planning process to establish a judicial training institution that can provide ongoing and continuing legal education. Working alongside three judiciary subcommittees, each focused on differing core elements of the strategic planning process, ABA ROLI has helped to create an initial, detailed blueprint for the establishment of a Zambian judicial training center.

We have also assisted the steering committee in identifying the center's most pressing needs as well as those immediate actions that can be undertaken to address them. ABA ROLI will capture lessons learned from the TOT sessions and from the trainings for provincial magistrates to refine the most effective approaches and to identify the most needed substantive topics to be covered at the center. 



   *ABA ROLI brings together members of Zambia's Judicial Training Committee and the Steering Committee of the Zambia Justice Information System to discuss the future establishment of a judicial training center.*

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL JUDICIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

ABA ROLI is coordinating with key government, judicial and civil society stakeholders to establish a regional judicial training initiative in Central Africa, with an initial focus on Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Through a range of constituency-building activities, our program places decision-making about judicial training efforts in the hands of key local stakeholders.



In mid-2013, with support from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, ABA ROLI finalized an assessment of the existing strengths and the training needs of magistrates and other court personnel in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which are seeking to rehabilitate judicial systems weakened by conflict and political instability. Generally, we sought to learn from local and regional stakeholders if a regional judicial training initiative could strengthen the four national judiciaries’ ability to serve as guardians of the rule of law and good governance.

Gathering stakeholder input

Our assessment found that while all four countries are exerting efforts to improve initial education and follow-on training offered to judges at a national level, widespread capacity-building needs remain. The report showed broad support for a regional initiative to address gaps by supplementing national-level efforts.

Ensuring local stakeholder leadership

A steering group composed of key government, judicial and civil society stakeholders from each of the four countries will serve

as the governing body of the initiative. The steering group will define the scope, strategic direction and governance structure of the judicial training institute as well as prepare, discuss and adopt judicial training priorities, plus advise on curriculum development. The body also is charged with formulating and negotiating a long-term, collaborative strategy for sustaining the regional initiative.

Boosting national-level judicial capacity

Consistent with our guiding principles, we will approach the judicial capacity-building program at multiple levels. ABA ROLI will conduct professional development trainings for magistrates and court support personnel from the participating countries. We will offer courses on topics—as determined by the steering group—with international or regional dimensions, while simultaneously working with national-level judicial training institutions to conduct trainings for staff and faculty.

Finally, the program will encourage firmer footing for the rule of law in Central Africa by providing opportunities for magistrates and other stakeholders to connect with their international counterparts and to explore best practices related to broader judicial reform efforts. 