

OUR WORK IN THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) began working in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in 2003 and today implements both regional and country-based programs. Our work ranges from programs that advance judicial development and national anti-corruption initiatives to those that support legal education and the legal profession, among others.

ABA ROLI's judicial development initiatives are designed to strengthen the capacity of individual countries—and the region as a whole—vis-à-vis international standards. Our legal profession and legal education programs, which seek to foster the application of interactive approaches and sustainable and practical models, are undertaken in partnership with host-country universities and train-

ing institutes. Throughout the region, we work to advance the rights of women and to support women legal professionals as they advance in their careers and pursue leadership opportunities within the profession.

In response to the recent historic developments in the region, ABA ROLI's work has expanded to include several new programs, including a comprehensive Libyan initiative that supports the constitutional process and strengthens the judiciary and the legal profession. We also are helping regional civil society organizations (CSOs) gain the skills necessary for full participation in the transformations underway. In addition, we have documented human rights abuses suffered by Syrian refugees prior to leaving their country.

PAST PROGRAMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA INCLUDE

- ◆ We worked with the **ALGERIAN** judiciary to draft an ethics code and to design a training curriculum, and with local bar associations to promote continuing legal education.
- ◆ ABA ROLI aided **IRAQI** CSOs in advocating for human rights during the constitutional drafting process, helped with the development of a judicial strategic plan and supported the formation of the Iraqi judges' association.
- ◆ In **LEBANON**, we supported the National Network on the Right to Access Information, which joins civil society and government entities in fighting corruption.

We developed the *Justice Sector Benchmark Guide* for the **MENA** region to equip CSOs with tools to monitor justice sector performance and to advocate for improvements.

We helped **QATAR** University develop a domestic violence law clinic.

In support of **TUNISIA'S** historic transition, ABA ROLI worked with local partners to develop resources for and to train lawyers on election law. We also collaborated to administer an SMS-text platform that received more than 3,000 citizen inquiries before and during the 2011 election, and ultimately led to roughly 600 post-election legal cases.

In the **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**, we supported continuing legal education programs for judges, prosecutors and lawyers on a range of topics.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and other key Bahraini partners, ABA ROLI helps to increase the capacity and the effectiveness of the judicial system. We design and deliver continuing legal education (CLE) curricula for judges, prosecutors and non-prosecutorial lawyers that cover key and emerging issues, while simultaneously supporting the institutionalization of CLE in Bahrain. We work with the MOJ and Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) to strengthen the independence and institutional capacity of the judiciary. Additionally, we work in collaboration with the MOJ as it implements recommendations made by the 2011 *Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry Report (BICI Report)*, including by working with the University of Bahrain to establish the country's first human rights-focused legal clinic program.



Since 2003, we have worked in Bahrain to support partner-led initiatives that upgrade the legal sector. In cooperation with host-country training entities, we have designed and conducted professional development trainings that enhance legal professionals' understanding of key Bahraini and international law topics and that build practical skills relevant to their professional roles.

In addition, we support the MOJ as it implements recommendations put forth by the *BICI Report*. The commission was tasked with looking into the incidents that occurred during the period of unrest in February and March 2011 and the consequences of those events. The report laid out several recommendations related to the justice sector, and we are working with our partners to implement them.

Among these efforts are a 2013 partnership with the Judicial Legal Studies Institute (JLSI), international human rights experts and local experts to develop trainings on the right to fair trial and on the rights of the accused. Tailored curricula were developed for judges, prosecutors and non-prosecutorial lawyers, with each addressing Bahraini laws and international standards, as well as their application. The courses will be integrated into the JLSI training program and made available to current and future judges, prosecutors and lawyers.

Our current programs, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative and the Bahraini Government, advance

professional development, promote clinical legal education and develop judicial capacity.

Enhancing professional development

Together with JLSI, which is responsible for the training of Bahraini legal professionals, we have developed and conducted a course for young lawyers. The course is offered twice annually and includes substantive law topics such as commercial law, labor law and human rights law as well as practical skills such as case management, drafting skills and negotiation. Thus far, approximately 400 lawyers have taken the training, which covers topics not otherwise available to Bahraini lawyers.

Additionally, ABA ROLI offers comprehensive guidance on courses related to ethics, civil court investigations, human rights,



Judges participate in an ABA ROLI-hosted discussion on judicial administration.





◆ Bahraini judges and prosecutors discuss interactive teaching techniques as part of an ABA ROLI-hosted seminar.

anti-money laundering, freedom of expression, commercial and business law, negotiations and legislative drafting.

We have also helped to strengthen JLSI's institutional capacity for curriculum development by collaborating to promote interactive teaching methods and to incorporate such methods into JLSI courses. We also analyze the impact of these activities, and the findings help to drive future institutional capacity-building efforts and course design.


Establishing clinical legal education

In 2013, ABA ROLI and the University of Bahrain Faculty of Law collaborated to establish the framework for, and to begin operation of, the country's first clinical legal education programs. The clinics promote understanding of human rights law among law students and professors, providing opportunities to observe its practical application. Participating students work with juvenile clients, make presentations to schoolchildren on legal topics affecting youth, or work with local human rights organizations. This effort was undertaken in response to recommendations set forth in the

BICI Report, which called for wide-reaching reforms to increase human rights protections.

Developing judicial capacity

In partnership with the MOJ and the SJC, we undertake initiatives to bolster court effectiveness and efficiency. Recently passed laws provide for increased independence of judiciary functions from executive functions, and our programs support the SJC as it achieves greater independence in practice. Initiatives include helping the SJC design an organizational structure and establish a secretariat. This will provide the SJC with greater institutional capacity to work toward both administrative and budgetary independence.

We are also working directly with the MOJ, the SJC and the Public Prosecutor's Office to design and implement professional development trainings for new and experienced judges and prosecutors. Courses cover a range of topics, including the use of forensic evidence, techniques for investigating and prosecuting money laundering cases, asset recovery approaches, fair trial standards and guaranteeing the rights of the accused. 

Each year, more than 35,000 students graduate from Egypt's law schools, where large class sizes and limited resources impede learning. Most graduates lack practical legal skills and have no exposure to legal analysis or problem solving activities. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Ford Foundation, we support initiatives that improve law schools' ability to prepare graduates to practice law and that offer continuing legal education (CLE) for both recent graduates and experienced lawyers. Additionally, through a Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation-funded program, we provide trainings for judges on national and international anti-corruption legislation.



Since initiating programs in Egypt in 2009, ABA ROLI's activities have focused on reforming legal education, providing CLE for young lawyers and strengthening the judiciary's capacity. We have trained more than 1,000 young lawyers on a range of CLE topics and have conducted legal clinical, moot court and interactive teaching skills courses that reached another 600 students and professors. ABA ROLI assisted in the founding of two university-hosted law clinics; sponsored two national moot arbitration competitions for law students; conducted comprehensive trainings for law professors on interactive teaching skills and problem solving methodologies; and hosted workshops to advise judges on handling anti-corruption cases. Our current programs are a continuation of these efforts and build upon our successes.

Building students' lawyering skills

In 2012, ABA ROLI helped to establish an environmental law clinic at Helwan University that provides opportunities for students to develop their practical legal skills, while also conducting environmental protection public awareness campaigns. We expanded this partnership in 2013, when ABA ROLI supported the university in establishing, in collaboration with the Egyptian Consumer Protection Agency, a consumer protection clinic. The clinic provides consumer protection law advice to the more than 100,000 Helwan

University students. Our support of the clinic includes ongoing training for law professors on the technical and practical aspects of administering self-sustaining legal clinics.

Also in 2013, ABA ROLI sponsored the country's second national moot court competition, which was hosted by the Egyptian National Judicial Training Center. Members of the Egyptian judiciary from various courts served as judges for the competition, which dealt with a hypothetical commercial transaction dispute. We are now working with faculty from eight



Students and professors celebrate the completion of training in preparation for Egypt's 2013 National Moot Court Competition.



public universities to convene the third national moot court competition, for which we have held preparatory training for students and professors from the participating universities. The professors will not only provide guidance on how best to compete, but they also will conduct internal competitions to determine those teams that will compete at the national level.

Expanding continuing legal education

Since its launch in 2009, ABA ROLI's CLE program has trained more than 1,000 young lawyers, providing more than 35,000 hours of instruction. Together with local partners such as Cairo University, Helwan University and the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, we offer basic CLE curricula, in both English and Arabic, that provide roughly 50 hours of training, including on oral advocacy, research, legal drafting, arbitration, ethics and negotiation techniques. To meet the needs of working and experienced attorneys, we offer an intensive weekend version of the basic CLE curricula as well as advanced courses on discrete topics. E-learning courses



A law student makes an argument during a training for the National Moot Court Competition.


for young lawyers offer training on contract drafting and on intellectual property and real estate law, reaching those who live outside of major cities.

To promote sustainability within the Egyptian CLE system, ABA ROLI is currently providing comprehensive training on interactive teaching techniques and curriculum development to more than 30 lawyers who have excelled in previous ABA ROLI-led CLE courses. These lawyers will serve as future trainers for CLE courses and are expected to contribute toward the establishment of an Egyptian consortium that will further develop local capacity to sustain a CLE system.

Boosting the skills of law faculties

ABA ROLI works directly with law faculties and individual professors to improve the quality of Egyptian legal education. From 2010–2013, we trained more than 70 law professors from several universities in interactive teaching methodologies and curriculum development. In 2013, we provided advanced training to more than 30 law professors from Ain Shams University on creating interactive and problem-solving exercises to weave into their traditionally lecture-based classes. Additionally, a U.S. study tour for Helwan University professors visited several law schools to discuss legal education with counterparts and administrators and to observe law clinics, moot court activities and interactive teaching methodologies.

Training on anti-corruption laws

ABA ROLI has provided two series of workshops on national and international anti-corruption legislation for judges from the Court of Cassation, the highest appellate court for non-constitutional issues. The trainings covered money laundering, asset recovery and international judicial cooperation in investigating and adjudicating financial corruption cases. More than 100 judges participated in these two-day basic and advanced trainings, which included an array of interactive problem-solving activities. 

PROFESSOR ENLIVENS LEGAL EDUCATION AS HE PREPARES FUTURE LAWYERS

EGYPT | LEGAL EDUCATION REFORM

Dr. Ahmed Khalifa is an assistant law professor at Cairo's Ain Shams University, the latest step in a 15-year journey to becoming an effective educator. Following his graduation and inspired by a former professor, Ahmed gave up more prestigious and higher-paying positions to work at his alma mater. While working, he continued his studies, ultimately earning LL.M.s from Egyptian and American law schools, and a Ph.D. in Europe.

He says his American education was unlike the lecture-based training he had experienced in Egypt, and it exposed him to interactive teaching techniques. "It taught me how to approach law as a tool to be used, rather than a subject to be memorized," he says.

After stints teaching and working for a United Nations criminal law institute in Italy, Ahmed returned to Egypt in 2012. "I had an almost unique opportunity to experience a wide variety of teaching styles in the U.S. and Europe," he says. "I wanted to use my experience to help change the way law is taught in Egypt so that we can graduate better-trained young lawyers, who will one day become more effective lawyers, prosecutors, judges, professors and perhaps even government officials."

He soon learned about ABA ROLI's law professor trainings. "This was exactly the kind of support that I and others needed to begin changing how law is taught in Egypt," he says, noting his speedy registration for a February 2013 moot court training along with professors from nine universities.

Today, Ahmed continues working with ABA ROLI, including



"They say they want to learn to apply law in factual settings and to use law as a tool. ... They want to learn how to become real lawyers."

DR. AHMED KHALIFA, PROFESSOR
AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY


by speaking at student trainings and working with law professors to develop practical-skills courses. Ahmed says that the introduction of practical-skills courses "fundamentally changes the relationship between the professors and the students. ... By using interactive teaching techniques, we are not only able to teach students how to better understand and use the law, but we work with the students as they learn."

Moot court and similar activities continue to interest professors and students alike. "Last year, after the first ABA ROLI-sponsored national moot competition, six students asked for assistance in preparing for the media law competition," he says. "This year, 60 students have asked to participate in moot competitions."

"They are not asking to do this just so they can compete and travel," he adds with pride. "They

say they want to learn to apply law in factual settings and to use law as a tool. ... They want to learn how to become real lawyers."

Consulting with ABA ROLI, Ahmed and others have developed a month-long voluntary course to train students in the analytical, written and oral skills needed for moot court activities. The students realize that the course will help them become better law students and lawyers, in addition to preparing [them] for competition. Ahmed says, "Our students are excited about coming to classes—even those for which they receive no academic credit."

As for next steps, Ahmed hopes that the voluntary course will be incorporated into the official curriculum. He also plans to work with ABA ROLI to establish a legal clinic at Ain Shams, "similar to the ones I saw when I was at Temple University." 

JORDAN

◆ In Jordan, we implement various initiatives to support legal education reform, to address human trafficking and to promote human rights, women’s rights and gender equality. Toward these ends, we design and conduct trainings for legal professionals on trial advocacy skills, on the application of international agreements in Jordanian courts, and on personal status laws and emerging legal issues. We also support government partners—including the Ministry of Justice, the Judicial Council and entities charged with combating human trafficking and with conducting police and labor investigations—and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in implementing a comprehensive strategy to investigate and prosecute suspected human trafficking cases.

We have supported the development of Jordan’s justice system since 2004. In partnership with a range of ministries, courts, NGOs and academic institutions, ABA ROLI has provided capacity-building opportunities to thousands of judges, lawyers, law professors and law students, and we have conducted public education programs. In support of the Jordanian judiciary, we developed the region’s first *Judicial Code of Conduct* and a judicial ethics benchbook, and established the region’s first court mediation program. We also helped to enhance legal education by institutionalizing clinical legal education programs and by designing law courses on legal research and writing, professional ethics, environmental law and human rights.



◆ During a ceremony marking Jordan’s 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, H.R.H. Princess Basma bint Talal, far left, leads 800 participants in a public show of support for efforts to protect women.

ABA ROLI supported training for the National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee and helped to educate judges, lawyers, police and the public on human trafficking through workshops, media campaigns and educational materials. To support women in the judiciary, ABA ROLI helped to establish a Jordan-based NGO, the Arab Women’s Legal Network, to provide professional development opportunities for the region’s women judges.

Currently, we support initiatives that foster increased research capacity on the rule of law; that better inform the public about human trafficking and support institutions as they combat it; that promote understanding of and respect for women’s rights; and that conduct training for legal professionals and students. We implement these programs with funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and its Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

Researching rule of law

To mitigate a dearth of research related to women’s rights and access to justice in Jordan, ABA ROLI and its partners have implemented several research projects. For example, we conducted a 2013 comparative analysis of Jordan’s new *Constitutional Court Law* and the court’s role in enhancing access to justice, which was shared with lawyers exploring opportunities to protect human rights through



Clinical law students from the University of Jordan engage in legal theory and advocacy skills training in preparation for civic education activities. In addition to training law professors at workshops and through study tours, ABA ROLI has equipped clinic facilities at the University of Jordan and at Yarmouk University and is supporting clinical activities at nine law faculties.

constitutional litigation. We also developed a survey that employed both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to analyze public awareness of rights and legal literacy among Jordanian youth. The results of that survey were used to launch a youth-led legal rights awareness campaign in 2014.

We also support the National Center for Human Rights as it conducts interviews across the kingdom to assess progress implementing human rights reforms. The center will use the information to lobby government entities for increased protection of vulnerable groups with regard to issues such as education, health, and political and economic participation.

Advancing understanding of women's rights

We work with the University of Jordan's Center for Women's Studies to advance its integration into the broader academic and civil society communities and to raise its visibility and profile within Jordan. While the center's graduate program in women's studies was well established, there existed few research resources related to women's rights and community engagement. We arranged for international gender experts to train students and professors

on research methodologies, and then established a resource facility at the center.

Our program also supports the studies of local gender equality researchers and collaborates with the center and other organizations to conduct activities such as alumni networking events, a film series and a national campaign against domestic violence. In addition, ABA ROLI has begun to develop a legal research database that includes information on women's rights, juvenile justice, international law, and migrant and refugee rights.

Training legal professionals

ABA ROLI helps to advance respect for human rights in Jordan by training new and experienced lawyers and judges on national and international human rights laws and by fostering application of such laws. In addition to human rights training, ABA ROLI provides skills-building training to recently appointed judges through workshops and a mentoring program. We engage future judges in training workshops that include a series of field visits to key institutions such as prisons, shelters, youth rehabilitation centers, and forensic medicine and crime



◆ ABA ROLI workshops for judges creatively address human rights issues and emerging areas of law, while strengthening practical judicial skills.

laboratories. In 2013, we initiated a series of human rights workshops for Sharia Court judges, the first such program for religious court judges who have sole jurisdiction of cases involving family matters such as divorce and custody.

Enhancing law student experiences

ABA ROLI partners with NGOs and more than 10 universities to expose students to the legal work performed in prisons, juvenile centers, forensics laboratories and legal aid facilities. Additionally, our human rights clinical legal programs grew from two universities in 2012 to nine universities in 2013, reflecting the successful integration of practical skills-based activities into law programs as well as a widespread acceptance of human rights training for law students.

ABA ROLI works with law professors to build support for clinical legal education and to foster interactive teaching skills through workshops, specialized teaching opportunities and study tours. We work to instill among law students and legal professionals a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of Jordan's human rights obligations and to highlight the gaps between such obligations and practice.

In light of the 2013 United Nations' Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Jordan, ABA ROLI developed a UPR teaching module and engaged 100 clinic students in an analysis of Jordan's progress on ensuring gender equality, fair trials, freedom from torture and freedom of expression. The students joined lawyers and civil society representatives to watch a live broadcast of the UPR's review in Geneva, Switzerland.

ABA ROLI also worked with four Jordanian NGOs as they submitted a report to the United Nations Children's Rights Committee that detailed key challenges for some Jordanian children, and in particular girls. The effort represented a shift in capacity to prepare and present such studies, as well as in visibility for the NGOs, as none had previously engaged in direct international advocacy to ensure that Jordan complies with its human rights treaty obligations.

Promoting awareness of legal rights

In Jordan, limited awareness of legal rights is an endemic problem that affects all segments of the population. The consequences are more serious for disadvantaged populations such as women, refugees, migrant workers, the under-educated and the poor. After conducting a comprehensive survey on legal rights awareness in partnership with the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Development, we began a program that prepared youth to design and conduct small-scale rights awareness campaigns in their communities.

ABA ROLI is supporting a multi-faceted strategy for enhancing rights awareness, especially among women. In the first phase of this effort, we launched a new partnership with the Jordanian National Committee for Women (JNCW) to develop practical women's rights materials for those with low levels of literacy. After a collaborative development process with those lawyers and civil society representatives who most frequently assist Jordanian women seeking information on legal issues, the materials were developed for dissemination by the JNCW and its network of

FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME

JORDAN | WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Standing in a crowded room in Dulayl, Enas Dirgham addressed a diverse group of women ranging from newlyweds to grandmothers. A long-time legal aid counselor at the Family Guidance and Awareness Center (FGAC), Enas had provided legal aid on many domestic violence cases, but nearly always via private conversations with a single person. Standing in front of a room of women to tackle the subject—to bring an often taboo issue out of the private realm—filled her with pride.

Thanks to ABA ROLI support, in September 2012, the FGAC established a mobile outreach unit. Together with community-based organizations, FGAC provides legal counseling to girls and women in their own communities. The unit educates women about their rights, referring those who require it to FGAC legal and psychological counseling. While FGAC has been operating in the Zarqa Governorate in northern Jordan since 1992, the mobile unit extends its services to more remote communities. This allows FGAC to work with women previously unable to access its services due to the cost of travel or lack of awareness.

The unit has enabled Enas and her team of lawyers to host about 30 community workshops, educating more than 1,000 women and girls from Zarqa's remote communities about domestic violence and legal rights. Enas says that as word got out, the program generated more interest.

"Each session drew more women, with some traveling long distances to attend," says Enas. "We were very grateful for this chance

to reach out to the communities and appreciated them reciprocating the effort."

In January 2013, ABA ROLI held a seven-day training for FGAC's legal and psychosocial workers on women's rights and on facilitation skills to help guarantee that they are effectively reaching marginalized groups. Throughout the subsequent community workshops, participants—encouraged by the trainings—related personal experiences with domestic violence. Some recounted past injustices, while others sought solutions to ongoing issues. Enas believes that the women felt a sense of security that allowed them to break through cultural barriers to openly discuss domestic violence.

After each session, unit members shared FGAC's contact information with attendees and

consulted individually with those who had shared their experiences. The center has since provided legal services to more than 50 women who contacted the team after attending a session. Additionally, the team has forwarded 14 cases to court.

Enas says that such experiences allow lawyers to grow as they assist those in need. With ABA ROLI support, she adds, the lawyers are able to offer more holistic legal aid services than are typically available. By adding a community-based component to legal aid provision, the team members were able to connect with more people and emphasize prevention. Enas says the ABA ROLI program has enabled her to re-envision domestic violence, and she hopes future efforts will continue to dispel the taboo surrounding this crime. 🌀



"Each session drew more women, with some traveling long distances to attend.... We were very grateful for this chance to reach out to the communities and appreciated them reciprocating the effort."

ENAS DIRGHAM, LEGAL AID COUNSELOR
FAMILY GUIDANCE AND AWARENESS CENTER, ZARQA



Women attend an awareness session on domestic violence and other legal issues such as divorce, alimony and custody at The Hashemite Association for Social Development in northern Jordan.


NGOs. The second phase of the program has boosted the capacity of the Family Guidance and Awareness Center, a Zarqa-based group that provides social and legal services to women and youth in remote areas of the Northern Governorate. We offer the center staff training on facilitating community awareness sessions on women's rights and have assisted them in developing curriculum that covers strategies for adult learning and women's rights under Jordan's personal status laws.

Addressing human trafficking

With funding from the U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, we implement several initiatives to address human trafficking in Jordan. We support the National Anti-Human Trafficking Committee as it coordinates inter-institutional responses to human trafficking crimes, and we also train judges and prosecutors to increase their awareness of, and capacity to handle, human trafficking cases. ABA ROLI helped to establish a committee to analyze adjudicated trafficking cases for inclusion in judicial workshops and to identify

any weaknesses in human trafficking legislation and investigative processes.

To raise awareness about trafficking in persons, we have offered workshops on human trafficking and employee rights to hundreds of foreign workers in more remote areas and industrial centers throughout Jordan. In partnership with local NGOs with established community networks, we have conducted public awareness sessions detailing the characteristics of human trafficking crimes, how to identify victims, to whom citizens can refer cases for investigation and resources for connecting victims with necessary services.

As part of this work, in 2013, ABA ROLI aided in the repatriation of more than 100 women, who had previously been identified as trafficking survivors and who had since been confined to makeshift embassy shelters or Jordanian prisons. Through 170 interviews, we gathered information to identify gaps in recruitment and employment systems that can make foreign workers vulnerable and to make suggestions for legislation and regulations that can better protect domestic workers. 

We launched our Libya program in May 2012 after completing a comprehensive assessment of rule of law priorities in the country earlier that year. ABA ROLI is assisting Libya in its transition by providing training and capacity-building support to bar associations. We also help civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate for reform.

We operate a multi-faceted program in Libya that includes:

- training and capacity-building support to the Libyan Bar Association and its local chapters.
- working with CSOs to advocate for effective rule of law reform
- facilitating stakeholder dialog about the drafting of Libya's new constitution.
- supporting women in the legal profession
- developing the organizational capacity of Libya's Supreme Judicial Council
- collaborating with law schools to develop clinical legal education programs.

Our work in Libya is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Building bar association capacity

We are working with the Libyan Bar Association to build its capacity to serve as an advocate for the legal profession and to engage in law reform. Professional development training on substantive legal issues, such as election law and ethics, justice sector assessment, alternative dispute resolution and legislative drafting, helps to prepare the country's lawyers to lead change as part of Libya's post-revolution transition.

Our facilitation of the Libyan Bar Association's first strategic plan led to tangible outcomes, including Libya's first national conference of the legal profession and the bar's

successful campaign for a new law on the legal profession. We are continuing to support the bar association as it seeks to enhance the legal profession, including by helping to design a bar-led program to certify recent law graduates to practice law, with an emphasis on verifying essential professional skills.

Bolstering civil society

ABA ROLI has provided trainings for CSOs on a range of civic education and advocacy techniques, as well as on key topics such as election law, human rights, due process, legislative effectiveness, judicial independence and access to justice. As a result of this support, our CSO partners whose focus is on women are actively advocating for leadership roles for



Members of an ABA ROLI-supported working group draft a constitution preamble during a capacity-building workshop in Sabratha.

women in government and in the constitution drafting process, as well as for the establishment of equal treatment under Libyan law.

Fostering constitutional dialog

In partnership with Libya’s Bar Association, and the National Economic Development Board and Human Rights Council, ABA ROLI initiated a series of workshops and roundtables to provide forums on the country’s constitution. Held in the western, eastern and southern areas of Libya, these events promote citizen participation in constitutional reform efforts. The sessions allow for informed, comparative discussion of governance models that distribute authority among national, regional and municipal government units, of strategies for effective management of national resources, and of other key concepts related to decentralized and participatory governance. Just as importantly, participants with diverse geographical and political perspectives experienced firsthand the roles of negotiation

and consensus building in reaching common ground, which is necessary both for the development of the constitution’s basic tenants and for ensuring its support by diverse stakeholders. A working group of lawyers and law professors identified points of agreement as part of the roundtables and produced recommendations that are being presented to Libya’s constitution-drafting committee and lawmakers.

Supporting judicial reform

As part of a multi-year judicial reform initiative in Libya, ABA ROLI recently began to support the Supreme Judicial Council Secretariat’s strategic planning process. As part of that, we assessed the training needs of Libya’s prosecutors and their support staff to gather information to develop a nationwide training program. We also trained a core group of 25 lawyers and judicial officials to assess the effectiveness of Libya’s justice systems by utilizing ABA ROLI’s *Justice Sector Benchmarks Guide*. The results of their assessment will drive reform efforts. 🔄



◆
◆
◆
◆
A member of the constitution working group member presents on allocation of resources.

We work with our Moroccan government, legal profession and civil society partners to further anti-corruption efforts, to train young lawyers in human rights jurisprudence and to advance key provisions established by the 2011 *Moroccan Constitution*, including on women's rights and on citizen and civil society engagement. ABA ROLI supports advocacy on and analyses of these issues to foster public debate, to provide legislative recommendations and to provide a framework for implementation of these key provisions.



Since opening our Morocco office in 2004, we have collaborated with the Ministry of Justice, the anti-corruption institution *L'Instance Centrale de Prévention de la Corruption (ICPC)*, judges associations, bar associations and civil society organizations. Through these relationships, we have advanced judicial development, supported national anti-corruption efforts, enhanced legal education, fostered civil society engagement, and offered training to judges, judicial clerks and lawyers. Among our successful programs, we count efforts that have:

- enhanced the capacity of Morocco's judicial training institute, *L'Institut Supérieur de la Magistrature*, resulting in improved training for judges and clerks
- supported the drafting of whistleblower and witness protection legislation, in collaboration with *ICPC*
- contributed toward the adoption of ethics charters for judges, judicial clerks and lawyers
- established the country's first law school clinic
- implemented a juvenile justice program that provides detention alternatives to youth in conflict with the law.

Our current programs, funded by the U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative, its Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and the Royal Embassy of the Netherlands in Morocco, build upon these gains and our existing relationships in country. We are helping to implement key provisions in the *Moroccan Constitution*, implemented in 2011, to train lawyers on international human

rights norms, and to further the nation's anti-corruptions mechanisms and regimes.

Advancing constitutional provisions

In what many view as groundbreaking for the MENA region, Morocco's new constitution paves the way for greater citizen and civil society engagement in political processes. ABA ROLI is supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) as they seek to more clearly define and advocate for their increased role in the governance sphere. We provide technical assistance on legislative drafting and on advocacy approaches, and we support a CSO coalition in drafting legislation that would provide a mechanism for the submission of citizen-initiated legislation to the Moroccan legislature. Further, we are advising the coalition as it undertakes a



A participant shares her views on how best to achieve gender parity under the 2011 Moroccan Constitution.



public awareness campaign about new constitutional provisions and about the benefits of its proposed legislation.

Constitutional reforms also recognize women's rights through Article 19, which addresses gender parity. We support CSO partners in analyzing this issue and the consistency of current laws with the *Moroccan Constitution* and international conventions ratified by Morocco.

These efforts are encouraging a national debate about women's rights and about public participation within the media and among political parties. To foster dialog on these issues, we host roundtables in regions across Morocco that gather parliamentarians and other key governmental officials, political party officials and CSO representatives to facilitate public discussion on these topics and to compile suggestions on implementation of the constitutional provisions.

Training young lawyers on human rights

The 2011 constitution also enshrines several human rights standards, and by some measure, assigns legal authority to international human rights conventions ratified by Morocco. ABA ROLI is working with bar associations in Kenitra and Marrakech to develop human rights-focused continuing legal education

courses for young lawyers and to establish a sustainable delivery system for those courses. The trainings will promote the use of newly enforceable human rights jurisprudence within Moroccan courts.

Supporting anti-corruption efforts

In 2013, ABA ROLI undertook an assessment of corruption within Morocco's criminal justice sector, focusing on its impact on victims and litigants. The report found that the new constitution provides important opportunities for advancing reforms, including increasing judicial independence, enshrining a strong institutional framework for addressing corruption and improving access to information on basic rights in the criminal process.

As a follow on to the assessment, we are collaborating with government entities, the judges' association, bar associations and civil society groups to raise awareness among citizens. The campaign, which will employ a variety of media from pamphlets to radio public service announcements, emphasizes a victim's rights and responsibilities during the criminal process or when victimized by a crime. Audiences are encouraged to learn about their rights and report cases of alleged corruption. 🌀



Participants in a legislative drafting and advocacy training discuss policymaking.

ABA ROLI, working in close partnership with a network of Jordanian and Lebanese individuals and organizations, undertook a program to document human rights violations committed against Syrians who ultimately took refuge in Jordan and Lebanon. We developed training and a manual on conducting the research, and we worked with partners to increase the capacity of local groups to interview refugees and document human rights abuses.



Beginning in November 2012, ABA ROLI initiated a program to document the reasons why Syrians have fled their homes since the start of the Syrian conflict in March 2011. The effort sought to capture a random sampling of Syrian refugees' stories and to provide objective and evidence-based insights into international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) violations committed against Syrians.

Increasing regional documentation capacity


A primary goal of this program was to build regional capacity to engage in human rights documentation. Using a survey developed by ABA ROLI, Jordanian and Lebanese researchers conducted the majority of the interviews after receiving extensive training in core IHRL and IHL principles and in survey methodologies. ABA ROLI staff supervised the interview process and reviewed completed surveys.

We also developed a manual, printed in English and Arabic, that provides in-depth techniques for interviewing victims of, and witnesses to, human rights abuses and violations of the laws of war. It was designed for use by groups working in Syria or among Syrian refugee populations in bordering countries. ABA ROLI is distributing the manual to activists in Syria and abroad.

Documenting human rights abuses

Nearly 900 refugees from 10 governorates in Syria who are currently living in 15 cities or towns in Jordan and Lebanon were interviewed with the help of local non-governmental organizations and other service

providers. These partners arranged for interview locations and gained access to refugee populations. The respondents in ABA ROLI's study were all selected randomly, enhancing the credibility, diversity and objectivity of the dataset.

The report analyzes the interviewees' experiences and identifies patterns among a sample group who fled Syria for Jordan and Lebanon. The findings are not only broadly consistent with other human rights groups' findings, but they also contribute to the growing body of evidence revealing IHRL and IHL violations committed against civilians by Syrian government forces and their affiliates as well as by anti-regime armed groups. 



Local investigators, trained by ABA ROLI, arrive at a community service organization in Mafraq to interview Syrian refugees.



GULF REGIONAL PROGRAMS

◆ In the Gulf region, we undertake activities to increase the availability of continuing legal education (CLE) for legal professionals and to support the development of judicial training solutions. Our programs have solidified model CLE standards among Gulf countries, developed CLE resources and encouraged dialog among judicial training institutions in the region.

◆
◆
◆
◆

Since 2003, ABA ROLI has worked with local partners to support regional programming in the Gulf countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates. By assisting our partners with regional collaboration, with the delivery of professional development training and with establishing sustained networking mechanisms, ABA ROLI has helped to support the adoption of best practices and the sharing of expertise among legal professionals and training institutions in these countries.

Expanding judicial education

ABA ROLI has helped to advance judicial education in the region by promoting discussion



◆
◆
◆
◆

Speakers address participants during a workshop, held in the United Arab Emirates, gathering regional experts to discuss continuing legal education.

and collaboration among judicial training institutions. In 2012, ABA ROLI hosted a conference on management and administration issues in partnership with Bahrain's Ministry of Justice and its Judicial and Legal Studies Institute. Attendees included directors and key staff from judicial training institutes in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Discussion topics included the use of modern and innovative training methodologies, various technological tools to enhance education, curriculum development and effective institute staff management. In 2013, ABA ROLI continued to support GCC partners as they collaborated on judicial training issues.

Supporting the legal profession

Following a series of ABA ROLI-supported discussions on strengthening the legal profession in the Gulf, we have supported various initiatives in response to the priorities identified by private practitioners, bar societies, law firms, government entities and universities throughout the region. Chief among these have been a multi-year effort to support expanded CLE opportunities for lawyers, to encourage participation in CLE through the establishment of professional standards, and to deepen CLE capacity among potential providers through the development of course materials.

Strengthening CLE in the Gulf

The ABA ROLI-supported Gulf Consortium for Continuing Legal Education, a cooperative of



An ABA ROLI judicial expert leads a session on management for judicial training institute directors and staff from Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



lawyers, law firms, universities and other training institutions, draws upon local, regional and international expertise to develop and share legal resources across the region. With representation from international and regional law firms operating in Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the consortium both coordinates traditional, in-person training opportunities and makes available online resources to enhance the substantive knowledge and practical skills.

The consortium is developing a range of course modules for CLE providers. Each module includes teaching notes, exercises and materials, and they are made available in English and Arabic. ABA ROLI is cooperating with partners in the region to pilot the modules and will refine them as needed. Course topics include:

- alternative dispute resolution
- prosecuting money-laundering and asset-recovery cases
- communication skills
- conflict analysis and mediation
- legal aspects of e-commerce
- law practice management

- the U.S. legal system and common law
- persuasive advocacy
- negotiation skills for new lawyers
- corporate lawyering.

Establishing CLE standards

Together with partners, we have developed model CLE guidelines that have been endorsed by the GCC in 2013. Through this action, the GCC affirms the importance of mandatory legal education for lawyers and will pave the way for each GCC country to adopt national standards based upon the model guidelines.

The model standards require lawyers to attend a prescribed number of hours of professional development training, including courses related to ethics. The standards also encourage the establishment of a regulatory authority responsible for licensing legal practice and for ensuring that lawyers comply with CLE requirements. Finally, the standards recommend that lawyers' failure to comply with the requirements be deemed a violation of the duties and requirements of the profession. 