"The Bench-Bar roundtables organized in all Kosovo regions represent the first participatory initiative ever to conduct an overview of the issues and problems that judges and advocates are dealing in their day-to-day work. The outcome of the roundtable discussions represents mutual work between the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) and the Kosovo Judges Association (KJA) with the support of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Kosovo (funded by USAID) in identifying crucial issues to be addressed in the near future. The overview of the issues that are presented in this booklet is an excellent reminder that many of these issues can be solved. Some of these issues are waiting for the Kosovo Advocates Chamber and legal community to resolve. Help us take a hand on these issues; a lot of work is ahead of us!"

— Ramë Gashi
President of Kosovo Chamber of Advocates

"We are presenting an excellent summary of core issues identified by Kosovo judges and lawyers during roundtable discussions organized in five Kosovo regions with the support of ABA/ROLI and USAID. The issues discussed in the roundtables all over Kosovo and emphasized in this booklet aren’t new; however, I can assure you that certainly this is the best effort to put all of these together and raise our voice. We’re aware that much of the work to overcome these problems depends on us, our future commitments and professionalism, however much is needed to be done from the part of PISG and UNMIK. We count on you!"

— Ymer Huruglica
President of Kosovo Judges Association
The purpose of this booklet is to help institutions such as Bench and Bar organizations, Provisional Institutions of Self-Governance (PISG), United Nation Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), and all other stakeholders in justice sector, as well as Kosovo public, understand more about the challenges that Judges and Lawyers are faced with. This is an information source about every aspect of Bench-Bar experiences and concerns faced in day-to-day work in Kosovo courts.

The booklet is a summary of 30 issues identified by Kosovo judges and attorneys in a series of roundtable discussions, organized in five main Kosovo regions. The process of identifying these issues has been participatory involving 250 Kosovo lawyers and judges. The issues reflect long discussions among representatives of these two organizations starting in December 2005 till June 2007.

This booklet highlights the most current overview to date of the main challenges faced by both communities – judges and attorneys.

Bench-Bar Roundtable Discussions were conducted jointly by the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates ("KCA") and the Kosovo Judges Association ("KJA"), assisted by the ABA/Rule of Law Initiative with USAID funding. These events represent the first steps in establishing a dialogue between lawyers and judges in Kosovo on a continuing basis in order to address issues of mutual concern. The goal was to offer a forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and concerns that are of mutual interest to the broader legal community.

This booklet envisions future bench-bar roundtable discussions following onto the Bench–Bar Conference held in June 2007.