LAW DAY PLANNING GUIDE

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FROM MINISTER OF JUSTICE / message

LAW DAY

[The following is an excerpt from the Minister of Justice’s proclamation of Law Day on January 16, 2009.]

This day is chosen to be the special day because on this day 9 years ago, Kosovo’s judicial and prosecutorial system was reborn after which for the first time the judges and the prosecutors gave their oath and took a big responsibility on their shoulders in order to give their professional contribution in putting the judicial system in place. In order to mark this date, every year on January 16th, I proclaim LAW DAY to be established.

For organizing today’s events, I thank dearly everyone who helped in different ways among which are the Kosovo Judicial and Prosecutorial Council, ABA ROLI, USAID, the Kosovo Judges Association, Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, Legal Aid Commission, Faculty of Law and also my cabinet.

For Justice (justitia), there’s plenty to talk about, because there are many theoretical opinions about it. But today I will only say a sentence each for both the objective and subjective meaning of justice, hoping that you will not take this elaboration as a lecture about the meaning of justice. By doing this elaboration, we will only learn more about the value of justice in a general sense.

In the subjective sense, the meaning of justice is the individual quality of being able to avoid arbitrary behavior towards others. Subjective justice comes into play when the individual, regardless of his physical, intellectual or informative strength, doesn’t want to oppress anyone.

In the objective sense, justice is one of the main normative principles of a joint political, social and institutional life, both in cases where there is cooperation and in cases where there is lack of cooperation. This meaning of justice complies with the ideas of ancient Greek philosophers – Plato and Aristotle, who would define justice as a virtue which brings people together in harmony. To this I would also add that justice is a principle according to which everyone should get what they deserve, but, indeed, not only on a piece of paper, but also in action, because justice is the truth in action by which is injustice eliminated.

Apart from this, since I want to emphasize the value of justice even more and give it the dimension it deserves, I would say that justice is the whole of all the virtues, which in a broader sense means that justice is closely linked with morals and ethics, it is a principle of fairness, especially when it comes to enforcement of the law.

If we did not have justice, we would not have the rule of law and if we did not have the rule of law, justice would remain hidden away and injustice would rule.

So, all of us, participants in this ceremony as well as the generations which will come after, will mark the 16th of January as LAW DAY, so that the rule of law will not remain hidden away, but so that the rule of injustice will be removed once and for all!

Thank you,

Nekibe Kelmendi
Minister of Justice

Prishtina, 16th January 2009
LAW DAY

In 2009 with support from USAID, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI), in cooperation with the Kosovo Ministry of Justice and other justice organizations in Kosovo, launched the first annual Law Day in Kosovo.

In the U.S., Law Day has been a special day of celebration for more than 50 years and is observed with ceremonies and many other activities through public entities, private organizations, by courts, schools and other institutions in places across the whole country. In 1958 U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day to strengthen the United States' heritage of liberty, justice, and equality under the law, proclaiming "a day of national dedication to the principle of government under law." Later, in 1961, the U.S. Congress established an official date for celebrating Law Day.

Today, Law Day is set aside to celebrate how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share. Law Day programs are designed to help people understand how law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice. Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country. In 2000 U.S. President Bill Clinton said, "I encourage all Americans to observe Law Day by reflecting on the impact that our nation's laws have had upon the quality of our lives and the strength of our democracy...As we continue to work for a more just society for all, let us...reaffirm our reverence for the rule of law."

The rule of law is not just a matter of concern to lawyers, prosecutors and judges. It affects people from every part of society: teachers, workers, doctors, journalists, engineers, police, military, human rights advocates and others. Every citizen has a stake in the rule of law and every citizen can do his or her part to strengthen it. I encourage you to join in working to advance your own and others' understanding of the rule of law during the Law Day celebrations.

By sharing our American experience with Law Day, we hope to support the many efforts of Kosovar institutions and individuals to observe Law Day, Kosovo style. Inside this guide you will discover ideas and suggestions for creating your own Law Day events and observances as well as resources for aiding in future planning. In addition you will find helpful hints on how to generate publicity and encourage the support of others in your efforts.

I wish you the best with your Law Day programming.

Gina Schaar
Director, ABA ROLI Kosovo
WHAT IS LAW DAY?

A national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law, Law Day underscores how law and the legal process contribute to the freedoms all Kosovars share. Law Day will serve to educate the public on the achievements of the legal system including the various ministries and institutions; highlight the new constitution; and celebrate the progress and changes in the rule of law in Kosovo. Law Day also provides an opportunity to recognize the role of courts in our democracy.

WHEN IS LAW DAY CELEBRATED?

January 16 is the specific date chosen to honor January 16, 2000 when the judges and prosecutors of the Pristina region were sworn in, signifying that the justice system restarted its functioning in Kosovo. Law Day celebrations can also take place before or after January 16.

LAW DAY AND THE RULE OF LAW

Advancing the rule of law helps achieve an array of public benefits. We all have a stake in the rule of law, and we all can do our part to strengthen it.

The rule of law refers to a system of self-government with a strong and accessible legal process. It features a system based on fair, broadly understood and stable laws, and diverse, competent and independent lawyers, prosecutors and judges. This foundation is essential to foster sustainable communities of opportunity and equity.

Law Day offers an opportunity to explore the meaning of the rule of law, while fostering public understanding of the rule of law through discussion of its role in society and explaining how it is essential in sustaining a free society.
Law Day Planning Checklist

Use the following planning checklist to begin planning your Law Day activities.

Start early! 3 to 6 months in advance is not too long.

3 months before Law Day

- Identify and convene Law Day planning group
- Customize Law Day plan of action - be sure to consider goals, objectives, activities, schedule, volunteers, and budget
- Draft publicity/media campaign
- Select activities and other materials to be used in classroom presentations as well as public presentations
- Confirm funding sources to support Law Day activities
- Coordinate volunteers with specific activities within the plan of action
- Finalize logistical arrangements for activities and volunteers

2 months before

- Convene Law Day Planning Group for status reports on plan of action
- Implement publicity/media campaign
- Finalize funding sources to support Law Day activities
- Finalize volunteers to support individual Law Day activities
- Arrange for photographer for the various events and activities
- Design and print all materials needed for the Law Day activities

1 month before

- Convene Law Day Planning Group for status reports on plan of action
- Finalize publicity/media arrangements
- Finalize the coordination of volunteers needed for specific programs and activities
- Distribute materials to volunteers for advance preparation of various presentations
- Finalize arrangements for photographer
- Print any last-minute materials
- Send invitations to participants

1 week before

- Convene Law Day Planning Group for final review of all aspects of the Law Day celebrations
- Send press releases and follow up with media contacts

After Law Day

- Convene Law Day Planning Group to assess all Law Day activities.
- File information for access in future years
- Balance Law Day budget with expenses
- Send thank-you letters to all volunteers, sponsors, media, and schools
Suggestions for Law Day Activities

- Increase children's awareness about their rights
- Hold mock trials with primary and secondary school students
- Organize essay contest with students from secondary schools and universities
- Organize tours or study visits to one of Kosovo's rule of law institutions, such as:
  - courts of any level
  - Kosovo Assembly
  - Municipal Assembly
  - penal institutions

These can be organized for students at primary, secondary or university level, or for civic groups:

- Organize tour to National Library with students
- Organize Law Day-inspired arts exhibition
- Organize film festival with short documentary movies, with a specific theme of the rule of law
- Have informal coffee to discuss issues concerning justice system in Kosovo
- Organize question-and-answer sessions on the rule of law
- Organize public education roundtables on rule of law issues
- Develop annual award/prize dedicated to the achievements in human rights protection, children's and women's rights, or other rule of law themes.
- Organize simulations of Kosovo Assembly and Municipal Assembly sessions with students
- Invite lawyers, prosecutors and judges to classrooms to speak on rule of law topics
- Organize quiz in primary and secondary schools about the Kosovo Constitution
- Organize primary school drawing competition on law day topics
- Create pamphlet, booklet or brochure on rule of law topics
- Partner with related organizations and leaders in varied disciplines. The rule of law affects many occupations and endeavors. Collaboration with others will extend your promotional reach and stress the fact that the rule of law sustains the lives and work practices of all kinds of people — building communities of opportunity and equity.
Increase children's awareness about their rights

NGO's, university students, student unions, jurist or lawyer groups could develop activities in primary schools to inform and increase children's awareness about their rights, by speaking to school classes. Students or NGO representatives could share their knowledge about Kosovo Law in general: applicable Law in Kosovo, structure of courts in Kosovo or the new Constitution of Kosovo. School teachers can plan a lesson for Law Day about a rule of law topic, or have students practice and present a trial simulation for other students. Through this mock trial school students would have the chance to play the Judge's, Prosecutor's and Lawyer's role.

Law Day roundtables by Womens' Association

Womens' association in Kosovo could mark Law Day in Kosovo by informing women about their rights, organizing roundtables and conferences to increase women's awareness about domestic violence, and how to combat violence against women. Through these roundtables women associations would encourage women to report these cases at the relevant institutions.

Essay contest for pupils or students

Primary school pupils, Secondary school students or students from Law Faculties could mark Law Day by competing in essay contests. This would be a chance for them to write about typical topics with respect to the justice system in Kosovo. Possible topics could be: what steps Kosovo institutions should undertake to protect human rights, most important factors in domestic violence, how to combat corruption in Kosovo, measures to eliminate discrimination, how to improve peoples' perceptions of the Kosovo justice system.
Getting the word out before, on and after Law Day is an important part of celebrating and promoting the rule of law. Effective publicity planners seek out creative, varied, numerous, and visible outlets and begin their planning early. Consider the following:

**Banners and Billboards:**
A large version of the Law Day poster can be hung at meeting sites or plastered on the billboard in the busiest intersection in town.

**Radio:**
Reach your local audience with promotion on popular radio stations in town. Depending on your programming content, you may even be able to have them run for free as Public Service Announcements.

**Bus/Transportation Advertisements:**
Literally send your message out all over town.

**Public Access Television and local news programming:**
Many local stations are hungry for the kind of educational, human-interest story your Law Day program provides.

**Ready-Reference Calendar of Events**
One easy-to-read calendar of events can be used for the community members themselves as well as the local reporters you hope will take an interest.

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- **Keys to a successful publicity plan** -

- Clearly define your goals.

- Identify your target audience(s), and review last year's publicity efforts. Are there groups you wished you'd reached in the past? Are there groups you'd like to reach again?

- Consider the most effective techniques to reach each target audience. Prioritize techniques based on the number and type of person it reaches, as well as how it fits into your budget.

- Diversify your publicity outreach. Be creative.

- Determine resources (including personnel) needed to accomplish your goals. Don't forget to plan for a major last-minute publicity push.

- Your publicity outreach doesn't end at the event. If possible, seek out post-event media coverage. It will encourage and increase not only attendance but also volunteerism for next year.

- Keep deliverables such as press releases and budgeting information for next year's planning.
Publicity tools

News Releases

There's no fool-proof method for getting Law Day programming reported in the media. However, there are some trusted steps and tools that will increase your chances. Ideally, you're aiming for coverage from all directions: TV, radio, newspapers, Internet. Keep that goal in mind as you send out materials.

Consider the following as you write your press releases:

- Where's the news? How can you catch the attention of the person reading your release?
- Remember: Kids, intergenerational activities, and useful information or services for the community are all popular topics.
- Have you answered the questions who, what, when, where, why, and how? Make sure those answers are in the first several lines of the release.
- The lead (first paragraph) should be 30 words or fewer. You have a matter of seconds to catch your readers' attention, so be clear and concise.
- Keep it to one page.
- Avoid the impulse to be cute or clever. Let the facts speak for themselves—but be sure to include the facts most interesting to the media.
- If you have one, include a photograph or other visual to help TV and other reporters see the potential in your story.
- Send the press release a few days before the event, and follow up with phone calls the day before.
- Always put your correspondence and press releases on letterhead so reporters know how to contact you if necessary.
- Don't be afraid to send your release through several channels—send an e-mail and/or fax in addition to the mail.
- Follow up with phone calls. Be persistent.
Sample News Release

The Rule of Law:
Foundation for Communities of Opportunity and Equity

In celebration of Law Day, the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates will sponsor a panel discussion on “The Rule of Law and You,” Friday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Community Center in Pristina. Government officials from the Municipal Council, including Chairperson Fatmir Kryeziu, will serve on the panel. The event is open to the public. Students from Faik Koniza Middle School will moderate the panel.

Law Day – Justice Fair

One way to spread the word about the rule of law and provide direct services to citizens on Law Day is to participate in a Justice Fair. At the Justice Fair community and legal organizations set up tables in a single location and feature books, pamphlets, reports, brochures and other useful resources for members of the public. Some organizations, such as the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates and the Legal Aid Commission, can provide helpful legal advice to visitors at the Justice Fair. The Kosovo Ministry of Justice has been the sponsor of the Law Day Justice Fair in Pristina’s Youth and Sports Building.
Other planning resources and participating organizations

2. ABA ROLI – American Bar Association/Rule of Law Initiative - www.abanet.org/rol/europe_and_eurasia/kosovo.html
4. CRPK (Civil Rights Program Kosovo) - www.crpkosovo.org
5. CLARD (Center for Legal Aid and Regional Development) - www.clardkosovo.org
6. Women’s Association of Gjakova – shoqataegruas@yahoo.com
8. KJI - Kosovo Judicial Institute, local – www.kjjjudicial.org
15. Women's Network - www.womensnetwork.org
17. KCA – Kosovo Chamber of Advocates, local – www.oak-ks.org
18. KJA – Kosovo Judges Association, local - shgjk2000@yahoo.com
19. KIPRED- www.kiped.net
20. CSD – Gracanica – csdkosovo@gmail.com
21. EULEX -www.eulex-kosovo.eu
22. KPPA – http://www.shppk.org/
24. University of Prishtina – Law Faculty http://web.uni-pr.edu
27. Kosova Young Lawyers - www.kyl-kos.org