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THE ABA'S RULE OF LAW HISTORY

- 1878: American Bar Association formed and created the Committee on International Law
- 1933: International and Comparative Law Section of the ABA established
- 1958: First ABA International "Law Day" to advance the rule of law in the world
- 1963: Alongside the Peace Corps, the ABA launched the "Legal Peace Corps" in Africa
- 1990: Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI) founded
- 1991: First CEELI country office opened in Bulgaria
- 1997: ABA granted legal observer status in the United Nations
- 1998: ABA launched the Asia Law Initiative
- 2000: ABA inaugurated the Africa Law Initiative and the Latin America and Caribbean Law Initiative
- 2001: ABA formed the Center for Human Rights (CHR)
- 2002: CEELI assessed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- 2003: ABA started programmatic work in the Middle East and North Africa
- 2005: The International Rule of Law Symposium led to the creation of the World Justice Project
- 2007: Regional Law Initiatives merged into the ABA Rule of Law Initiative
Homer E. Moyer, Jr. and Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberté led the ABA’s effort to establish the Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI), now known as the ABA Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI).

“When we started CEELI [in 1990], we never thought we’d be around this long.”

- Sandy, CEELI’s 25th Anniversary (2015)

Talbot “Sandy” D’Alemberté, ABA CEELI/ROLI co-founder and former ABA President (1991-1992), was a revered advocate for human and civil rights around the world, a pioneer of dispute resolution, a constitutional expert, and a champion of open government. His commitment to justice remains a core value of ABA ROLI’s work. While his passing deeply saddens us, it also instilled in us a greater drive to carry-on the important work he helped begin back in 1990 for ABA CEELI/ROLI. In response to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the ABA, alongside Homer Moyer Jr. and Sandy D’Alemberté founded CEELI. CEELI served as a public service project to deploy ABA members to assist transitioning democracies with drafting new constitutions and laws. These efforts and the resulting accomplishments created the structure of ABA ROLI that we see today.

Thank you Sandy for helping us get to where we are today.

“I was first introduced to [Sandy] in Miami in 1982, the year I entered the legal profession, by associates in his law firm. They revered him, as I soon came to. In my first year of practice, it became very clear to me that Sandy D’Alemberté was the beau ideal, the lawyer one aspired to be if you were good enough and worked hard enough and had the right values, as he did, and if you lived a life devoted to the law, to public service, to citizenship, to human dignity, and to excellence, as he had. Thirty-seven years later, having developed a much deeper relationship with him and with a greater understanding of him than back in year one, I feel this more than ever. I miss this elegant man and celebrate his consequential life.

Sandy D’Alemberté, beau ideal.”

- Alberto Mora,
ABA Associate Executive Director, Global Programs
For over a decade, ABA ROLI has worked across Sub-Saharan Africa to advance the rule of law. The ABA’s rule of law development work in Africa began in 1963, when it teamed-up with the then-newly formed Peace Corps to enlist lawyer-volunteers to provide legal assistance throughout the continent. The ABA continued this model as a “Legal Peace Corps” in Africa until the foundation of the Africa Law Initiative in 2000, which later merged with other ABA regional initiatives in 2007 to form ABA ROLI. The Africa Law Initiative began programming in 2000 by working on post-genocide access to justice in Rwanda and supporting environmental advocacy in Uganda. Since then, we have supported accountability efforts across legal systems; trained justice-sector actors; and strengthened the court, evidence, and case management systems throughout Africa.

Since 2011, ABA ROLI has provided access to justice to more than 30,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Central African Republic (CAR) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); helped free more than 300 victims of slavery in Mali and Mauritania; supported local civil society partners in their efforts to protect electoral rights, indigenous rights, land rights, and women’s rights; and coordinated privately funded law school scholarships for more than 50 Congolese women.

In 2019, ABA ROLI led 25 programs in Sub-Saharan Africa, alongside local partners to advance human rights, strengthen the state and non-state justice sectors, and promote access to justice.

ABA ROLI’s efforts to increase access to justice focused on marginalized populations in conflict-affected and unstable countries, including CAR, DRC, and Somalia. ABA ROLI’s programs are driven by the belief that enhancing access to justice is crucial not only to protect the rights of individuals, but also to help manage conflict and prevent future violence. In Southern Africa, we launched an ambitious regional project to foster human rights. In Tanzania and Uganda, we launched a program to enhance the protection of freedom of expression.

ABA ROLI also provided technical assistance to governments looking to bolster their justice sector in Liberia, DRC, and CAR. Our assistance included court and case management, assistance to survivors of SGBV, and training and capacity building for judicial personnel. In these countries, we worked with Ministries of Justice, Bar Associations, Public Defenders, Prosecutors, and Judicial Training Institutes. ABA ROLI’s assistance focused on the ownership of reform efforts, and placed an emphasis on building linkages and fostering collaboration between civil society and the justice sector.

Additionally, ABA ROLI worked at the Pan-African level, partnering with the African Union (AU) to support its rule of law capabilities by providing training to AU staff. To advance the role of women in the legal profession, ABA ROLI continued its coordination of scholarships, funded by private donors, for women lawyers in the DRC.
TOP
Sudanese lawyers from the Darfur and Nuba Mountain Bar Associations participate in the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission in Banjul, the Gambia.

LEFT TOP
ABA ROLI psychosocial workers from CAR practice advanced techniques for managing SGBV cases and coping mechanisms for second-hand trauma. A psychologist from the DRC advises them.

LEFT BOTTOM
(1) ABA ROLI Mali Country Director and justice actors participate in a workshop organized by ABA ROLI and its partner the National Institute of Judicial Training.
(2) ABA ROLI community volunteers performed a skit that demonstrates various effective ways of responding to cases in their community at a mobile legal clinic in Bossangoa, CAR.
**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

ABA ROLI has continued providing direct legal and psychosocial assistance to Central Africans through a network of permanent and mobile legal aid clinics in CAR. In 2019, 2,118 new clients received assistance at ABA ROLI legal aid clinics, 83% of whom were women. Since 2015, ABA ROLI has connected 8,700 Central Africans with essential legal services. ABA ROLI’s access to justice work added a new focus on atrocity prevention in 2019. These recent efforts include deploying mobile clinics to conflict-affected areas of CAR and collaborations with court personnel and the Central African Bar Association on peaceful dispute resolution efforts. Notably, ABA ROLI coordinated with court staff in Bangassou and Bossangoa to hold the first hearings the courts had held since 2013 and 2018, respectively.

To complement outreach efforts, ABA ROLI collaborated with Central African radio channels to disseminate a new educational radio show entitled ‘Justice for All!’ ABA ROLI also continued coordination with community leaders, religious leaders, civil society, and judicial actors to encourage accountability. The coordination strengthened state authority within communities and improved the case documentation of rights violations.

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

ABA ROLI’s diversified programs in the DRC continued to serve communities by improving health services, education, security, and engagement with citizens in the electoral process. ABA ROLI created an Early Warning and Response System to anonymously alert law enforcement, international aid organizations, and security actors of potential threats and atrocity violations in five provinces of the DRC. Our continued maintenance of an innovative SMS-based digital case-filing system has helped to hold the judicial system accountable. ABA ROLI also works with local partners to train community leaders in alternative dispute resolution to mediate tensions before conflict arises in relation to elections and other issues. Through a program funded by the 11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation, ABA ROLI supported community efforts to rectify human rights violations caused by industrial mining activities in the province of South Kivu.

ABA ROLI places an emphasis on women’s rights and legal access in the DRC by operating five legal aid clinics, most of which primarily serve SGBV survivors and women in need of legal assistance. Additionally, 28 female law students in Goma, Bukavu, and Kindu received financial and academic support from ABA ROLI for their legal education.

**ETHIOPIA**

Since 2018, ABA ROLI has managed a capacity building project with the African Union (AU), the pan-African inter-governmental organization based in Addis Ababa. Together they have organized skills-based and substantive law training workshops for the staff of the AU. The project is intended to strengthen AU capacity to fulfill its mandate, which includes the promotion of the rule of law, human rights, and peace and security in Africa.

**LIBERIA**

In 2018, ABA ROLI conducted a comprehensive assessment of standard operating procedures and capacity needs in the Liberian Judiciary and the prosecution office of the Ministry of Justice. Based on recommendations from the assessment, we will continue working with Liberian justice institutions to strengthen existing procedures and practices, introduce new standards as needed, and ensure personnel are equipped with the means to meet their responsibilities. In the long term, the program will contribute to strengthening the rule of law by increasing the consistency and transparency of court operations.

**MALI**

ABA ROLI has continued its program to combat the practice of hereditary slavery in Mali. This program helps victims escape slavery through the acquisition of legal birth-certificate and supports civil society’s push for a definitive law to criminalize the practice. Despite serious security challenges stemming from the ongoing insurgency in many parts of the country, the National Human Rights Commission has made progress. This Commission has worked with ABA ROLI on the establishment of a core group of concerned citizens and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to put the matter on the national agenda. As a result of this work with several partners, in 2019 the project secured the freedom of 99 individuals from slavery.

**MAURITANIA**

Through groundbreaking collaborations with civil society organizations (CSOs), ABA ROLI increased the political and civic participation of marginalized groups in Mauritania, including refugee returnees and victims and former victims of slavery. Our efforts promoted legal reform, strategic litigation, and community-based paralegals. Additionally, ABA ROLI delivered non-adversarial advocacy strategies to civil society on engagement with the government and media for the improvement of marginalized groups’ rights. The program worked to advance access to justice for marginalized groups and social inclusion across the country. In conjunction with a consortium of local CSOs, ABA ROLI trained and deployed community-based paralegals, facilitated mediation, and helped Mauritians register to vote and obtain national identity cards.

**SOMALIA**

Launched in 2019, the five-year Expanding Access to Justice (EAJ) program responds to citizens’ needs by supporting civil society and government justice actors. This support improves the quality, reach, availability, and accessibility of legal aid services in Somalia and Somaliland. Local organizations were also connected with small grants through EAJ, which they used to expand services to underserved populations and communities. With the grants, the partners provided legal assistance to 254 clients in Somaliland.

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

Since 2018, ABA ROLI has been an active member of a four-member consortium designed to promote human rights in Southern Africa. The five-year project aims to work in nine Southern African countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia. The consortium’s four thematic areas include: women’s customary land rights, indigenous peoples’ rights, media freedoms and digital rights, and the protection of human rights defenders. In conjunction with the launch of the consortium, ABA ROLI supported two regional workshops. Both focused on strategic litigation for women’s customary land rights and indigenous peoples’ rights, as well as advocacy on cybersecurity legislation.
The pursuit of justice in CAR is complex. Prospects for holding perpetrators accountable is influenced by three factors:

1) An attorney’s and psychosocial worker’s ability to sustain a client’s interest in their case;
2) The client’s confidence that justice can be achieved; and
3) The client’s continued ability to participate in the criminal justice process.

ABA ROLI psychosocial workers and attorneys are exposed to the traumatic life experiences of clients through their work, leading to secondary trauma for these service providers. Some of these experiences may include incidents of sexual violence from the height of the 2012-2014 conflict to more recent crimes committed by members of armed groups in CAR. Staff members of the four clinics also assist clients with domestic disputes such as custody battles and property theft. The support that the psychosocial workers and attorneys provide is critical, but their secondary trauma can negatively impact their own mental health and capacity to effectively assist clients.

Responding to these needs, in April 2019, ABA ROLI collaborated with Dr. Pierrette Sivita Kasonia, a psychologist and former psychosocial worker with ABA ROLI in the DRC, to provide training support to ABA ROLI’s CAR staff (photographed below). Dr. Pierrette conducted a six-day training on advanced approaches for managing SGBV cases and coping mechanisms for second-hand trauma.

Dr. Pierrette led the participants through group conversations, role play scenarios, and discussions on various case studies. Participants also received training on handling sensitive cases and issues of confidentiality, helping clients build resilience, and recognizing symptoms of traumatic stress in children and infants. The training placed particular emphasis on preparing clients to testify in court and debriefing with them following court appearances. Criminal investigations and court hearings can often be re-traumatizing, and while victim participation in these processes can be key to holding perpetrators accountable, it must be balanced with respect to the client’s well-being. With these considerations in mind, ABA ROLI ensures that psychosocial support to clinic clients and staff remains an integral part of the legal aid clinic’s holistic approach to building access to justice in CAR.
For 21 years, the ABA has partnered with legal, governmental, and civil society organizations across Asia to promote and uphold the rule of law. In 1998, the ABA launched the Asia Rule of Law Initiative with an initial technical legal assistance program to ensure speedy and fair trials in China.

Since then, ABA ROLI has worked in over 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific addressing critical rule of law issues affecting the region, such as judicial reform, legal profession development, legal education reform, anti-corruption, citizens’ rights, access to justice and anti-human trafficking. In 2019, we led 17 programs and activities in 11 countries, where we advanced the rule of law in a broad range of areas. ABA ROLI’s programs focused on meeting global anti-corruption standards, protecting freedom of religion, prosecuting terrorist financing, combating wildlife and human trafficking, safeguarding environmental protection, increasing the sophistication of anti-money laundering and asset recovery efforts, scaling up access to justice, transitional justice, countering violent extremism, enhancing alternative dispute resolution options, and preventing and protecting victims of child sexual abuse. In addition to these focus areas, ABA ROLI’s work across Asia has equipped judges, prosecutors, lawyers, law schools, research and advocacy organizations, and bar associations with resources as they serve in creating more just and fair societies.

ABA ROLI regularly hosts delegations from the region at our offices in Washington, DC. In 2019, ABA ROLI hosted faculty from six Pakistani law schools for a one-week business and human rights (BHR) immersion tour in Washington, DC and Boston, MA. To bolster their efforts to introduce BHR into their law school curricula, ABA ROLI arranged for the faculty to observe BHR teaching at U.S. law schools; discuss course design and teaching methodology with representatives from U.S. universities; attend a BHR Professors’ Colloquium organized by New England Law Boston and the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum; and meet with human rights and business organizations to discuss emerging trends in BHR.

ABA ROLI maintains strong partnerships with civil society organizations in Asia, challenging abuse, and upholding the rights of vulnerable communities. In 2019, we provided funding, technical assistance, and training to legal aid organizations that serve indigent communities and those at risk of physical harm, rights violations, and censure. Our partners were also at the vanguard of the rule of law during the region’s government transitions, made evident by their work to establish effective justice mechanisms to address past atrocities, and explore other issues related to restorative justice.
An ABA ROLI program officer assists Pakistani law faculty during a presentation on business and human rights research at New England Law in Boston, MA.

Vietnamese prosecutors participate in a mock trial at a trial advocacy skills training in Can Tho, Vietnam.

In the Philippines, ABA ROLI provides training sessions to improve knowledge of the continuous trial rules and procedures to advance the constitutional right of persons to a speedy disposition of criminal cases.

Vietnamese judicial officials discuss a hypothetical wildlife trafficking case study during a workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam.
MALAYSIA

Since 2017, ABA ROLI has worked with local NGOs in Malaysia to promote religious freedom through strengthened litigation and advocacy at local and international levels. In 2019, ABA ROLI partnered with civil society partner, EMPOWER, to increase awareness of religious freedom at a side event on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) implementation during the 40th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The event discussed UPR recommendations with the government of Malaysia and explored how these recommendations could be introduced through collaborative efforts by civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and the government.

MALDIVES

ABA ROLI began working in the Maldives in 2019 by establishing partnerships with civil society, government, and legal institutions. The ABA’s Center for Professional Responsibility counsel and ABA ROLI experts conducted programming about judicial reform, strategic communications, countering violent extremism, bar regulation, legal education, and pro bono services. They provided international comparative examples and technical assistance to Maldivian institutions as they sought to meet international standards. The Judicial Service Commission worked with ABA ROLI on their efforts to consider how to uphold judicial independence while introducing reforms in the selection, training, appointment, and performance appraisal of judges. Together, they also addressed ways to ensure due process and impartiality in the complaints process against judges.

ABA ROLI also supported the newly-instituted Bar Council of the Maldives to consider its governance framework and approach to regulating the legal profession by reference to more established bar associations around the world. As a result, the Bar Council developed its first bylaws and regulations; a framework for qualifications, training, and continuing legal education of lawyers; a commentary on professional ethics; and a framework for discipline.

SRI LANKA

Since 2014, ABA ROLI has supported Sri Lankan partners to strengthen legal infrastructure and build the capacity of legal professionals to promote rule of law and protect the rights of citizens. Through strategic partnerships with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, local civil society organizations, and justice sector actors, our programs have advanced transitional justice, promoted internet freedom, and combated trafficking in persons (TIP) in the country. During 2019, we enhanced the capacity of prosecutors and judges to effectively prosecute and adjudicate both TIP-related crimes. As part of these efforts, we partnered with the Attorney General’s Department to develop a Prosecutor’s Handbook on TIP. We also trained prosecutors on survivor-centered investigation and prosecution of TIP and related crimes. In addition, ABA ROLI worked with the Judicial Training Institute of Sri Lanka to conduct a symposium for High Court judges on Sri Lankan and global best practices for adjudicating TIP cases.

VIETNAM

Since 2007, ABA ROLI has partnered with legal associations and justice institutions in Vietnam to strengthen the legal profession, increase respect for the law and ethical standards, develop regional and international cooperation, and build networks among legal and judicial actors from different countries. In 2019, we started three new programs in Vietnam focused on combating wildlife trafficking and related corruption, promoting access to justice for victims of trafficking in persons, and strengthening the trial advocacy skills of lawyers, prosecutors, and judges.

Alongside the Wildlife Conservation Society, we trained judicial officials to address the nexus between wildlife trafficking and corruption. In November 2019, we partnered with the Supreme People’s Court to train over 50 judges in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, court officials, and prosecutors to strengthen the prosecution and sentencing of wildlife trafficking-related corruption crimes.

ABA ROLI’s ongoing Trial Advocacy Program prioritizes skills-based learning for Vietnamese judges, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, and law students as they introduce the new adversarial elements in Vietnam’s 2015 Criminal Procedure Code, which came into effect in January 2018. In 2019, ABA ROLI partnered with the Vietnam Bar Federation to conduct a Trial Advocacy Skills Training for 45 criminal defense attorneys from 34 of Vietnam’s 63 provinces. Similarly, with the Hanoi Procuratorate University, ABA ROLI delivered trial advocacy skills training to 45 prosecutors from across the country, including 20 prosecutors from Can Tho province.

We are promoting coordinated, survivor-centered, and accessible legal services across Vietnam for survivors of TIP, while also strengthening TIP coordination and referrals between legal and other services. ABA ROLI received approval from the Vietnamese government to partner with the Vietnam Lawyers Association to conduct training to lawyers to strengthen survivor-centered legal services to TIP survivors in 2020.
In 2019, ABA ROLI successfully completed the six-year USAID-funded Judicial Strengthening to Improve Court Effectiveness (JUSTICE) project. Our work in the Philippines continues through our partnerships with the Supreme Court, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, and other legal institutions under the aegis of the ongoing USAID-funded Access to Justice project. Under this project, ABA ROLI continues to increase the capacity of justice sector actors and expands this support to include Philippine civil society organizations to meet the legal needs of communities across the nation.

In partnership with the Philippine Judicial Academy of the Supreme Court, ABA ROLI trained 338 Philippine lawyers on Guidelines Promoting Speedy Trial of Criminal Cases, which aim to achieve resolution of criminal cases within 180 days. With the Philippine Judicial Academy and the Philippine Mediation Center Office, ABA ROLI drafted a revised three-day curriculum on Court Annexed Mediation to improve judges’ knowledge and skills, for the first time including modules on sensitivity to gender, indigenous traditions, and power imbalance. Working in Mindanao, ABA ROLI, in partnership with Initiatives for Dialogue and Empowerment through Alternative Legal Services (IDEALS), have supported internally displaced people (IDPs) to obtain identification (ID) cards and understand the importance of civil registration to protect legal rights and enable greater access to social services. In 2019, ABA ROLI and IDEALS provided 10,828 education ID cards (in left photograph) to school children, teachers, and non-teaching personnel from 23 public schools in Marawi and nearby municipalities. The photograph above is from one of the trainings ABA ROLI gave to 39 teachers and ICT personnel from 16 schools who were taught how to design ID layouts, and 117 public school teachers in areas affected by armed conflict were trained on the importance of civil registration and legal identity. ABA ROLI developed and distributed 1,500 handbooks and 1,500 flyers promoting civil registration to teachers and the public through the Office of the Philippine Statistics Authority and the Office of the Local Civil Registrar. ABA ROLI supported the airing of 75 episodes of the S’bang ka Marawi radio program which informed listeners of the ongoing efforts of the rehabilitation of Marawi and held a special series on topics like youth empowerment, peace building, women empowerment, access to education, civil registration, and legal identity of children, resulting in an estimated 168,533 online interactions with the show’s news feeds.

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In 2019, ABA ROLI conducted six programs in South and South-East Asia which sought to prevent, prosecute, and provide appropriate remedies for transnational criminal activity. For example, in Sri Lanka, ABA ROLI enhanced the capacity of prosecutors and judges to effectively prosecute and adjudicate TIP-related crimes. ABA ROLI worked with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to conduct a series of regional roundtables in high prevalence TIP areas for civil society, local government, and pro bono and legal aid lawyers with the goal of strengthening collaboration between civil society and justice sector actors, and improving victim identification and protection. To establish a uniform understanding of what constitutes TIP in the Sri Lankan context and the statutory protections TIP victims are entitled to, ABA ROLI developed a Compendium on Legal Frameworks Relevant to TIP in Sri Lanka which was widely distributed. ABA ROLI also worked closely with the Attorney General’s Department and the Judicial Training Institute to jointly design a series of trainings for justice sector actors, and promote initiatives aimed at systematizing coordinated, survivor-centered, criminal justice system responses to TIP.

Many of our programs approach transnational organized crime (TOC) through the lens of finance, which prompts questions such as: What happens to the profit made by human trafficking networks? How are the proceeds of wildlife trafficking laundered? How is terrorism financed and how can that finance be identified and stopped? How might investigators look beyond the surface crime (e.g., carriage of illegal wildlife over a border) to those who are benefiting from it financially, and what tools are needed to find those responsible? What charges should prosecutors be considering relating to anti-money laundering and how could the courts approach the recovery of assets? How can agencies work together within and across countries to approach these challenges?

Transferring illicitly obtained funds or sending funds for an illicit purpose usually requires a weakness in the robustness and integrity of the financial system, or individuals within that system susceptible to corruption. All the activities of our Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor program (RACA) work towards creating systems and tools to reduce the avenues for corruption, cultural norms and practices within agencies to promote integrity, and capability to use all effective means to investigate the activities that lie at the heart of perpetuating corruption. For example, to engage anti-corruption agencies, civil society, and individuals interested in the use of open-source intelligence to combat corruption, ABA ROLI produced a video on Open Source Intelligence for Anti-Corruption Agencies.

One example of ABA ROLI’s work at the intersection of transnational organized crime and corruption is the Vietnam program in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Supreme People’s Court in Vietnam. Our work with the court is enhancing the knowledge and skills of judges and prosecutors to address corruption related to wildlife trafficking. In a series of trainings in 2019, ABA ROLI strengthened the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing of corruption and money laundering crimes related to wildlife trafficking. The trainings focused on the handling of evidence in money laundering cases, including digital evidence and the challenges posed by cryptocurrency.
Since 2002, ABA ROLI’s RACA program has worked in close collaboration with governments, local NGOs, and international organizations to combat corruption and promote transparency and integrity. These efforts have included education of government officials on anti-corruption best practices and strategies for combating transnational crimes, the development of user-friendly guidance documents, and support to governments and NGOs to promote anti-corruption efforts. Additionally, this work has broadened key stakeholders’ understanding of the practical implementation of regional and international anti-corruption conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption and Financial Action Task Force Recommendations.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

During 2019, ABA ROLI and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) delivered a regional workshop on preventing corruption within law enforcement agencies for 60 representatives from 17 countries, including all ASEAN member countries. This event was a milestone in regional cooperation on police reform, serving as the first workshop of its kind to address key elements of police prevention of corruption directly within law enforcement bodies, anti-corruption agencies, and oversight institutions. It resulted in two new tools to reduce the most harmful and common forms of police corruption across the region. These tools included the first-ever ASEAN regional typology of law enforcement corruption, and a comprehensive risk matrix of the most harmful and common forms of police corruption in the region.

ABA ROLI supported Southeast Asian anti-corruption agencies to integrate new methods of open-source intelligence gathering into daily work. With UNODC, ABA ROLI delivered an interactive training for 25 staff members of the nine anti-corruption agencies from Southeast Asia to realize the use of second-generation open-source intelligence to detect, investigate, and prosecute corruption. This training was groundbreaking for many anti-corruption agencies, equipping participants with the skills and tools to use open-source intelligence to trace unexplained wealth, identify illicit networks previously unknown, and detect potential conflicts of interest.

ABA ROLI’s Law Enforcement Integrity Checklist, developed during a previous program activity, continues to be an important tool for identifying strategies to promote law enforcement integrity within institutional practices. Since October 2018, ABA ROLI and its partners have distributed more than 300 copies to Thai police, anti-corruption authorities, and other ASEAN police forces across the region via workshops and conferences. This checklist is one of the only tools of its kind that prioritizes diagnostic questions for practical use instead of long, descriptive content, making the application of the checklist scalable – from a few people discussing over coffee, up to a two-day priority setting event.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

MYANMAR

Over 150 participants attended ABA ROLI and UNODC’s Youth Integrity Camp in Mandalay, Myanmar. The event was a collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Commission and the Ministry of Education of Myanmar. Students from more than 20 colleges and universities developed various skills essential to the prevention of corruption and the promotion of accountability and integrity across government. The camp strengthened students’ understanding of the definition of corruption and its impact, ethics and integrity, and encouraged sustained cooperation between youth, government, and civil society organizations to combat corruption. On the final day of the event, student teams presented their integrity project proposals to senior government officials, academics, and civil society representatives. The students will strive to hold government accountable through these ongoing projects by using the skills, knowledge, and contacts developed at the camp.

LAOS

In further work to strengthen the skills of young people to promote integrity, ABA ROLI will be conducting a Youth Integrity Workshop in Laos in 2020. In the lead-up to this, ABA ROLI partnered with the Lao PDR State Inspection and Anti-Corruption Agency to host an event for 600 Laos government, private sector, and civil society representatives, in recognition of International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2019. The focus of International Anti-Corruption Day for 2019 was young people and their role in strengthening accountability and developing innovative solutions to prevent and curb corruption, such as using open-source information to promote transparency, accountability, and integrity.

Picture caption: ABA ROLI and the State Inspectorate and Anti-Corruption Authority trained government officials on the techniques of financial investigations in international standards.
The political and rule of law landscape in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union has changed considerably since the early days of CEELI. In 2019, ABA ROLI leveraged our exceptional history in the region to continue delivering technical assistance programming in 10 countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Institutional stakeholders—judges, prosecutors, and legislators—many of whom have benefited from past CEELI programming, have received increasingly-tailored assistance to improve efficiency and accessibility of the legal system in their countries. Simultaneously, CSOs have been empowered to navigate closing political environments and provide access to justice for marginalized and underserved communities.

2019 was also a year when ABA ROLI helped solidify regional and global connections between rule of law actors throughout Europe & Eurasia and beyond: the Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network united five national bar associations in the Western Balkans to collectively develop and advocate for solutions to common rule of law challenges. Moldova’s Young Lawyers Association hosted the European Young Lawyers Association’s Spring Conference in Chisinau. Uzbekistan’s Chamber of Advocates also hosted their first international conference of advocates bringing together lawyers from 18 countries to Tashkent. Our Global Anti-Money Laundering program began setting the framework for bringing together financial investigators from the Balkans and Southeast Asia.
TOP
Students from Tashkent State University Law learning interactive teaching methodologies.

LEFT TOP
Children in Armenia at a public awareness event on disability rights.

LEFT BOTTOM
(1) Prosecutors in Moldova working on practical investigation exercises.
(2) The Ex Officio Working Group at the final conference of the Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network (BRRLN).
ARMENIA
Public and civil society trust in the rule of law remains low in Armenia, as proven by the peaceful 2018 Armenian Revolution that ushered in a new government led by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. Following the revolution, ABA ROLI worked to build public trust in the Office of the Human Rights Defender of Armenia (OHRD) by strengthening its institutional capacity and its communication and links with the human rights community and public. We issued substantive and skills-based trainings for OHRD staff on critical topics in human rights, including: Monitoring the Protection of Human Rights of People with Disabilities, Prevention of Violence Against Women, and Non-discrimination and Socio-Economic Rights. The program also oversaw the creation of OHRD’s online learning platform for both internal and external use to ensure the preservation of institutional knowledge, and create effective public awareness campaigns. One campaign reached 445,557 users on social media.

ABA ROLI also supported the snap Parliamentary elections in December 2018 by strengthening the OHRD’s capacity to respond to violations of human rights, providing access to legal aid on elections related violations, and facilitating the human rights community’s ability to engage in electoral dispute resolution. This included developing election hotlines, awareness materials, and establishing and training Election Ambulance Advisory Teams, which helped promote election integrity, increased voter education, and supported access to justice. These efforts did not go unnoticed by the greater international human rights community: in April 2019, a review by the UNHRC’s Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) granted OHRD accreditation with an ‘A’ status confirming its full compliance with the UN’s Principles relating to the Status of NHRI, as well as full independence, credibility and effective operations.

THE BALKANS
Based in North Macedonia, the BRRLN program reflected ABA ROLI’s true strengths in not only expanding the capacity of legal actors but creating avenues for their collaboration. 2019 marked the sixth and final year of ABA ROLI convening this now independent network of criminal defense actors driven by CSOs and bar associations in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia. As such, programming focused on strengthening the network’s organizational capabilities including overseeing the member-driven creation of a network-wide mandate and strategy plan, the establishment of a membership fee structure, and the transfer of administrative duties to the network’s local representatives in each member bar association.

In addition to these efforts, ABA ROLI also provided technical assistance to the network’s thematic working groups on anti-corruption, Ex Officio (Court Appointed Judges) and criminal law. Key successes included the monitoring of court appointments by civil society organizations in four of the member countries as well as the submissions of sentencing recommendations to the parliaments of Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo. ABA ROLI also facilitated the publication of a region-wide analysis on asset seizure by the Anti-Corruption group with insights from European experts.

Since August 2019, BRRLN has been operating as an independent organization. As the Balkan states move on their individual paths towards E.U. accession, bar associations and civil society organizations under this innovative framework are enthusiastically continuing region-wide collaboration to empower advocacy driven rule of law reforms in their home countries.

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
Rule of law in Bosnia & Herzegovina is adversely affected by the state’s fragmented nature in addition to a lack of cohesion between rule of law actors and low public trust in institutions. In late 2019, ABA ROLI began implementation of a program that aims to synthesize the country’s four separate criminal procedure codes aligning them to international best practices. The program will bring together independent attorneys from all four jurisdictions to analyze their respective criminal codes and draft proposals for new laws. This past year, ABA ROLI focused on establishing working relationships between justice sector actors across Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Ministry of Justice, and international experts who will all be necessary voices to unify the rule of law not only in lawmaking, but also in the building of collaborative relationships.

KAZAKHSTAN
Kazakhstan is, in many ways, a thought leader in the rule of law field in Central Asia for bringing its criminal legislation and national laws in line with international standards. Since 2012, ABA ROLI’s Kazakhstan Judicial Program (KJP) has worked to modernize the judicial branch to those standards, as well. By working closely with the Kazakhstan Supreme Court, Union of Judges, and Academy of Justice under the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kazakhstan, ABA ROLI’s technical assistance has sought to strengthen judges’ knowledge and application of international best practices in judicial decision writing and substantive law, support the implementation of new legislation, and develop alternative dispute resolution methods.

In 2019, the KJP program honed its focus on topics such as intellectual property protection and investment dispute, both of which spoke to Kazakhstan’s Government priority areas of ensuring the growth of foreign direct investment and trade. In September, ABA ROLI assisted the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan in hosting the International Forum “Managing Quality of Justice: Global Trends and Best Practices” with nearly 900 participants, including the judiciary, court management, and international experts from all over the world. In November, ABA ROLI welcomed a group of 10 judges, Supreme Court Justices, and court administrators from Kazakhstan to Washington, DC on a study tour focusing on intellectual property rights.

TAJIKISTAN
The effects of a civil war (1992-1997) and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan have deeply affected the rule of law field in Tajikistan, particularly in its relationship to national security and the observation of due process. Since 1997, ABA ROLI has been delivering technical assistance to strengthen the capacity and independence of rule of law institutions in the country. In 2019, the Justice Sector Equality Program aimed to create a criminal justice system that engenders equal participation from the whole justice sector and upholds the rights of individuals across Tajikistan. By facilitating collaborative relations between justice sector actors, the program achieved critical successes in the creation of laws that address individual rights and security concerns.
TAJIKISTAN (CONTINUED)

A notable example includes Emomali Rahmon, the president of Tajikistan, signing a package of new amendments into anti-human trafficking legislation based on recommendations developed by the ABA ROLI-supported Legal Reform Working Group.

ABA ROLI also implemented the Tajikistan Subnational Analysis Program which sought to help mitigate risks of violent extremism in Tajikistan through better informed policies and programs based on robust research and analysis. ABA ROLI engaged countering violent extremism (CVE) experts to design a country-specific CVE Assessment Tool which measured the extent to which Tajik communities in selected locations exhibit potential risks of and resilience to violent extremism. In 2018-2019, ABA ROLI trained local researchers on how to conduct the assessment, even in highly sensitive areas. ABA ROLI completed a total of 48 focus groups, 80 interviews, and 480 surveys throughout all four of Tajikistan’s regions, creating a body of evidence-based research on the prevalence of VE risks.

UKRAINE

The election of Volodymyr Zelensky in April 2019 signaled the need to continue strengthening civil society participation in the rule of law sphere as the government went through great transition. In late 2019, ABA ROLI began implementing an Internet Freedom Program in Ukraine that will build expertise and collaboration among civil society stakeholders on the intersections of Internet Freedom and national security issues from domestic, regional, and international perspectives. Ultimately, ABA ROLI aims to empower cross-sector Internet Freedom champions to advocate for laws and policies that promote a resilient freedom of expression able to facilitate positive change among institutional stakeholders.

UZBEKISTAN

The election of President Mirziyoyev in 2016 signaled greater will for institutional reforms and changes in Uzbekistan. Since ABA ROLI’s re-entry into the country in 2018 via the Protecting and Enhancing Rights through the Legal System (PEARLS) program, rule of law actors from students to lawyers to legislators have benefited from ABA ROLI’s model of technical assistance. In 2019, PEARLS and the Building Bridges programs worked in tandem to strengthen an independent bar association in Uzbekistan coordinating training opportunities for defense advocates as well as establishing connections with rule of law counterparts across Central Asia and across the world. In November, ABA ROLI supported the Uzbekistan Chamber of Advocates in hosting the Tashkent International Conference of Advocates. The conference brought together advocates from around the world and initiated ongoing regional collaborations with counterparts in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. ABA ROLI plans to reconvene the group in 2020 for a curriculum design workshop in Bishkek designed to provide attorneys with the knowledge to more effectively demand their rights in the courtroom.

ABA ROLI also partnered with the civic education non-profit Street Law and the Tashkent State University of Law to host interactive learning events for more than 65 law students and professors so that they in turn could implement effective practical law lessons for secondary school students. These events set the stage for engaging and inspiring future generations of legal actors. Coupled with assistance in building inter-institutional, regional, and international connections, ABA ROLI programming is fostering a multidimensional respect for the rule of law and championing the independence of its most critical institutions in Uzbekistan.

SPOTLIGHT

MOLDOVA

2019 marked a year of great political upheaval in Moldova: between February and November, the country was overseen by the three governments of the pro-Russia Igor Dodon, the pro-EU Maia Sandu, and the technocrat Ion Chicu. Throughout these drastic changes in the Moldovan political climate, ABA ROLI remained a steadfast and stable-yet-adaptable partner to key Moldovan institutions, particularly the Ministry of Justice. ABA ROLI continued its collaboration with the Prosecutor General’s Office (PGO) during the periods of government transition. Though Moldova is still experiencing a period of political uncertainty moving into 2020, ABA ROLI—through decades-long presence and solid successes—continues to maintain trusted relations with established institutional actors while ensuring that the next generation of legal actors benefit from robust, tailored, and engaging rule of law programs.

LEVERAGING TRUST WITH THE GOVERNMENT, ABA ROLI:

- Trained 71 prosecutors on media engagement
- Trained 20 PGO prosecutors on legislative drafting and policy development
- Trained 104 prosecutors on trial advocacy skills

ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG LEGAL ACTORS

ABA ROLI has trained 170 legal apprentices in trial advocacy and courtroom skills and supported associations of young legal actors in Moldova, including the Moldova Young Lawyers Association, through mini-grants for training sessions and events, such as the Spring Conference of the European Young Lawyers Association hosted in Chisinau. Most notably, ABA ROLI took on the role of starting the first national Jessup Competition in Moldova. While only one team from Moldova had ever participated in the International Jessup Competition and it was estimated that only three teams would likely participate in the first national rounds, ABA ROLI’s outreach to law faculties across the country led to six teams registering to compete.
The ABA formed the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Law Initiative in 2000 with an initial focus on HIV/AIDS prevention in Brazil and anti-corruption programs in Costa Rica before merging into ABA ROLI in 2007. Since then, ABA ROLI programs have equipped Haiti's criminal justice sector with technical skills, and subsequently, helped Haitian lawyers secure the country's first-ever TIP conviction. Across Central America, members of law enforcement, civil society, and the legal field have gained experience with forensic investigation techniques at ABA ROLI-led workshops. The workshops have resulted in the professionalization of the forensic field with the first-ever certification programs in El Salvador, and developed the capacity of the region's legal institutions.

In partnership with local attorneys, ABA ROLI's programs have addressed illegal mining in Peru and wildlife trafficking in Bolivia and Guatemala. Through partnerships with several universities, ABA ROLI has connected hundreds of law school students with litigation experience for adversarial trials in Mexico (as pictured). This past year, in collaboration with LAC Council members, ABA ROLI organized a discussion on the challenges to judicial independence in Venezuela resulting from the country's recent political crisis.

As a region of the world that experiences pervasive trends in corruption, transnational organized crime, closing civic space, and multiple migration crises, the LAC region is ideal for rule of law interventions to promote stable and just societies. Through cross-cutting and innovative programming, ABA ROLI stands ready to serve that purpose.

Through partnerships with several universities, ABA ROLI has connected hundreds of law school students with litigation experience for adversarial trials in Mexico (as pictured).
ABA ROLI instructors teach trial advocacy skills at la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

ABA ROLI trainees participate in a field exercise on collecting water samples as evidence of environmental crimes in Peru.

(1) An ABA ROLI expert leads a focus group to elicit feedback from judges and court house personnel on the state of judicial education in Colombia.

(2) The mock mediation team from la Universidad LaSalle Victoria, winner of the Monterrey regional round of ABA ROLI’s national mock mediation competition in Mexico.
The Rodrigo Lara Bonilla Judicial Training School (JTS) in Colombia is a state-run center for judicial education staffed by only twenty-six permanent personnel who administer programming for a constituency of more than 5,400 judges and 25,800 courthouse personnel. ABA ROLI works in support of this institution which is crucial to the administration of justice in a country with unique and dynamic criminal justice challenges ranging from transnational organized crime to transitional justice issues.

In 2019, ABA ROLI drew on its extensive experience conducting judicial reform assessments in more than twenty countries to evaluate the JTS’s institutional capacity. Our assessment examined the JTS’s capacity to provide adequate training for judges and court personnel, as well as its operational and managerial capacity to empower the JTS with greater tools to implement institutional reforms in the future. A team of ABA ROLI experts interviewed more than 160 judges and court staff in the course of the assessment, as well as magistrate justices from all of Colombia’s high courts, key civil society leaders, government ministers, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Through these interviews, participants provided broad input on the JTS’s strengths and weaknesses, including the school’s operational capacity, the quality of its substantive legal training curricula, political issues impacting the their daily operations, and issues with the JTS’s state-sponsored budgeting process.

Following the assessment, the ABA ROLI expert team compiled a report analyzing fourteen factors, adapted from judicial assessments ABA ROLI has conducted in other countries. These factors range from the JTS’s operational strengths, the capacity of the school’s staff, and the observations of its physical facilities and resources. In synthesizing the feedback of assessment participants, the report describes various underlying themes that came through in the participants’ feedback for areas of improvement for the JTS.

The report includes recommendations based on comparisons to judicial schools in other countries, existing legal frameworks, international standards for judicial education, and practical opportunities for rule of law programmatic interventions.

ABA ROLI is continuing to assess the administration of judicial training in Colombia, strengthen core competencies for judges, and update the training curricula of the JTS, and improve the organizational and operational efficacy of the Judicial Training School.

**COLOMBIA**

**EL SALVADOR**

In 2019, ABA ROLI concluded its program in support of the Salvadoran juvenile justice system, which is overburdened by high rates of juvenile crime stemming largely from the gang violence rampant within the Central American region. El Salvador is experiencing record high rates of incarceration among juvenile offenders, a trend that the criminal justice sector has struggled to handle. To address this issue, ABA ROLI worked with prosecutors, public defenders, judges, and government officials from key government agencies operating in the Salvadoran juvenile justice sector to develop competencies on the use and application of alternatives to incarceration for juvenile offenders.

In the course of its program, ABA ROLI trained 164 juvenile justice sector actors from the prosecution, public defense, judiciary, national civilian police, Salvadoran Institute for Integral Development of Children and Adolescents, and the Ombudsman’s office, among others. ABA ROLI promoted sustainability by strengthening the operational capacity of the Juvenile Justice Working Group and Juvenile Justice Management Group, two interinstitutional task forces consisting of key actors within the juvenile justice system.

We worked with these two key justice sector bodies to develop strategic plans, establish governance manuals, and advocate internally to ranking justice sector leaders such as the President of the Supreme Court. Through the program in El Salvador, local officials and institutions have gained technical skills for legal responses to gang violence, organized crime, and migration across Central America.

**MEXICO**

In June 2008, Mexico’s Constitution was amended to establish a new criminal justice system that would shift from an inquisitorial, written-based system to an accusatorial system (also referred to as an adversarial system), in which the prosecution and defense present competing evidence and arguments in open court. To support the country’s transition, ABA ROLI works with Mexican law schools to prepare the next generation of Mexican attorneys for practice in the accusatorial trial context. Since the project’s inception, ABA ROLI has reached more than 6,000 law students representing all thirty-two Mexican states, 935 law school professors, and 237 law schools through technical skills training sessions and the administration of nationwide mock trial and mock mediation competitions.

To further the capacity of the students and faculty in Mexico’s law schools, ABA ROLI works with the institutions to develop the students’ litigation skills, as well as tailor the faculties legal education teaching methods to mirror the accusatorial trial system. To achieve these goals, we offer trial advocacy training sessions, and training sessions on mediation and negotiation techniques for law students and professors leading up to a national mock trial competition and mock mediation competition where the participants showcase what they learned through our trainings. In 2019, 926 law students and faculty participated in ABA ROLI’s national mock trial competition, and 750 law students and faculty participated in the national mock mediation competition.

To build on the value that participation in ABA ROLI’s competitions adds to a Mexican law student’s career trajectory, participating students receive fellowship and study tour opportunities to learn about the criminal justice system in the United States. For example, the winners of ABA ROLI’s competitions in 2019 traveled to San Diego, California and Washington, DC for a comparative and practical experience of the United State’s criminal justice system and the relevant institutions involved in criminal investigations and proceedings.

In addition, we host career fairs and foster connections with prosecutors’ offices for law students who participate in our Mexico program. In 2019, ABA ROLI held five career fairs and meetings with prosecutors’ offices, where we connected eighty-seven students with employers representing prosecutors’ offices, the public defense service, the judiciary, government agencies, and private employers at the state and federal level. Finally, ABA ROLI builds toward sustainability by supporting law schools and inter-school organizations as they plan local mock trial competitions and trial advocacy certificate programs. Legal education is the foundation of the legal profession, a principle which informs ABA ROLI’s support for the professionalization of Mexico’s legal sector to strengthen the implementation of the accusatorial trial system.
Peru is situated in one of the most biodiverse regions of the world where the cross-border flow of goods and persons creates acute challenges for an already strained criminal justice system. In this unique geopolitical context, ABA ROLI is supporting the government of Peru in an important overhaul of its criminal justice system. In 2004, Peru passed a law to implement a new criminal justice system, marking the beginning of a transition from the former mixed-inquisitorial criminal procedure model to a new oral, accusatorial system. Because the new system required updating many of the country’s laws and institutions, as well as changing the entrenched practices of justice system officials, Peru’s thirty-four judicial districts were given more than ten years to transition to the new system in a phased approach.

Since 2012, ABA ROLI has supported the Peruvian justice sector to increase inter-institutional coordination and improve the transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness of Peru’s new criminal justice system. In the course of its program, ABA ROLI has provided specialized capacity building for the justice sector on anti-corruption, narco-trafficking, illegal gold mining, organized crime, human trafficking, money laundering, juvenile justice, gender-based violence, and cybercrime. ABA ROLI has found that these types of criminal activities can have significant overlap, requiring a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral approach to neutralize issues which have become a threat to the rule of law in Latin America as a region.

In our current program, we work alongside Peruvian partners to build justice sector capacity to litigate and adjudicate cases involving highly complex crimes, support the government of Peru in its transition to an accusatorial criminal justice system, and improve access to justice for underserved populations. In 2019, ABA ROLI’s program covered a comprehensive mix of issues through training and resources for more than 1,000 judges, prosecutors, attorneys, public defenders, police officers, law professors, and law students. ABA ROLI worked with local partners to strengthen litigation skills in the context of complex crimes ranging from illegal gold mining, to gender-based violence, to cybercrime, and other related crimes often times facilitated by transnational organized criminal enterprises.

ABA ROLI takes a practical learning approach to bolster skill development in all facets of a criminal case beginning with the initial investigation through the sentencing phase at trial. We train law enforcement to facilitate inter-institutional coordination to eliminate bureaucracy and mitigate corruption, while at the same time harnessing specialized technical skills to investigate crimes, collect complex evidence, and build the theory of the case. Similarly, attorneys and judges participating in ABA ROLI’s program are trained to collaborate with their law enforcement counterparts to build the legal elements of a case, develop core competencies necessary for successful oral litigation, and lend attention to the direct and indirect connections that may exist between similar or overlapping types of criminal activity.

To provide a comparative perspective on issues related to the Peru’s transition to an accusatorial trial system, ABA ROLI conducted study tours in 2019 for more than twenty ranking justice sector actors to Washington, D.C.; Denver, Colorado; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and San José, Costa Rica. These actors included Peruvian judges and supreme court justices, senior prosecutors, environmental police, court administrators, and law students and professors. Finally, ABA ROLI has developed innovative learning methodologies for over 200 justice sector actors nationwide, such as the Intensive Course on the Accusatory System (CISA the acronym in Spanish) and an online course on oral litigation providing instructional videos.
Wildlife trafficking and related criminal activity fuels corruption, destabilizes vulnerable populations, and directly funds transnational criminal organizations. Traffickers frequently exploit weakly enforced borders and government bureaucracy to profit from commerce in protected wildlife, timber, and fish as part of a broader criminal enterprise that may include trafficking in persons, drugs, or other illicit goods.

ABA ROLI works to combat this criminal phenomenon in two strategic areas in Latin America and the Caribbean: the Andean region of Bolivia and Peru and the Guatemalan rainforest on the fringe of the Northern Triangle region. To achieve this goal, ABA ROLI analyzes and researches ancillary legislation—that is, laws criminalizing similar activity which may have overlapping elements—as a potential strategy for governments to charge and convict traffickers using higher penalties, and thus serve as a more effective deterrent to wildlife trafficking and related crimes.

ABA ROLI is building on this body of work to increase the capacity of prosecutors and investigators through training about the use of legal tools to address wildlife trafficking. Our experts train justice sector officials and law enforcement on forensic investigation techniques, anti-money-laundering tools, mutual legal assistance treaties, asset forfeiture statutes, anti-corruption tools, and other legal solutions to combating wildlife trafficking and overlapping criminal activity.

In 2019, ABA ROLI initiated this program through assessments of the relationship between wildlife trafficking and other transnational organized crimes in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Drawing on scholarly sources, as well as in-depth interviews with regional experts in law enforcement, international organizations, civil society, and academia, ABA ROLI experts investigated the ways in which criminal networks are involved in a variety of crimes, how these crimes are interrelated, and how they facilitate wildlife trafficking. This program seeks to inform anti-wildlife trafficking efforts at a regional and global level through local case studies, and neutralize this salient threat to the rule of law, which is exacerbated by today’s increasingly globalized world.
Since 2004, ABA ROLI programs in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have helped local partners to strengthen justice sectors and support the rule of law. Several programs have focused on individual and institutional capacity building, the introduction of new legislation and court processes, public legal education, and the development of protection for vulnerable groups. This past year, ABA ROLI worked alongside ministries, judicial councils, training institutions, bar associations, universities, and civil society. ABA ROLI implemented 15 programs in seven countries: Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Areas of focus for ABA ROLI’s MENA programs included criminal justice system reform, women’s social and economic empowerment, trafficking in persons, hate speech, and the application of international human rights laws. We developed alternatives to detention processes in Bahrain, and promoted pre-trial detention rights in partnership with criminal defense attorneys across Libya and Tunisia. ABA ROLI also trained judges, prosecutors, and police on the investigation and litigation techniques necessary to respond to complex criminal cases. To serve survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), ABA ROLI has supported shelters in Tunisia and led educational awareness campaigns about GBV in Jordan and Tunisia.
Activists from Tunisian CSO, Association des Patriotes Libres, distribute public education material to women (faces blurred) on the Law on Violence Against Women.

One of the fifty-seven Libyans who discussed the findings of a 2019 assessment conducted on the rights of their Amazigh, Tuareg, and Tebu communities in Libya.

Lebanon’s newly appointed head of the High Judicial Council speaks with the ABA ROLI expert and co-trainers at a workshop for judges and prosecutors in Beirut.

Shelter counselors participate in a group exercise during a workshop in Amman, Jordan.
This year, ABA ROLI continued to support Bahrain’s implementation of the 2017 law on alternatives to incarceration. The law grants judges the authority to issue alternative detention at the sentencing of new offenders, or as a condition of early release for prisoners who have served half of their terms. The most commonly used alternative sanction has been community service, but other options include house arrest, electronic monitoring, rehabilitation, and restitution. ABA ROLI engaged international judges, prosecutors, and probation experts to share input on the implementation of the law. In addition to training hundreds of judges, prosecutors, court staff, and probation officers, ABA ROLI and local partners launched a large multimedia campaign on alternatives to detention. Videos on social media tracking the alternative detention processes, from arrest to probation, received over two million views. Now, Bahraini courts have implemented the law, and ordered alternative sanctions in hundreds of cases.

**EGYPT**

ABA ROLI’s ongoing support of Egypt’s Criminal Training and Research Institute (CRTI) has continued to build its institutional capacity. The CRTI equips both newly appointed and seasoned prosecutors with key investigation and litigation skills, and on substantive areas of law. In 2019, Egyptian prosecutors discussed instructional methods; curriculum development; and the planning, implementation, and evaluation of training activities at three ABA ROLI workshops for the CRTI. The prosecutors then served as instructors at the CRTI, which continues to train hundreds of prosecutors each year. As a result of this work, the CRTI developed internal regulations on the selection, training, and evaluation of its instructors.

To fight against human trafficking, money laundering, and cybercrime, ABA ROLI connected 124 Egyptian prosecutors with instructional training related to cases on the issues. We developed related curricula for the CRTI to use during induction training for new prosecutors and throughout legal education programs.

**JORDAN**

In 2019, ABA ROLI connected employees of the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) with educational resources on trafficking in persons issues. We also reached Jordanian shelter staff, social workers, police, and juvenile officers. The resources focused on the definition of human trafficking, identification of victims, and the various roles of Jordan’s trafficking investigation unit and shelter for survivors. Over the course of this project, we engaged over 200 members of the MOSD and 100 police officers. Through this effort, ABA ROLI and our partners improved the process of identification and referral of trafficking survivors, which ensured that cases can be prosecuted, and individuals are protected, respected, and provided with services. In addition to procedural guidance, we also provided technical support to Jordan’s TIP shelters. Staff members were trained on assistance related to survivors engaged in the court processes. ABA ROLI experts also assisted with the development of shelter protocols related to survivor safety, release of information, and outreach with other Jordanian entities involved with trafficking matters.

**LIBYA**

Since 2012, ABA ROLI has partnered with the Ministry of Justice, Supreme Judicial Council, Libyan Bar and Young Lawyers’ Association, National Economic Development Board, National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights, the Constitutional Drafting Assembly, law schools, and civil society. Through these essential partnerships, ABA ROLI’s programs fortify locally-led efforts to raise public understanding and cultivate dialogue on key issues. The programs address key issues such as the fight against hate speech, the promotion of reconciliation, peacebuilding, and locally-led transitional justice initiatives.

Through community outreach, we also facilitated citizen participation in the Libyan constitutional process by supporting community dialogue and providing media and communication training to the Constitutional Drafting Assembly. As part of this initiative, ABA ROLI implemented a nationwide public awareness campaign on the constitution, which reached millions of Libyans across radio and television. After the offensive on Tripoli in April 2019, ABA ROLI re-oriented its programming toward fighting hate speech and promoting reconciliation at the local level. Young Libyan lawyers and leaders of human rights organizations implemented ABA ROLI’s context-specific training on international human rights standards. Over the past year, this work has been particularly focused on the rights of migrants and asylum seekers, and provides support to local level transitional justice initiatives.

In the past, in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Judicial Council, ABA ROLI evaluated and strengthened the judicial system in Libya across several key areas, including pre-trial detention, court administration, transitional justice, and prosecutorial and judicial management and education. ABA ROLI has executed a series of assessments on the Libyan justice sector and commercial law, as well as research projects about the legal status of minorities, and the possible constitutional basis for elections. Community liaisons who partnered with us played a key role in the coordinated discussions on conflict resolution and transitional justice, decentration, civic education, and democratic participation in Libya.

**Morocco**

ABA ROLI continued two programs across Morocco in 2019. Through one program, lawyers, clerks, and judges developed skills on international human rights conventions and standards. After completing their training, the participants served as panelists and judges for the practice-based moot court competitions for master’s degree law students’ presentations. Throughout 2019, ABA ROLI also supported the Moroccan government’s efforts to enact a new 2016 anti-TIP law. ABA ROLI improved the government’s capacity to protect the rights of survivors and conduct prosecutions of TIP cases. This work included the targeted training of justice-sector actors, CSOs, and lawyers on Moroccan and international TIP law, and survivor-centered best practices. Alongside the Moroccan government, ABA ROLI developed and distributed resources for the investigation and prosecution of TIP cases. Members of civil society and Moroccan lawyers also received ABA ROLI training on the identification and referral process for TIP victims.

**Lebanon**

This year, ABA ROLI launched a program to strengthen criminal justice processes in Lebanon. The program works with judicial and prosecutorial sectors on alternate dispositions skills, which the High Judicial Council and ABA ROLI identified as a priority. Ninety judges participated in sessions about the challenges related to sentencing in criminal cases and the procedural issues related to the appeals of criminal cases. Additionally, ABA ROLI facilitated discussions with legal actors on new court processes, including plea bargaining and alternatives to incarceration.
The Justice Sector Reform Program took an integrated cross-sectoral approach to implementation of the law on the right to counsel. Law No. 5 of 2016 confers the right to a lawyer from the onset of detention, medical examination, and to inform family of detention. It also shortens the maximum period allowed for pre-charge detention from 72 to 48 hours. Under the program, ABA ROLI and our partners trained legal professionals on the right to counsel, journalists on reporting on legal issues, and CSO activists on legal reform topics and public outreach to inform the Tunisian public of their rights under the law. ABA ROLI trained lawyers from the Tunisian Young Lawyers Association to train their colleagues all over the country. The program produced widely distributed guides on the right to counsel for lawyers and journalists. It reached over 4,000 people through CSO-led public outreach activities, as well as thousands more through journalist-produced special projects on legal topics including the right to counsel. Recommendations from CSOs trained under the program were incorporated into the version of the criminal procedure code submitted to Parliament in April 2019.

Initially launched in 2009, our work in Tunisia has supported government and non-governmental local partners in their efforts to strengthen the justice sector, empower women, and promote access to justice. ABA ROLI’s 2019 programming in Tunisia continued this commitment to capacity building, collaborating with local partners on a variety of subject matters across its five active programs. Building off of recent legal reforms, ABA ROLI’s work supported the implementation of several new laws in Tunisia, namely on trafficking in persons, gender-based violence, and the right to counsel. These programs work hand-in-hand with government ministries, CSOs, and legal professional associations to train and support Tunisia’s lawyers, judges, police, and civil society. This training focuses on the proper implementation of these reforms. It also supports the professionalization of staff of shelters, listening centers, and a hotline for survivors of GBV. Additionally, ABA ROLI continues to assist the Ministry of Women’s Affairs on the development of a database on GBV cases and statistics.
GLOBAL PROGRAMS

The Global Programs Division seeks to leverage ABA ROLI’s experience and to expand our global and regional engagement and programming to address rule of law challenges in key thematic areas, drawing on universally applicable lessons learned and building sustainable networks across borders.

Global Programs promotes labor rule of law through technical assistance and capacity building; addresses the most critical environmental rule of law problems; advances the status of women and girls worldwide; and strengthens the rule of law to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons globally.

We provide legal drafting and policymaking support to countries addressing environmental health challenges. Additionally, we help build the legal advocacy capacity of vulnerable communities facing environmental injustice and improve compliance with environmental rules and regulations.

Committed to empowering women and girls worldwide, ABA ROLI initiates integrated, multidisciplinary programming through our Global Programs division that seeks to combat gender-based violence; advance the women, peace and security agenda; and support women’s economic empowerment.

We work to protect LGBTI persons globally, in particular by bringing together and guiding state and non-state actors to combat impunity for perpetrators of bias-motivated violence, training civil society leaders in closed societies on effective advocacy strategies, and building the capacity of LGBTI CSOs.
JUSTICE WORKS

Throughout 2019, ABA ROLI continued to support advocates and justice sector actors in strengthening responses to violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) through their global Justice Works Program. In March of 2019, ABA ROLI launched its Justice Works Framework for Enhanced Responses to Bias-Motivated Violence Based on SOGIE at a roundtable hosted by the Human Rights Campaign. The Framework and its accompanying materials guide and align actions by civil society and authorities when a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex (LGBTI) person experiences violence.

In addition to a representative from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and a former FBI Special Agent, Judy and Dennis Shepard were discussants at the event (photo below), sharing the story of their son’s murder that eventually led to federal hate crime legislation in the U.S. Also in 2019, ABA ROLI implemented two sub-awards through which local CSOs ran programs based on the Justice Works Framework. In Colombia, Caribe Afirmativo researched intrafamilial violence experienced by LGBTI people in the region, later running training sessions for prosecutors and investigators. In Bulgaria, Deystvie (Action) built on their previous documentation activities to run the first-ever training session on bias for police officers in the country. With the support of ABA ROLI, Deystve trained two police officers from each department in the country with incredible success. Following the training, the ABA ROLI Director of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Programs Jordan Long marched in Sofia Pride alongside Bulgarian activists and newly trained officers.

Ernesto Zelayandia discusses how the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights works with CSOs to hold states accountable when violence occurs at the Justice Works Framework for Enhanced Responses to Bias-Motivated Violence Based on SOGIE at a roundtable hosted by the Human Rights Campaign.

ASSERTING AND CLAIMING WORKERS’ RIGHTS PROJECT

The Mexico Workers’ Rights Project, funded by the C&A Foundation, is committed to the empowerment of workers in and around Mexico City, in particular in the textile and apparel sector.

Through the project, we have collaborated with two Mexico City law schools to help establish Mexico's first-ever labor law clinics, providing workers pro bono legal advice and representation on labor matters. Additionally, the project has trained workers on their labor rights under law and helped inspire workers to similarly educate their coworkers.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO ELIMINATE LEAD PAINT

Over the past year, ABA ROLI pro bono experts and staff have coordinated with country-level actors to support drafting meetings, organize workshops on standardizing regional regulations, and conduct comparative assessments of existing policies. Global Programs assists two-thirds of the countries worldwide lacking legal constraints on lead paint in partnership with the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (formed by the U.N. Environment Programme and the World Health Organization), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the International Paint and Printing Ink Council, the International POPs Elimination Network, and other international and local stakeholders. Every year, lead exposure costs an estimated $977 billion loss of productivity in low- and middle-income countries as a result of the health impacts of toxic lead. With the support of pro bono contributions, ABA ROLI’s Global Programs provides legal drafting support, policymaking expertise, and legal research and analysis to countries developing lead paint limits. Through this project, Global Programs and our partners help mitigate the debilitating public health and economic impacts of lead paint, which cost developing countries up to 4 percent in lost GDP due to lead’s negative effects on children’s cognitive development.

REDUCING INCIDENCE OF CHILD LABOR AND HARMFUL CONDITIONS OF WORK IN ECONOMIC STRENGTHENING (RICHES)

In 2019, ABA ROLI worked with Grameen Foundation on the global project “RICHES” integrating the issues of child labor alleviation and acceptable conditions of work. ABA ROLI’s team of technical and local experts conducted research on the intersection of child labor, working conditions, and women’s economic empowerment in two pilot countries, El Salvador and the Philippines. It continues to function as a resource to Grameen Foundation as the project team begins the development of tools for policy makers and service providers to address these issues.
Women and Girls Empowered (WAGE) is a global consortium to advance the status of women and girls, led by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) in close partnership with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), Grameen Foundation, and Search for Common Ground (Search). WAGE works to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in target countries to improve the prevention of and response to gender-based violence; advance the women, peace and security agenda; and support women’s economic empowerment. In this context, WAGE provides direct assistance to women and girls, including information, resources, and services they need to succeed as active and equal participants in the global economy. WAGE also engages in collaborative research and learning to build a body of evidence on relevant promising practices in these thematic areas. To account for the deeply interconnected nature of women’s and girls’ experiences, WAGE’s initiatives employ approaches that are highly collaborative, integrated, and inclusive. WAGE is funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Global Women’s Issues.

**WAGE’S STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

In 2019, WAGE continued the implementation of its pilot program “Reducing Barriers to Women’s Economic Empowerment in El Salvador and Honduras Initiative (RBI),” commenced a new initiative “Integrating the Response to Gender-Based Violence, HIV, and Economic Marginalization of Swati Women,” and laid the groundwork for the program “Business and Social Support for Female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste (BEST).” The RBI and BEST initiatives fall under WAGE’s WE RISE programming: Women Empowered—Realizing Inclusive & Sustainable Economies.

**WAGE’S WORK IN EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS**

The Reducing Barriers to Women’s Economic Empowerment in El Salvador and Honduras Initiative (RBI), led by Grameen Foundation in partnership with all core consortium partners, takes a holistic view of the challenges that female entrepreneurs face in starting and growing sustainable businesses, including linkages between financial inclusion, GBV, and conflict. Together with Kiva—an online loan platform that connects lenders to indigent entrepreneurs across the globe to alleviate poverty—WAGE provides financial support to women microentrepreneurs and works with local microfinance institutions (MFIs) and CSOs to reduce legal and practical barriers that women face in the world of business. Under this initiative, a loan matching fund is set to revolve over the course of three years to match loans posted on Kiva’s platform and financed by individual lenders.

Recognizing that microcredit alone is not sufficient to meet the multifaceted needs of women entrepreneurs, WAGE has designed a series of technical assistance interventions to improve women’s financial inclusion and economic participation in El Salvador and Honduras. These interventions are informed by in-country assessments implemented on the basis of WAGE’s “Women’s Economic Empowerment Assessment Tool.” In October 2019, WAGE released the key findings and recommendations from the two reports at the public event “Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment in Central America and Beyond: Barriers, Opportunities, and a Path Forward.”

Meet Marta, a business owner who accessed a loan through WAGE’s loan matching fund, administered by our partner Kiva, to purchase more supplies for her tortilla business in El Salvador.

**BY THE END OF 2019,**

WAGE and its partners served **6,011** female entrepreneurs.
**WAGE’S WORK IN ESWATINI AND TIMOR LESTE**

The Integrating the Response to GBV, HIV, and Economic Marginalization of Swati Women Initiative, launched in December 2019 and led by ABA ROLI in partnership with Grameen Foundation, aims to improve legal protections, access to justice, and holistic services for women affected by or at risk of GBV and HIV in Eswatini. Over the course of 12 months, WAGE will work with local partners to advocate for better laws protecting women; to prevent GBV through civic education and awareness raising campaigns implemented by local paralegals as well as through Girls Clubs and Boys Clubs in Swati schools; and to reduce discriminatory beliefs that young men and boys hold toward women and girls and their role in society. WAGE will also seek to mitigate GBV risks associated with women's engagement in economic activities by facilitating linkages between GBV-focused CSOs and CSOs focused on economic strengthening and training them on gender and power dynamics. Finally, WAGE plans to support the establishment of one-stop-shop support centers for GBV survivors and to create a directory of CSOs offering legal, medical, psychosocial, and livelihood support to victims.

The Business and Social Support for Female Entrepreneurs in Timor-Leste (BEST) Initiative by Grameen Foundation in partnership with ABA ROLI, is designed to increase female entrepreneurs’ access to microfinance, business education, and GBV support services and to promote the growth and resilience of their enterprises. To this end, WAGE will build the technical capacity of, and create formal linkages among, local MFIs and CSOs implementing women's empowerment initiatives. The program will focus on poor, rural women and will commence in early 2020.

**EVENT**

**PROMOTING WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND BEYOND: OPPORTUNITIES, BARRIERS, AND A PATH FORWARD**

In 2019, WAGE published and launched the results of the Reducing Barriers Initiative’s assessments for El Salvador and Honduras. The launch event convened public, private, and academic stakeholders working in the Latin American space to share these results and discuss the importance of taking a holistic view of the challenges female entrepreneurs face in accessing finance and growing sustainable businesses.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE REPORTS**

The Research, Evaluation and Learning (REL) office supports in-depth learning in democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) for ABA ROLI and partners by undertaking legal and empirical research; engaging in program monitoring and evaluation; and assessing evidence gaps, challenges and successes in the sector. This includes developing recommendations and methodologies for better programming that reflect lessons learned from our fieldwork.

REL develops tools and training support that strengthen results-oriented programming, monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning throughout the program lifecycle, and remains committed to promoting thought-leadership, sharing ABA ROLI’s insights from our work around the world.
Evaluation of Country and Regional Programs

The interdisciplinary REL team oversees and conducts evaluations that build evidence for program effectiveness, sustainability, and efficiency. The team develops internal and external knowledge on approaches and strategies for various issues under the rule of law, democracy, governance, and human rights sectors.

IN 2019, REL COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING EVALUATIONS:

Evaluation of an Alternatives to Incarceration/Detention Program in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region

The REL division also works in concert with ABA ROLI country teams and regional divisions to develop tailored tools and methodologies and provide training and support. It works with local partners and counterparts to strengthen documentation of evidence-based practices, results, and accomplishments.
Using Pioneer Technology to Measure Global Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence Online

The Internet has transformed the world in many positive ways, but its role as a catalyst for freedom of expression and innovation is being undermined by a growing epidemic of gender-based violence (GBV) perpetrated online, i.e., through social media, email, messaging, knowledge-sharing, dating, and other online platforms. While GBV online is on the rise, concrete data on its prevalence and impact is scarce. To address this data gap, in 2019 ABA ROLI completed a global study on perceptions of GBV online in close partnership with the USAID and RIWI Corp. To gather this invaluable data, the partners built a Web-based survey with 17 questions about the nature, prevalence, impacts, and responses to GBV online. Using RIWI’s global trend-tracking and predictive technology, the survey reached over 170,000 respondents across all genders and was completed by over 40,000 Internet users from 15 developing countries, resulting in the largest and most unique study on the subject of GBV online to date. The countries covered by the survey included Bosnia & Herzegovina, Ghana, Indonesia, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Nepal, Peru, Serbia, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam, and South Africa. The study ‘Global Perceptions of Gender-Based Violence Online’ demonstrated that online violence, including GBV online, is a growing phenomenon, affecting nearly a quarter of the Internet population, resulting in very tangible impacts for Internet users and those close to them, and undermining a myriad of human rights and socioeconomic development goals. Effective responses to GBV online can only be achieved if governments, civil society, international organizations, and private sector actors, including Internet intermediaries, work collaboratively to address this phenomenon. The responses must be reasonable, proportionate, and rights-based, so that they do not unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression and other rights. The program was implemented within the USAID-funded Human Rights Support Mechanism (HRSM), under the PROGRESS consortium managed by Freedom House.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE ONLINE

- Translated to 11 languages
- Administered in 15 countries
- 170,000 respondents
- 40,000+ completed surveys
- 17 questions about the nature, prevalence, impacts, and responses to GBV online

Acts of GBV online, such as cyber-harassment, have profound impacts on survivors' lives both online and offline, particularly given their persistent, fast-spreading, and easily replicable nature. One harassing post going viral can rapidly turn into cyber-mobbing, in most cases creating a permanent digital record that is difficult to contain and can be easily shared millions of times around the globe."

PAULA RUDNICKA,
Legal Advisor at ABA ROLI and Technical Advisor to ABA ROLI-led Women and Girls Empowered (WAGE) consortium

Paula spoke about GBV online at two sessions of the World Bank’s 2019 Law, Justice, and Development Week.

Photo courtesy of Nate Langston Palmer/World Bank Group.
CREATING A CURRICULUM FOR CHANGE

ABA ROLI’s innovative Curriculum for Change model brings small groups of justice-sector professionals to the United States for tailored, multifaceted fellowships focused on helping them develop and implement a plan for strategic change in their institutions and the broader justice system. The fellowships combine learning through seminars and workshops with subject-matter experts, exposure through institutional visits and peer-to-peer exchange, and mentorship by a senior U.S. professional with expertise in the area of the intended change. Throughout their visit, fellows focus on creating strategic change, working with experts in change management, and developing a detailed plan to spark and sustain positive change in the justice system. Upon their return home, ABA ROLI continues to support the fellows as they implement their change plan, including through in-person assistance from an expert mentor. As demonstrated through a robust monitoring and evaluation system, Curriculum for Change has a successful track record of empowering fellows to effect sustainable reform in their country’s justice system.

ABA ROLI currently implements two programs using the Curriculum for Change model: the International Justice Sector Education and Training Program and the Criminal Justice Collaboration and Partnership Program.

IET FELLOWS BY PROFESSION

- Prosecutor 46.0%
- Judge 59.2%
- Lawyer 2.1%
- Court Administrator 4.3%
- Investigator 3.5%
- Researcher 8.5%
- Other 1.7%
The International Justice Sector Education and Training Program

The International Justice Sector Education and Training (IJET) Program brings small groups of justice-sector professionals to the United States for month-long fellowships to empower them to implement strategic reform in their home country’s justice sector. Each IJET fellowship follows a highly tailored, structured model that includes a combination of seminars and training, peer-to-peer exchange, institutional visits, and an embedded mentorship with a leading U.S. professional. Following the IJET fellows’ return to their country, ABA ROLI and their mentor continue to support the implementation of their change plan by providing expertise and material resources to help them succeed, including an in-person mentoring and assistance visit to work directly with the fellows in their institutions. Since 2016, 47 fellows have participated in IJET from 16 countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. The fellows have included judges, prosecutors, investigators, attorneys, researchers, and court administrators, while mentors have included judges, federal and state prosecutors, defense attorneys, academics, corrections officials, and alternative dispute resolution program administrators.

47 IJET FELLOWS HAVE VISITED FROM 16 COUNTRIES SINCE 2016

The Criminal Justice Collaboration and Partnership Program

The Criminal Justice Collaboration and Partnership (CJ-CAP) Program empowers small groups of criminal justice actors to develop a coordinated, interagency approach to tackling cross-cutting criminal justice problems that cannot be addressed by one agency alone. The first class of CJ-CAP Fellows, from Armenia, established an interagency working group to reduce pre-trial detention and improve the use of alternative mechanisms, and have contributed to revisions of the Criminal Procedure Code with support from their mentors from the Kentucky Department of Pretrial Services and Department of Public Advocacy. In 2020, ABA ROLI welcomed its second class of CJ-CAP Fellows, which includes fellows from five Kenyan criminal justice agencies who will implement a reform project to improve access to legal aid and increase the use of trial waiver systems for pre-trial and juvenile detainees in order to clear court backlogs, reduce prison overcrowding, and improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system. They are being mentored by senior professionals working on penal reform in New York City. A third class of CJ-CAP Fellows is also expected to arrive in 2020, including six Bosnian criminal justice professionals focused on interagency reform to fight corruption.

The IJET and CJ-CAP programs are supported by cooperative agreements with the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE IJET PROGRAM INCLUDE

- training of all Kyrgyzstani trial court presidents on justice for children
- a 15.95% increase in the value of financial crimes indicted in Croatia
- the passage of a new juvenile justice code in Peru
- the implementation of plea bargaining in Mongolia
- the creation of investigative task forces leading to an increase in indictments of corruption crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia

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A $600 billion black market, cybercrime has transformed the digital world into a sophisticated platform to steal and profit from personal data, undermine civil rights, manipulate elections, disseminate anti-democratic propaganda, and steal intelligence. Yet, cyberspaces remain largely unregulated. This lack of governance is a major challenge and concern for legal practitioners, human rights champions, and policymakers. To properly address the complex world of cybercrimes, these key players must work together to prioritize targeted strategies encompassing cross-jurisdictional cooperation, both locally and globally.

ABA ROLI’s 2019 Conference on Contemporary Rule of Law Issues addressed crimes and threats online and related issues of privacy, freedom of speech, and cybersecurity. On May 21, 2019, more than 200 government officials, law enforcement officers, private sector leaders, non-governmental implementers, academic researchers, media, and activists met to discuss the thorny questions presented by good and bad uses of cyberspace and online technologies. The conference drew attention to several key challenges, including: election security and attacks on democratic institutions, the balance of internet freedom and personal privacy, trafficking crimes in the digital age, the use and abuse of cryptocurrencies, and confronting online incitement to violence.

The conference keynote was delivered by Sujit Raman, Associate Deputy Attorney General of the United States. His address described a new era of great power competition in cyberspace with foreign adversaries weaponizing digital information to undermine democratic values. Among the recurring themes conference participants raised was a clear emphasis on the importance of cooperation between law enforcement, legislators, and the private sector to address the challenges of strengthening cybersecurity while protecting constitutional rights and citizen privacy. This also includes building the capacity of legal actors and institutions at national and local levels all around the world to enable informed collaboration and regulation.

Additionally, it was noted that private, public and civil society sectors must work together to improve oversight and management of the media (including social media) to better protect the rights of targeted groups when protected speech verges on incitement. Participants were quick to stress that cyberspace and online technologies present magnified opportunities both for good and for bad as they provide for connectivity and sharing, but also the ability to skirt oversight and regulation and operate outside of the law. One of the more sobering observations was on the rapid evolution of cryptocurrencies at the national state level – providing a challenge to current international financial regulatory institutions. As closing speakers, the Hon. James E. Baker, ABA ROLI Board member and Director of Syracuse University’s Institute for Security Policy and Law, and Glenn Gerstell, General Counsel of the National Security Agency, observed, we currently face an unprecedented level of technological change and we must deal with its effect on our laws and our privacy, and it is critically important that global norms for cyberspace be further developed and implemented.
ABA ROLI has roughly 500 professional staff working in the U.S. and abroad, including ABA ROLI donors and loyal supporters, talented staff, inspiring legal reformers, and the committed volunteers who in 2019 contributed $701,000 in pro bono legal assistance, as well as third-party contributors who in fiscal year 2019 contributed $684,000 in additional cost share.

In 2019, ABA ROLI had a budget of $33,080,125 and implemented programs in more than 40 countries.

### Program Expenditures ($USD)

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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
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### Programs in +40 Countries
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ABA ROLI is honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, businesses, institutions, and organizations that have supported our work in 2019.

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PRO BONO LAWYERS LEVERAGE THEIR EXPERTISE TO COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD

"DEDICATED PRO BONO LAWYERS LEVERAGE THEIR EXPERTISE TO COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL PARTNERS AROUND THE WORLD"

— JUDGE M. MARGARET MCKEOWN, 2018-2019 ABA ROLI BOARD CHAIR

The spirit of pro bono volunteerism has animated ABA CEELI/ROLI’s work since our inception. Like so many of our rule of law liaisons who started as volunteers in the 1990s, Scott Carlson discovered that he was passionate about promoting the rule of law. Scott later joined the CEELI/ROLI staff and made a career out of democracy, human rights, and governance international development.

Scott arrived in Albania in 1994. On sabbatical as an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service Office of Chief Counsel, he was enthusiastic to spend a pro bono year working with Albanian counterparts, who were just emerging from one of the strictest communist regimes in history. Under the iron rule of the dictator Enver Hoxha, Albania had gone so far as to eliminate criminal defense counsel, deeming the prosecutor more than able to represent all interests of “the people.” During his tenure, Scott relocated the ABA CEELI Rule of Law Office to the Albanian Supreme Court, where he worked closely with the Chief Justice to launch the first independent Albanian judges association, which is still in operation today. While at the OSCE, Scott (second from left) engaged with CEELI on a participatory constitution-making process in Albania—pictured here with Professor John Paul Jones of the University of Richmond, VA.

From that point forward, Scott devoted his career to rule of law. After working abroad for some years, he returned to ROLI/CEELI in Washington, D.C., where he led the Central and Eastern European region and judicial reform local area. While at the headquarters, he finalized and launched ROLI/CEELI’s inaugural assessment tool, the Judicial Reform Index. After his second stint with ROLI/CEELI, Scott went on to be a U.S. Supreme Court Fellow and Senior Rule of Law Adviser for the U.S. Department of State. In 2020, he returned to ABA ROLI yet again as the Senior Director of Program and Strategic Initiatives.