



ANNUAL REPORT

2016–2017

A Mission That Matters

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“I am now happy because thanks to ABA ROLI my children can finally go to school, study for exams and freely travel without fear of being arrested.”

—Marieme Modo Lo, a Mauritanian returnee (pictured right), was able to obtain legal identity for her children with help from ABA ROLI’s community-based paralegals

View this report online to get the full story
www.annual.abaroli.org





M. MARGARET MCKEOWN
Chair, ABA ROLI Board



ELIZABETH ANDERSEN
Director, ABA ROLI

FOREWORD

Dear Colleague,

Promoting the rule of law is a mission that matters.

It affects individual lives on a daily basis and extends to communities and institutions. It is a mission that encompasses justice, respect for human rights and good governance—critical pillars of successful societies and essential to achieving so many other global goals, as recognized in the U.N.’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Whether protecting the environment, guaranteeing public health or combating poverty and violence, we need clear and fair laws, sound institutions to implement and enforce them, effective civil society that can hold government accountable and an informed and empowered citizenry that embraces a culture of lawfulness.

We are enormously proud of the work that the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) does to advance this cause, and we are pleased to share this snapshot of those efforts with you. Visit our website at www.annual.abaroli.org to view the digital version of this report, which provides quick links to greater detail of our programs and where we work.

As described in this annual report, our work covers a wide range of rule of law challenges. Organized along four program areas—Governance and Justice System Strengthening; Human Rights and Access to Justice; Transitions, Conflict Mitigation and Peacebuilding; and Inclusive and Sustainable Development—our efforts aim both to strengthen formal justice sector institutions and to empower citizens to access them. We collaborate with our in-country partners to implement programs that are responsive to local needs across five regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Middle East and North Africa.

None of this would be possible without the people behind the change—ABA ROLI donors and loyal supporters, talented staff, inspiring legal reformers and the committed volunteers who in 2016 contributed more than \$3.2 million in pro bono legal assistance.

ABA ROLI would like to thank you for your support of this work. We welcome your feedback and look forward to continued collaboration in our rule of law cause.

Sincerely,

M. Margaret McKeown
Chair, ABA ROLI Board of Directors

Elizabeth Andersen
Director, ABA ROLI

ABA ROLI MISSION

Our mission is to promote justice, economic opportunity and human dignity through the rule of law.

ABA ROLI PRINCIPLES

Partnership

We employ a highly consultative approach to the delivery of independent, professional technical assistance, working with justice sector colleagues and local stakeholders to develop programs that are responsive to their needs and interests.

Empowerment

We provide people with the legal information, resources and assistance to defend their rights, access justice and hold government accountable.

Inclusivity

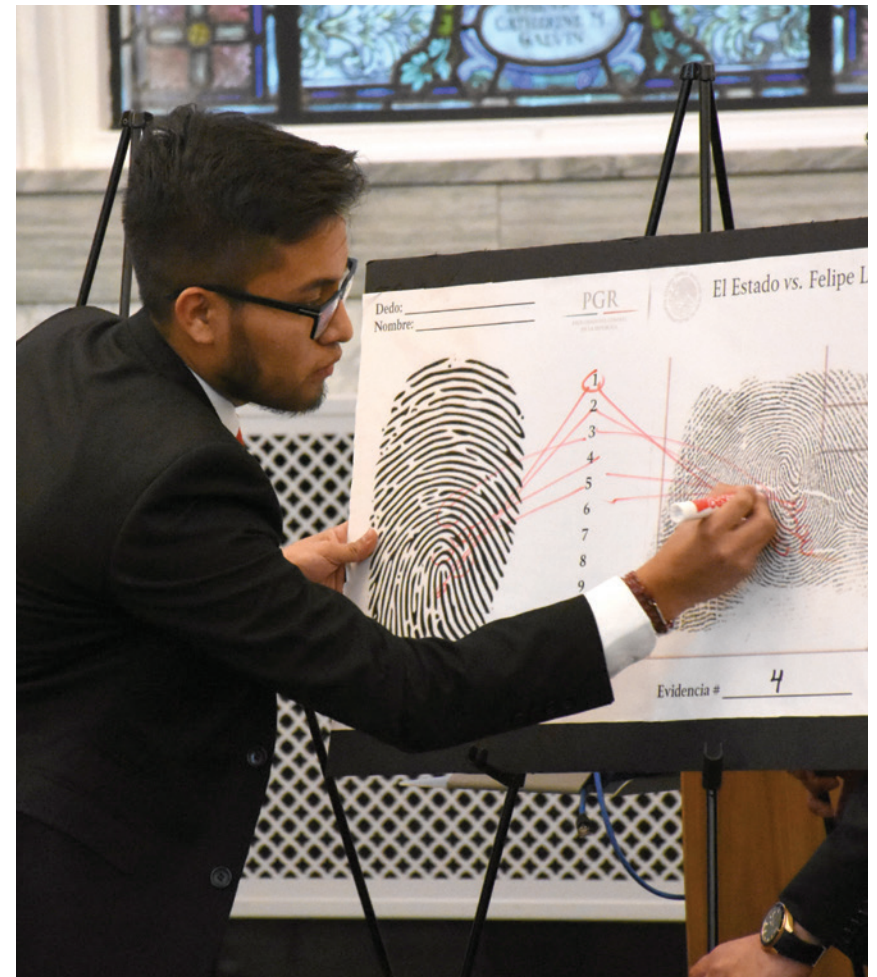
We work to eliminate bias and to ensure that marginalized groups have access to justice and public participation.

Universality

We look to comparative and international law to identify universal standards and global best practices, with the U.S. legal system providing just one of several available models.

Sustainability

We pursue strategies with lasting impact, including expanding citizen awareness, strengthening local capacity in the governmental and non-governmental sectors and furthering the professional development of our host country staff, who will become their country's next generation of leaders.



GOVERNANCE AND JUSTICE SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

An independent, fair and efficient justice system requires clear and transparent laws, skilled and ethical professionals, and effective and accountable institutions. ABA ROLI seeks to improve laws and institutions necessary to deliver justice by partnering with justice sector actors—ministries and lawmakers, judiciaries, law enforcement, prosecutorial authorities, bar associations and law schools—to support substantive and procedural law reform and institutional capacity building. These programs are informed by ABA ROLI justice sector assessments of different aspects of the justice system.

OUR APPROACHES:

- Strengthening Judiciaries
- Supporting an Effective and Independent Legal Profession
- Strengthening Law Schools
- Supporting Criminal Law Reform and Capacity Building
- Combating Corruption

PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In April 2016, ABA ROLI's support helped achieve Haiti's first conviction in a trafficking case.

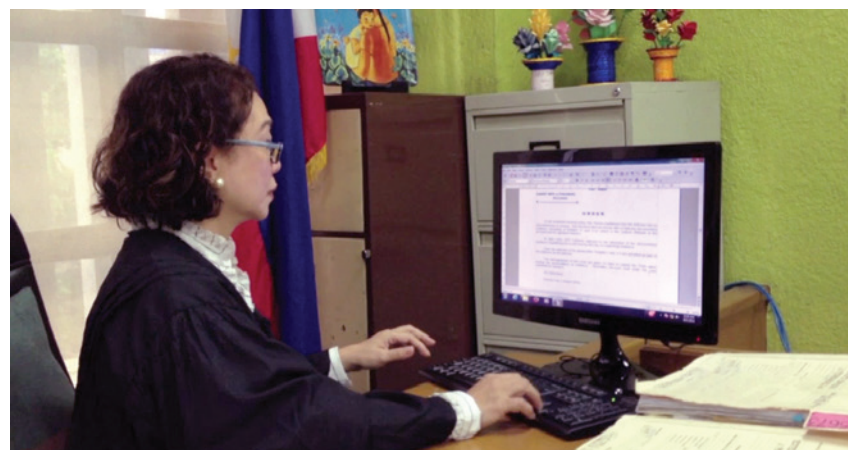


“This case was made possible by the trainings and mentoring provided by ABA ROLI.”

—Chief Judge Vernet Simon, First Instance Court of Hinche

ENABLING SPEEDY JUSTICE

ABA ROLI-supported court automation and procedural reforms have dramatically reduced the case backlog and increased citizens' access to justice in the Philippines.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Respect for civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights is a pillar in any strong rule of law culture, providing safety and stability to communities and nations alike. ABA ROLI works with both government institutions and civil society to increase the application of regional and international human rights principles within national legal systems, to open legal institutions to the citizens they serve, and to provide people with information and legal representation to access justice and realize their rights. These programs are often informed by in-depth study using ABA ROLI’s rights-related assessment tools and research methodologies, such as our Access to Justice Assessment Tool, Trafficking in Persons Assessment Tool, and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women Assessment Tools.

OUR APPROACHES:

- Strengthening Justice Sector Actors’ Understanding of and Adherence to Human Rights Law
- Supporting Human Rights Advocates
- Providing Legal Information and Assistance
- Supporting and Empowering Marginalized Communities

ADVANCING PROTECTIONS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY

In Moldova, ABA ROLI partners have won 18 strategic litigation cases, advancing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, reducing hate crimes and hate speech, and ensuring the right to assemble at annual pride marches with full police protection.



USING TECHNOLOGY TO PROTECT REFUGEES

ABA ROLI has provided more than 200,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey with critical legal information to help them access their rights to housing, education and health care.

TRANSITIONS, CONFLICT MITIGATION AND PEACEBUILDING

Societies undergoing major political and legal transitions following revolution or conflict pose particular rule of law challenges. ABA ROLI programming supports the development of strong and effective laws and legal institutions, to ensure accountability for past violations, and to address historic grievances through peaceful legal processes that foster reconciliation and a rule of law culture. We work at multiple levels, using participatory, consultative methods to connect grass-roots actors to national and international decision-makers and inform their development of strategies to establish the rule of law in transitional settings. A recurring theme in our work is the importance of approaches that situate the response as close to the affected communities as possible, an approach reflected in our guide to “Community Participation in Transitional Justice.”

OUR APPROACHES:

- Strengthening Laws and Legal Institutions Governing Political and Electoral Processes
- Supporting Transitional Justice and Accountability for Gross Violations of Human Rights
- Engaging and Empowering Civil Society

RECONCILIATION AND PEACEBUILDING THROUGH SPORT

Through ABA ROLI’s creative approaches to conflict resolution, a football tournament brought together nearly 6,000 people in Northern Mali.



“Men and women from ethnic groups who could not see eye to eye were embracing one another for each goal scored.”

—Abdramane Cissé, regional youth director of Les Patrouilleurs, a youth group in Gao

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

In more than 100 community dialogue sessions, ABA ROLI is supporting constitutional reform and helping build a culture of participatory governance in Libya.



“This program gives equal importance and opportunity for all races and regions to participate in the community dialogue.”

—Amal El-Malty, ABA ROLI community liaison from Tripoli

INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development outcomes—in areas ranging from environmental protection and public health to decent work, gender equality and poverty alleviation—are strengthened by laws and legal institutions that ensure effective delivery of social services, equitable distribution of resources, protection of women’s and workers’ rights and just dispute resolution. ABA ROLI collaborates with partners in government, industry, unions and workers’ organizations, civil society and communities around the world to use the rule of law to solve complex development challenges.

OUR APPROACHES:

- Improving Environmental Governance
- Addressing Legal Aspects of Public Health Challenges
- Improving Land and Natural Resource Governance
- Promoting Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
- Advancing Workers’ Rights

COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

ABA ROLI provided detailed input into China’s anticipated Soil Pollution Law, convening legislative drafters and environmental scholars from across China with leading U.S. environmental lawyers to learn from the U.S. experience.



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

ABA ROLI educational programming and paralegal support is helping communities affected by mining in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to engage with local authorities, pursue remedies for human rights violations and participate more actively in decision-making about land use and environmental issues.

“We sincerely thank ABA ROLI’s efforts to ... help us better understand and defend our community rights in the face of industrial mining.”

—Mwavita Buhendwa, member of the community forum ABA ROLI established in Kaziba, South Kivu



AFRICA



EMPOWERING LOCAL LEADERS TO PROMOTE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACEBUILDING

ABA ROLI works with communities and victim groups across Northern Mali to offer first-time training to traditional, community and religious leaders on transitional justice and alternative dispute resolution, equipping them with tools to have a voice in the formal justice process and promoting peace and reconciliation.

WHY IT MATTERS. In remote Northern Mali, where state institutions are weak or nonexistent, community, religious and traditional leaders play a key role in promoting peace and understanding within their communities.

“This workshop allowed us to understand our role as traditional leaders in the prevention and resolution of conflicts.”

—Songhai chief

STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND COMBATING IMPUNITY

As communities in the Central African Republic rebuild in the wake of the country’s violent conflict, sexual assault victims are accessing justice through ABA ROLI’s eight legal aid clinics. These clinics have received more than 2,200 cases, predominantly from women, concerning issues such as rape and sexual assault, child and family support and inheritance.

WHY IT MATTERS. Women have been traditionally disadvantaged, unable to seek recourse when victimized by crime or wronged through social mechanisms such as biased inheritance practices. ABA ROLI legal aid clinics are helping remedy this while building local capacity to ensure accountability for serious crimes and deter future violence.



ASIA & THE PACIFIC



STRENGTHENING LGBTI RIGHTS

ABA ROLI trained 100 lawyers and advocates in China on utilizing legal advocacy tools to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights. Lawyers who participated in these trainings achieved historic results by bringing a series of pioneering legal cases in areas such as same-sex marriage, education and employment discrimination.

WHY IT MATTERS. Effective training and connections to legal advocates are helping to bring about China's first wave of LGBTI strategic litigation and generating constructive national dialogue on these issues.

“Without ABA ROLI, we would not be participating in LGBTI work. We would never have had the chance to get involved.”

—ABA ROLI-trained lawyer

SECURING ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH COURT EFFICIENCY

ABA ROLI's Judicial Strengthening to Improve Court Effectiveness Practice Guidelines pilot program resulted in a 60 percent decrease in case processing time in Quezon City, Philippines, representing a significant improvement in court efficiency. This program resulted in targeted revisions to the rules of procedure and was later prioritized for nationwide implementation.

WHY IT MATTERS. If disputes are not resolved efficiently and fairly by the courts, then access to justice is reduced and people are disincentivized from using the courts. Delays caused by court inefficiency also affect the rights of the accused who are held in detention for extended periods.

“The numbers prove that the Philippines’ judicial reform efforts—supported by ABA ROLI, U.S. Agency for International Development, The Asia Foundation and others—represent an unmitigated success.”

—Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, Philippines Supreme Court



EUROPE & EURASIA



ADVANCING FAIR TRIAL RIGHTS

Through substantive trainings on topics such as extradition, plea bargaining, forensic evidence and practical jury trial skills, ABA ROLI helped build the capacity of more than 300 defense attorneys in Georgia. This has improved the defense bar's ability to protect criminal defendants' rights and advance the integrity of Georgia's criminal justice system. Since 2008, ABA ROLI has worked to develop over 30 training courses, provide nearly 500 trainings and reach more than 3,000 defense attorneys. ABA ROLI-trained defense attorneys have achieved 100 percent of Georgia's first jury trial wins for the defense, exemplifying the effectiveness of ABA ROLI's program.

WHY IT MATTERS. Georgia is the first country to adopt the jury trial system in the region. The ability of the defense bar to navigate jury trials will be a deciding factor for whether the system succeeds, fails or is replicated in other countries. ABA ROLI's efforts to strengthen the defense bar in Georgia helps promote the presumption of innocence and the right of criminal defendants to a fair trial.

SHAPING CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

After analyzing the results of nearly two years of court monitoring of drug trafficking-related cases in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, ABA ROLI supported cross-regional, multisectoral working groups of prosecutors, judges, defense lawyers and civil society representatives to identify criminal procedure successes and challenges. In August 2016, ABA ROLI brought 11 legal professionals from the region to Texas, to experience firsthand the U.S. response to drug trafficking on the U.S.-Mexico border. Working groups' recommendations have been incorporated into new legislation and have resulted in action plans that recommend reform within agencies responsible for interdicting and prosecuting drug-related crimes.

WHY IT MATTERS. Combating drug trafficking requires cross-border cooperation. The working groups provide a major milestone in multisector collaboration and consensus building for strengthening criminal justice systems to combat this transnational crime.



LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN



COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

In Guatemala and El Salvador, ABA ROLI trained 1,172 justice sector and law enforcement actors on how to collect, preserve and present forensic evidence in criminal cases and femicide, trafficking in persons and gang-related crimes including hate crimes.

WHY IT MATTERS. In a region with high levels of homicide and violence, an effective law enforcement response requires skilled and coordinated work from crime scene technicians, forensic police officers, judges and prosecutors across borders.

ENFORCING RIGHTS TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

A study revealed that in March 2016, 100 percent of detainees at the Pétion-Ville police station in Haiti were held in excess of the 48-hour legal time limit. To remedy this, ABA ROLI assisted Haitian authorities in implementing new standards and procedures to promote inter-institutional coordination and accountability.

In less than one year, the number of detainees held for more than 48 hours was reduced by 95 percent. The initiative expanded to the Delmas police station, where 90 percent of detainees were processed within the constitutional time frame during the first quarter.

WHY IT MATTERS. Strict timelines for bringing the accused before a judge prevent prolonged and arbitrary detention and help increase public trust in the police and justice system.

“This initiative is so successful that it has to be implemented in the entire country.”

—Me Jean Danton Leger, chief prosecutor of Port-au-Prince



MIDDLE EAST & NORTHERN AFRICA



SUPPORTING THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS

ABA ROLI convened experts and community groups to review drafts of the constitution and provide recommendations to Libya's Constitutional Drafting Assembly. Through this effort, Libyan stakeholders were able to discuss key governance and rule of law issues, raising public understanding and awareness of the constitutional process. ABA ROLI community dialogue and education programs reached an estimated 2 million Libyan citizens.

WHY IT MATTERS. By allowing citizens—including minorities and traditionally marginalized groups—to engage in the constitutional process, ABA ROLI is promoting stability in Libya by encouraging peaceful and participatory dialogue and governance.



PROTECTING REFUGEES THROUGH RIGHTS AWARENESS

To help Syrian refugees pursue their rights in Turkey, ABA ROLI has trained more than 200 lawyers to provide legal information to refugees living outside of Turkish camps. Through legal awareness sessions, a media campaign and a text message helpline, ABA ROLI provided more than 200,000 Syrian refugees with legal information on their rights under Turkish law.

WHY IT MATTERS. Almost six years after the war in Syria began, the number of refugees in Turkey has grown to more than 2.9 million. With new regulations emerging each day, Turkish lawyers, nongovernmental organizations and Syrians themselves are in constant need of consistent training, legal information, education and capacity building on the legal framework governing the rights of Syrians.

REFUGEE RIGHTS AWARENESS BY THE NUMBERS

200 Turkish lawyers trained

462 general rights awareness sessions (including **173** sessions for vulnerable groups) attended by **13,000** Syrians

250,000 text messages to **8,500** Syrian refugees, informing them of their rights

Media campaign reaching more than **200,000** people with information about Syrian refugee rights

LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

ABA ROLI is committed to collaborative learning and innovative research that enables us to identify effective approaches to rule of law development, incorporate these into creative program design, capture lessons learned from our work and share them with the broader development policy community.



RULE OF LAW ASSESSMENTS

ABA ROLI has developed 13 rule of law assessment methodologies and indices, as well as numerous technical guides, toolkits and primers on reform processes and skill building. These tools provide a basis for in-depth study of rule of law conditions and inform reform and technical assistance efforts. In 2016, ABA ROLI assessment tools helped provide recommendations about sentencing procedures, alternatives to detention, status of women issues and commercial law reform.

EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMMING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

ABA ROLI supports the design and implementation of evidence-based programs that are assessed, monitored and evaluated, using cutting-edge methodologies and technological tools. ABA ROLI's culture of learning supports ongoing critical analysis of programs, identification of best practices and a flexible approach to program design to enable adjustments that help maximize outcomes.

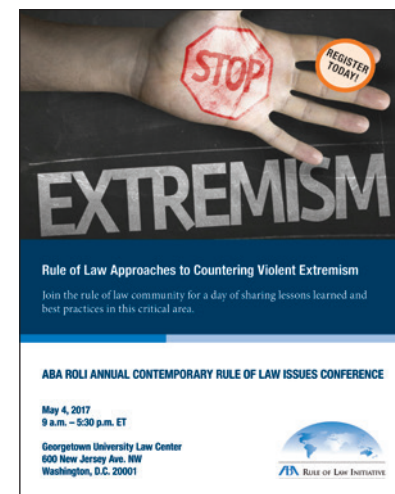
LEADERSHIP IN THE RULE OF LAW DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

ABA ROLI provides thought leadership through publications and events, sharing insights from our work in almost 60 countries around the world. In 2016, ABA ROLI participated in consortia that produced an assessment of the justice system in the Central African Republic and a toolkit for advancing justice in the context of efforts to achieve the U.N.'s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Partnering with the War Crimes Research Office at American University's Washington College of Law and others, ABA ROLI helped convene a major conference in March 2017 on "Prosecuting Serious International Crimes: Exploring the Intersections between International and Domestic Justice Efforts."

In May 2017, ABA ROLI and Georgetown University Law Center convened a daylong conference on rule of law approaches to combating violent extremism. ABA ROLI published a report of our findings from work in the field.

ABA ROLI staff have shared lessons from our work at a number of national and international fora, including the World Bank's Annual Law, Justice and Development Week, the International Council on Commercial Arbitration's Semi-Annual Congress, the Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association and the international donor conference for justice issues facing the Central African Republic.



SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF CITIZENS TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMBAT CORRUPTION IN MOROCCO

During the Arab Spring, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets of Rabat, Casablanca and scores of other cities and villages, to demand more jobs, an end to corruption and an elected constituent assembly to write a new constitution. In response, Morocco moved quickly to implement constitutional reform. Among other things, the new 2011 Constitution seeks to protect several citizen rights not previously recognized in Morocco's 1996 Constitution, and it mandates that national law be harmonized with international human rights conventions ratified by Morocco. ABA ROLI was among the first international nongovernmental organizations to respond to this unique opportunity to support the effort to advance citizen rights in Morocco. ABA ROLI focused on the challenge of empowering citizens and strengthening communication between the government and civil society, in order to engage them in a meaningful way around policy issues such as gender parity, citizen's participation in policy-making and corruption.

Since 2013, ABA ROLI—in partnership with the U.S. Department of State and the Embassy of the Netherlands in Morocco—has been working with numerous Moroccan partners on an initiative that aims to:

- Support and implement critical reforms
- Strengthen government transparency
- Support citizen participation in governance
- Guarantee citizen rights

Between 2014–16, ABA ROLI conducted **75 public education campaign activities** to raise awareness on corruption in the criminal justice system in the Marrakech region, reaching more than **41,000 people** through activities and **1.3 million more** through radio programs.





OUR PROGRAMS EMPLOY PROVEN APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES BASED ON OUR 12 YEARS OF PROGRAMING IN THE REGION. THESE INCLUDE:

Capacity building and technical support to civil society organizations (CSO) to advance women’s rights: ABA ROLI supported Moroccan CSOs to engage both the government and citizens in advancing new constitutional rights for Moroccan women, as well citizens’ new ability to present legislative and policy initiatives to the government.

Citizen Engagement—Facilitating citizen discussions and forums: ABA ROLI convened lawyers, parliamentarians, academics, CSOs and political party representatives on issues related to women. The project’s outreach into 15 cities and villages outside of Rabat broke new ground by engaging diverse populations and CSOs. A key success of this citizen engagement was coalition building. ABA ROLI and one of our partners took a leading role in developing an especially large and prominent coalition of some 3,000 CSOs, the principal aim of which was to advocate for a greater role for civil society in policy-making.

Trainings on legislative analysis and drafting to advance gender parity: ABA ROLI facilitated trainings and expert consultations that contributed to our partners drafting and disseminating proposed legislation and position papers on laws relating to marriage, including polygamy, marriage of minors, inheritance, divorce and the limits on married women’s political and economic participation. CSOs led a call for reform to bring the laws into harmony with international standards as mandated by the

2011 Moroccan constitution. ABA ROLI and partners also held roundtables in 10 cities engaging well over a thousand CSOs and individual citizens on the formulation of policy and the drafting of laws.



Training and support for lawyers and other justice sector professionals to advance human rights and combat corruption: ABA ROLI trained more than 400 young lawyers, court clerks and law students on advanced litigation skills and applying the appropriate international conventions in domestic courts. Additionally, we supported local lawyers to provide pro bono legal assistance to victims of corruption.

Enhancing citizen awareness, promoting transparency and combating corruption: Between 2014-16, ABA ROLI and partners conducted 75 outreach and public education campaigns to raise awareness on corruption in the criminal justice system in the Marrakech and Tangier regions, reaching more than 1.3 million people.

“I’ve known of the existence of international human rights conventions, but I never realized their importance. I never thought they could be useful to me in practicing law. These training sessions have given me an entirely new toolkit to explore and use in defending my clients’ rights.”

—Young lawyer from the city of Meknes

FIGHTING IMPUNITY FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN DRC

AN IMPERFECT SYSTEM FAILED A RAPE SURVIVOR IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)— WITH ABA ROLI’S HELP, SHE IS NOW BECOMING A POWERFUL AGENT OF CHANGE TO BRING JUSTICE TO OTHERS.

Eve* was 13 years old when her father first raped her. After years of abuse and with the support of a sympathetic teacher, Eve tried to bring charges against him, but like so many survivors in DRC, she could not afford to pursue the case.

Since 2008, ABA ROLI lawyers have provided free legal aid to DRC citizens fighting impunity of perpetrators of sexual violence. A judge recommended Eve contact ABA ROLI, which enabled her to stand in court and tell her story. In the end it was not enough. As is the case for many rape defendants in DRC, Eve’s father was acquitted after paying bribes, and Eve has feared for her safety ever since.

Eve remains hopeful that one day her father and others like him will be brought to justice. After receiving the assistance of ABA ROLI, she aspires to become a lawyer and help women and girls overcome similar situations.

“My message to all the girls out there is to endeavor to be strong and have the courage to remove themselves from situations that make them victims. I urge all girls and women to report any cases of sexual violence and to be brave enough to pursue justice to the end.”

Eve currently attends law school in DRC, after receiving a scholarship from ABA ROLI and philanthropic partner organization, Cynthia’s Sisters.

“I honestly didn’t expect it. I think of all the ways ABA ROLI has helped me, this scholarship has been the most important. It gave me so much hope, not only for me but also for other girls and women in similar situations.”

Justice may not have been served, but by sharing her story and training to become a lawyer and advocate on behalf of other rape survivors, Eve will be in a position to help other women attain the justice they deserve.



“ABA ROLI changed my life in ways I cannot explain, and I will always be grateful.”

—Eve*

“I want to create an institution for girls where they can learn to stand up for themselves, where girls who have been sexually assaulted can get the support they need and those who haven’t can learn to defend themselves ... so that they never have to be in the situation I have been in.”

*Name has been changed to protect the identity of the individual and all quotations have been translated from French

PARTNERING FOR RULE OF LAW CHANGE

If there is one thing that we have learned from ABA ROLI’s work to advance the rule of law over the past 25 years, it is that change comes from the creativity and drive of individual people committed to our cause. For this reason, ABA ROLI puts partnership with local actors at the center of all of our programs. It is the judges and lawyers, law school deans and activists, ministry officials and court administrators with whom we work, who make all the difference. ABA ROLI is proud to support their efforts to drive change.

GIVING WOMEN A VOICE IN THE FUTURE

After ABA ROLI empowered women-led civil society organizations (CSO) in the Central African Republic to participate in national legislative reform, the Parliament passed a parity law mandating women’s representation in community and government decision-making.



“As we say, ‘the monkey grabs the tree by the trunk before climbing.’ The solution to our problems is at the base—when the public is consulted on a bill and it becomes a law, it is the manifestation of a population. This is what we lack in our country.”

—Honorable Bernadette Gambo, Parliamentary Representative (pictured center)

SUPPORTING TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

In a collaboration with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, ABA ROLI facilitated a high-level study exchange between Sri Lankan legal professionals, government officials and their counterparts in South Africa. Sri Lankan participants praised the program for informing their thinking about transitional justice as they consider Sri Lanka’s path from decades-long conflict.



BUILDING JUSTICE SECTOR BRIDGES

Working together on common legal challenges empowers individuals to mediate political and ethnic differences that have divided the Balkans region for years. ABA ROLI established the Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network, composed of bar associations and CSOs in five countries across the region, to facilitate such an exchange. In 2016, ABA ROLI and the Network facilitated an exchange between the Kosovo Bar Association and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Ministry of Justice on upholding due process principles for defendants within Kosovo’s new war crimes court.

COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN CHINA

RETIRED JUDGE TRAINS JUSTICE SECTOR ON THE RIGHTS OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE

ABA ROLI volunteer and retired family court Judge Jerry Bowles—of the 30th Judicial Circuit in Jefferson County, Kentucky—started his career as a public defender representing indigent individuals charged with crimes. He then became a prosecutor, spending five years as chief prosecutor and director of the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Unit that he initiated within the District Attorney’s office. Judge Bowles was appointed to the Circuit Court bench in 1996 and served in the family court until 2015. During this time, he supported a series of ABA ROLI efforts to combat domestic violence in China.

“That project was one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in my career,” said Judge Bowles. “I trained judges in Chongqing where the domestic violence pilot project was initially implemented. Prior to the ABA ROLI program, China had no recourse through the

court system for battered women, children who were in abusive homes and sexual abuse victims. Watching the judges grasp those issues and take responsibility for effective interventions became extremely rewarding. Two years later, I returned to do a national training in Beijing with participants who had been in my initial training in Chongqing. They shared how they had gone back to their communities and had changed not only their court response, but they had set up domestic violence

intake offices in the courthouse and really wrapped their hands around the services ABA ROLI offered them to affect change in their communities. It is exciting to know you and the ABA ROLI program made a difference.”



“It is exciting to know you and the ABA ROLI program made a difference.”

—Judge Jerry Bowles

ABA ROLI draws on the expertise of more than 400,000 ABA members, as well as other legal experts from around the world to contribute invaluable pro bono expertise to our programs. In 2016 alone, these contributions totaled \$3.2 million.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

ABA ROLI is honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, businesses, institutions and organizations that have supported our work in 2016.

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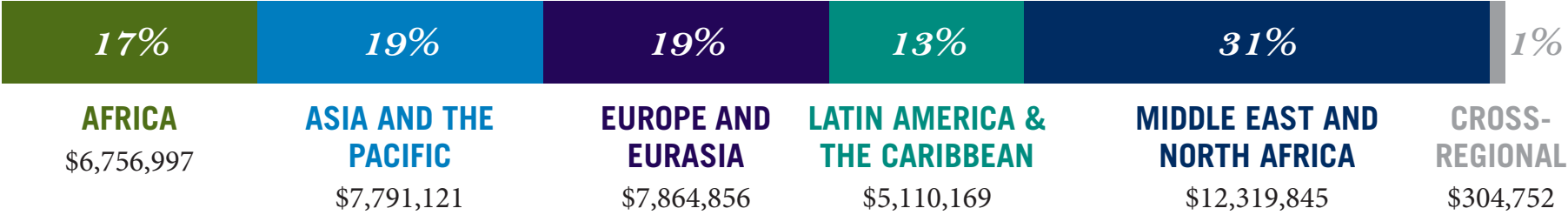
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