

✓ Legal Education

The ABA assists in transforming the University of Pristina's law school into a modernized institution which keeps pace with changes in the law and which can provide students with the skills they will need to succeed in the legal profession.



As a part of this effort ABA is working on:

◆ Curriculum Reform and Development

● Legal Methodology course

- An ABA pilot course aimed at developing students' ability to think critically and analytically, a fundamental skill for lawyers.

● Legal Clinics for Civil and Criminal Law

- An ABA developed clinic where students learn practical legal skills, including client interviews, preparing opening and closing statements and argument for court.

◆ Pedagogical Interactive Training for Law Professors

- Training for professors at the Law Faculty in interactive teaching techniques.
- Workshops, including how to develop syllabae and curriculum in conformity with the Bologna standards.



✓ Legal Profession Reform

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Kosovo actively works with its partners, the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates (KCA) and the Kosovo Judges Association (KJA), organizations which serve as advocates for, and protectors of, the rule of law.

◆ ABA Work with KCA

- Assisting KCA in modernizing its Code of Ethics and developing a more effective disciplinary system.
- Working to find ways to bring more women and minority lawyers into KCA
- Advising KCA on conducting advocacy, lobbying and public awareness efforts in support of an independent, fair and transparent justice system.

◆ ABA Work with KJA

- Assisting KJA in reaching out to its members, including through a monthly bulletin on recent developments in the judiciary.
- Connecting KJA with other regional and European judges associations in order to be informed on best practices for running the association.
- Advising KJA on conducting advocacy, lobbying and public awareness efforts as well as on issues related to women and minority judges.



An ABA-KCA-KJA sponsored Bench Bar held in Istog, one of a series of roundtables held throughout Kosovo to learn what were the key issues of those who work within the Kosovo legal system

In 2000, the ABA developed the Praktikant Project with the KCA and KJA which allowed law graduates to complete internships with lawyers or judges, a prerequisite for taking the bar exam. Since then, over 100 law school graduates have participated and have gone on to become lawyers and judges active in the legal profession.

✓ Public Awareness and Law & Human Rights Education

Recognizing the importance of having a public informed about the law and how the legal and justice system work, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Kosovo has developed several public awareness projects about the law. The ABA has:

- In collaboration with KCA and KJA, produced PSAs to inform the public about their right to be treated equally before the court and about attorney and judicial ethics and complaint mechanisms.
- With the Kosovo Education Center, published three primary school books to help teachers fill a gap in the existing school curriculum on individual rights and the law.



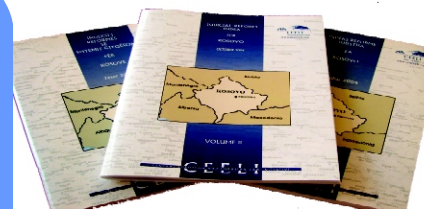
- Worked with the Ministry of Education to organize visits to court by middle school students who learn how the court works directly from the judges.

In collaboration with KCA and KJA, the ABA produced three cartoons for television starring "Justice Kid" who teaches the messages of gender equality, the importance of following the law and of choosing talking over fighting.



✓ Assessment Tools

Measuring progress in the areas of judicial and legal profession reform is a difficult exercise but critical in a society which is working to implement the rule of law. Through its Judicial Reform Index (JRI) and Legal Profession Reform Index (LPRI), the ABA evaluates such progress and targets any changes or improvements that can be made to reform of the legal profession.



- Local LPRI and JRI teams are currently preparing to conduct new assessments to be published in 2007.

ABA RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE IN KOSOVO

In 1999, the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (formerly, CEELI) established a technical legal assistance program based in Pristina directly following the cessation of hostilities. ABA representatives were some of the first legal advisors into the area to assess the status of the post-conflict legal system.

Through its extensive network of lawyers, judges and law professors and its experienced professional staff, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Kosovo is helping to build the legal infrastructure, human capacity and local institutions that are indispensable to strong, self-supporting democracies.

Focal Areas:

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative in Kosovo focuses its work primarily in four areas:

- ✓ Legal Education Reform
- ✓ Legal Profession Reform
- ✓ Public Awareness on Laws, Lawyers and the Legal System
- ✓ Assessment Tools for measuring the progress of legal reforms



The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

**Dedicated to Promoting
the Rule of Law.**

Promoting the Rule of Law In Kosovo



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