

BENCH - BAR DISCUSSIONS

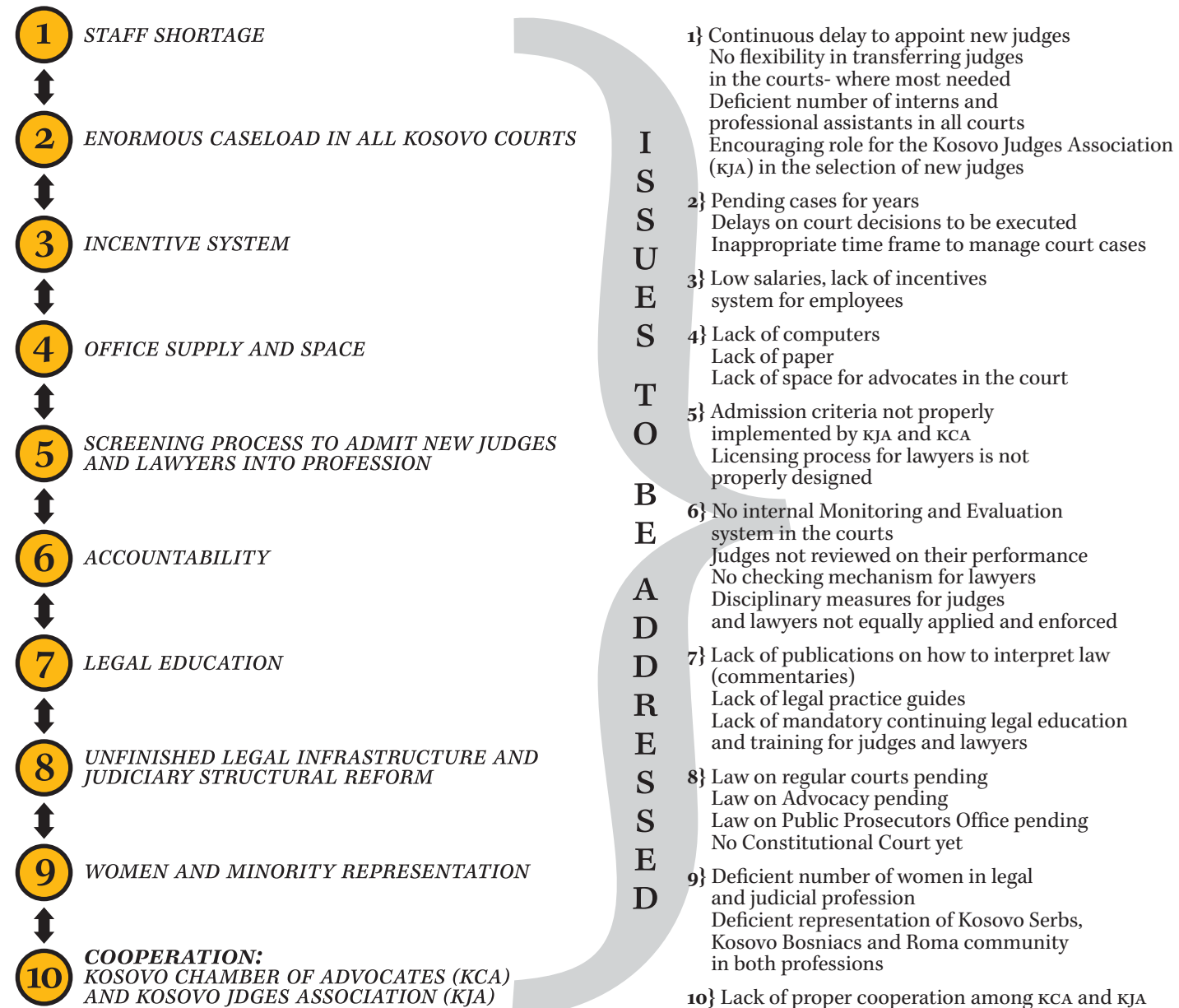
TO PROMOTE THE RULE
OF LAW IN KOSOVO

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

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

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

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED AT BENCH-BAR ROUNDTABLES TO BE ADDRESSED FOR A STRONG JUDICIARY IN KOSOVO



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Its aim is to summarize and inform the public about the issues that have been identified, and also to encourage advocacy to resolve them. Solving these issues, in fact, will have an impact on judicial independence, legal work and social issues.

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

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