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Democracy & Governance Sector PROJECT PROFILE

April 2012



A mentoring program conducted in partnership with the Arab Women's Legal Network (AWLN) involves senior women lawyers and judges in building the confidence and qualifications of female students aspiring to enter the legal profession.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Implemented by: American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)

Duration: 2004 – 2014

Total Funding: \$8.7 million

Beneficiaries: Jordanian law students, professors, practitioners, judges, law firms, and legal education programs

Geographic Coverage: Nationwide

www.abanet.org/rol/

Enhancing Legal Education and Human Rights Program

BACKGROUND

Establishing and enforcing the rule of law requires a strong and independent judiciary and qualified legal professionals throughout the legal system. USAID's Rule of Law Initiative supports Jordan's efforts to enhance its justice system and the reform strategies of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the Judicial Council (JC). This program works to strengthen legal education in Jordanian universities, a crucial first step in the development of future judges, lawyers and other legal professionals. Moreover, this program provides legal education to judges, practicing lawyers and students on key human rights concepts that are a fundamental aspect of the rule of law.

The program engages law professors, judges and lawyers in the development of comprehensive and modern curricula, the introduction of university-supported skills-building activities, and wider use of modern teaching methods in law classrooms. Through a combination of training workshops with local and foreign experts, study trips, national conferences, local working group initiatives, mentoring by international legal education experts, and various extracurricular activities such as moot court and legal writing competitions, Jordanian law students gain a deeper and richer preparation for their future careers.

ACTIVITIES

- Training law professors in modern teaching methods to better develop their students' understanding of the law and legal skills
- Institutionalizing a number of extracurricular activities, such as moot court, externships and mentoring programs, which give law students a chance to build skills and find jobs
- Involving local and international law professors, lawyers and judges in developing modern, interactive law courses such as Legal Research and Writing, Legal Ethics, Legal English, Human Rights, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Environmental Law and Judicial Applications
- Engaging the MOJ, the JC, law firms and non-governmental organizations in legal education to improve the relevance of university legal education to the modern practice of law



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Law students from across the Kingdom participated in a writing competition conducted in partnership with Jordan's National Center for Human Rights. The competition exposed participants to the kind of cases brought to human rights attorneys and was a rare opportunity to strengthen legal research and writing skills.



The 2009 National Moot Competition gave law students a chance to practice their skills in a courtroom setting.

- Providing training, mentorship and externship activities for law students, practicing lawyers and newly appointed judges on human rights concepts.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Supported the adoption of more rigorous national admission standards and the raising of credit hours for law faculties
- Introduced interactive teaching methods to law professors from 12 universities
- Engaged over 700 law students in skills-building, extracurricular activities
- Developed materials for six law courses now taught at law faculties
- Provided training for 25 young lawyers on human rights concepts based on international and national laws.
- Provided mentoring and networking activities to 34 newly appointed women judges on human rights,
- Built university curricula with local and international experts on human rights

PARTNERS

- American Bar Association (ABA)
- Ministry of Justice
- Judicial Council
- Law faculties at Jordanian universities
- Arab Women's Legal Network
- Local law firms and non-governmental organizations

CONTACT:

Office of Program Management
USAID, c/o American Embassy
P.O. Box 354
Amman 11118, Jordan
Tel: 962-6-590-6000
jordan.usaid.gov