

# JUDGING WITH INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY: UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

## AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

The American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI) looks forward to facilitating discussions that address the goals of the Global Judicial Integrity Network and continuing to engage participants in substantive exchanges and discussions on topics, approaches and emerging challenges and good practices related to the strengthening of judicial integrity and preventing corruption in the justice system. Furthermore, the discussion will also focus on the judicial integrity and organizational efficiencies mandated by article 11 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

## JUDGING WITH INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY: UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

**Session Organizer:**

Ms. Maha Shomali  
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative  
Maha.Shomali@abaroli.org

**Moderator:**

Ms. Mary Greer  
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

**Rapporteur:**

Ms. Mary Greer  
American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

**Panellists:**

Judge Nawal Al Jawhari,  
The Judicial Council, Jordan

Judge Abdellatif Chentouf,  
Club of Magistrates, Morocco

Professor Mohamed AbdulAziz Alkulaifi,  
Qatar University Law School, Qatar

### AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

The mission of the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative is to promote justice, economic opportunity and human dignity through the rule of law.



# JUDGING WITH INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY: UNIQUE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

## Main Issues:

In this session, ABA ROLI will coordinate a discussion by partners in Middle Eastern and African (MENA) countries tasked with furthering the integrity, independence and accountability of the judicial system vis-à-vis the communities in which they serve. Specifically, the discussion will highlight the critical functions of judicial training institutes, supreme judicial councils and inspectorates in the neutral, fair and transparent selection of judges, effectively overseeing and enforcing ethical mandates of behaviour, and the neutral and efficient implementation of judicial duties, including adherence to international standards and best practices. The discussion will also highlight the importance of community education, participation and public oversight in the administration of justice and reform efforts.

## Key Objectives:

- To facilitate a discussion among panellists and with audience members regarding the critical functions of judicial inspectorates and judicial councils, and the challenges faced in the implementation of those responsibilities.
- To facilitate a discussion around the ongoing training needs and capacity building of judicial actors and institutions to further integrity reforms.

## Specific Questions and Discussion Points:

- Functions of judicial training institutes, supreme judicial councils and inspectorates as they relate to integrity, efficiency and accountability.
- Challenges of the implementation of those tasks and duties.
- The critical role of professional associations and civil society actors in furthering community involvement, participation and accountability.

## Proposed Outcomes of the Session:

Sharing of information and best practices among participants across the MENA region and globally on matters related to judicial independence, integrity, transparency and efficiency.