RULE OF LAW PRACTITIONERS COURSE
22-26 June 2015
Washington, DC

Background

In conflict and post-conflict states, the strengthening of the rule of law is regarded as a first-order priority in preventing future conflict and in ensuring sustainable peace and security. It is also seen as a key element in ensuring access to justice for the population, promoting economic and political development, ensuring human security, eradicating poverty and promoting human rights. Currently, there are a broad range of individuals and organizations - international and national, governmental and non-governmental, military and civilian - engaged in rule of law promotion around the world. Experience has shown that this can be a challenging and complex task for which most practitioners receive little, if any, training. To work effectively, practitioners require a broad array of legal and non-legal knowledge and skills.

Course Objectives

The *USIP Rule of Law Practitioners Course* provides a unique opportunity for practitioners to develop their core rule of law knowledge and skills. Drawing upon on-the-ground experience, lessons learned and examples of good practice, the course offers a comprehensive introduction to the rule of law from theory to practical application. This course goes beyond the traditional parameters of rule of law training, which is often solely focused on the state, the law and technical solutions, and draws upon a multitude of complementary fields of practice to offer examples of creative approaches to promoting the rule of law. The course is tailored to rule of law professionals, whether they come from a legal, development, military, government, NGO, international organization, private sector or academic background; those who are new to this field of practice and more seasoned practitioners.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Define the "rule of law" as a concept and as a practical end-state for post-conflict states;
- Understand the historical origins of rule of law assistance and identify the various actors engaged in the rule of law field;
- Understand and apply over-arching rule of law "principles of engagement" that apply to the work of the international community;
- Conduct a rule of law mapping and assessment;
- Understand the nature of change and mechanisms to manage change processes;

- Design and implement context-appropriate projects that promote the rule of law in a post-conflict state; and
- Develop an effective system for monitoring and evaluating rule of law assistance efforts.

Delivery Methodology

The course will be delivered through a variety of methodologies that seek to maximize the learning experience. Fundamentally, the course aims to cultivate an environment of knowledge and experience sharing amongst the participants and other international experts. With an emphasis on "problem-based learning" or "learning by doing", facilitated discussions will be supplemented by simulation exercises, group work, problem scenarios, role-play, DVD/multi-media presentations and more.

The course will be facilitated and delivered by a range of specialists with backgrounds in rule of law promotion, both from an academic and practical perspective. Case studies and examples will be drawn from a variety of states where rule of law promotion has been ongoing, including Libya, Yemen, Burma, Liberia, Timor Leste, Kosovo, Haiti, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Kenya, Uganda and Bangladesh.

Course Requirements

Participants enrolled in this course will find that it is intensive in nature given the breadth of materials being covered. ***Participants are expected to attend every session***, complete all pre-readings; and actively participate in all group discussions, exercises, and case studies.

Timing

This course is taught as an intensive 5 day course from 22-26 June 2015 inclusive.

Contact Information

Course Lead: Leanne McKay
Email: lmckay@usip.org

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DRAFT AGENDA

DAY 1
Theme: Introduction to the rule of law, the international rule of law assistance community and principles of engagement

8:45 am – 9:00 am	**Registration**
9:00 am – 9:45 am	**Welcome and Overview**
9:45 am – 10:30 am	**Introduction**
10:30 am – 10:45 am	**Break**
10:45 am – 1:00 pm	**SESSION 1: EXPLORING THE 'RULE OF LAW'** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	**Lunch**
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	**SESSION 2: INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW ASSISTANCE: THE HISTORY, COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	**Break**
3: 15 pm – 4:30 pm	**SESSION 2: INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW ASSISTANCE: THE HISTORY, COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES (CONT.)** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*

DAY 2
Theme: Understanding the justice system and taking a systematic approach to promoting the rule of law.

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Overview of Day 1**

9:15 am – 10:30 am **SESSION 3: THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**
Resource Person: Leanne McKay

10:30 am – 10:45 am **Break**

10:45 am – 1:00 pm **SESSION 4: LEGAL PLURALISM AND NON-STATE JUSTICE**
Resource Persons: Leanne McKay
- Legal Pluralism as a framework for understanding post-conflict justice systems
- What is the nature of customary justice systems?
- What are some of their features?
- What are their strengths and weaknesses?

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Lunch**

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm **SESSION 5: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO RULE OF LAW**
Resource Person: Leanne McKay

DAY 3
Theme: Understanding the role of change theory in rule of law promotion, designing effective and contextually relevant rule of law initiatives to promote change.

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Overview of Day 2**

9:15 am – 11:00 am **SESSION 6: RULE OF LAW AND CHANGE**
Resource Person: George White and Leanne McKay

11:00 am – 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 am – 1:00 pm **SESSION 6: RULE OF LAW AND CHANGE (CONT.)**
Resource Person: George White and Leanne McKay

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm **Lunch**

2:00 pm- 3:15 pm **SESSION 7: POLICE REFORM**
Resource Person: Bill O'Neill

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	**Break**
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	**SESSION 8: PRISON REFORM** *Resource Person: Fiona Mangan*

DAY 4
Theme: Exploring the role of the state and society when designing effective and contextually relevant rule of law initiatives to promote change.

9:00 am – 9:15 am	**Overview of Day 3**
9:15 am – 11:00 am	**SESSION 9: JUDICIAL REFORM** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*
11:00 am – 11:15 am	**Break**
11:15 am – 1: 00 pm	**SESSION 10: THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	**Lunch**
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	**SESSION 10: THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PROMOTING THE RULE OF LAW (CONT.)** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	**Break**
3:30 pm – 4:45 pm	**SESSION 11: RULE OF LAW PROJECT DESIGN** *Resource Person: Leanne McKay*

DAY 5
Theme: Putting the rule of law theory into practice.

9:00 am – 9:15 am	**Overview of Day 4**
9:15 am – 10:30 am	**SESSION 12: MONITORING AND EVALUATION** *Resource Persons: Christina Murtaugh*
10:30 am – 10:45 am	**Break**

10:45 am – 12:30 pm	**SESSION 13: THE RULE OF LAW IN PRACTICE**
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	**Lunch**
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	**SESSION 13: THE RULE OF LAW IN PRACTICE (CONT.)**
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	**Debrief, Evaluation and Closing of Course**