



Partnership for Transparency's
| Barry Metzger
Rule of Law Initiative |



OUR SERVICES

NETWORKING

Connecting civil society organizations whose work supports rule of law, freedom of information, exposing and correcting conflicts of interest, and judicial reform to the resources their projects need to succeed.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Sponsoring both online and on-site opportunities to exchange experiences, learn from best practices, and build the capacity of citizen groups to hold their governments accountable.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Providing expert technical assistance to strengthen the ability of citizen groups to promote good governance through constructive engagement with authorities.

The Barry Metzger Rule of Law Initiative encourages citizen engagement to promote systems of justice that respect individual rights, equality, dignity, and respect for all before the law.

Corruption and weak rule-of-law often go hand-in-hand. A lack of transparency and accountability in a country's judicial system not only causes dysfunction, but damages society's confidence in government institutions, including the court.

Conversely, enactment of appropriate legislation prohibiting conflict of interest and the acceptance of bribes can reduce incidence of corruption.

The Rule of Law Initiative named after PTF founder Barry Metzger is designed to honor his memory by promoting systems of justice that respect individual rights, equality, dignity, and respect for all before the law. Through the Initiative, PTF is promoting the rule of law in developing countries by strengthening civil society institutions to bring about fair and just governance through citizen action.

Our ambition is to help emerging civil society leaders build more transparent and accountable government institutions; level the playing field for businesses seeking to compete honestly; and improve outcomes for ordinary citizens. We accomplish this by mobilizing resources and providing technical advice to local organizations that engage citizens in activities that reduce opportunities for corruption and improve the skills of justice sector professionals to hold their governments accountable.

In 2017, we are focusing on developing the rule of law in the Western Balkans and Africa:

- A regional network to strengthen the judiciary of Western Balkans countries on the path to European Union (EU) accession (ReView 23)
- Expanding on our past work in training legal advocates to represent clients in gender-based violence (GBV) cases in Africa and beyond.

BARRY METZGER



Barry Metzger, a founder of PTF and board member until his untimely death in 2012, worked tirelessly to promote justice in some of the world's poorest countries. The "Rule of Law Initiative" bearing his name is designed to continue his work. It is the mission of the Metzger Initiative to fund civil society projects in developing countries to assist them in addressing fundamental tools that play a part in bringing about a society governed by the rule of law.

If you want to fight against corruption you can easily develop the program with the support of PTF... We're now working on new initiatives to build institutions and help the region develop real practices and to have some concrete results."

Milan Antonijevic
Director, Lawyers
Committee for Human
Rights (YUCOM)

GBV Legal Training Expansion



PTF is currently exploring opportunities with local civil society partners to expand on the Balkans GBV legal training and begin similar projects in Southern and Eastern Africa.

PROGRAMS

REGIONAL NETWORK IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

"ReView23" is a regional network of partner CSOs in the Western Balkans (Serbia, Macedonia, and Montenegro) who share a common goal to gain membership in the European Union. The network supports these countries to meet the requirements of the specific rule of law and judicial reform targets set out by the EU, in Chapter 23 of its pre-accession documents, by providing a structure for building and sharing knowledge related to the technical requirements for membership in the EU.

The CSO housing the ReView23 Secretariat is the Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights (YUCOM) in Serbia, which led past PTF-supported projects to improve judicial process through trial monitoring. The projects trained more than 80 human rights activists, journalists, and citizen volunteers as monitors to document court procedures and report the results in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

BUILDING GBV ADVOCATES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

In 2016, the Metzger Initiative partnered with the American Bar Association's Balkans Regional Rule of Law Network (BBRLN) and international law firm Hogan Lovells to increase the capacity of advocates to represent clients in gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination cases in Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The bar associations of the five countries have identified increased specialization of the legal profession as a key area for reform.

The project was made up of three sections: a GBV working group of licensed advocates and civil society activists; a training program to enhance the competency of lawyers and civil society activists to represent victims of gender-based violence and discrimination; and collaboration between Hogan Lovells and regional advocates to support litigation and reform in the area of gender-based violence. PTF and its partners improved the ability of local leaders to ensure that victims of GBV are provided with fair legal recourse.