

TO: Fellow ABA Int'l Law Section (ILS) Members (bcc ILS member email addresses)
FROM: Michael H. Byowitz (mhbyowitz@wlrk.com)
RE: ABA ILS Afghan Professionals Pilot Program Needs YOUR ASSISTANCE!

You may know me from my involvement in the ABA ILS, ABA Board of Governors (BOG), and ABA House of Delegates, and through my antitrust practice at Wachtell Lipton. I currently lead the **ABA ILS Afghan Legal Professionals Scholarship and Mentoring Pilot Program (Pilot Program)**, which, with BOG approval, is working to aid Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers to qualify as lawyers or gain law-related employment within the U.S. legal system.

The **Pilot Program** is seeking online donations from ABA leaders and active members. We also have begun reaching out to law firms, foundations, and others. Suggestions for outreach and introductions to perspective donors would be appreciated.

The **Pilot Program** needs volunteers from across all areas of practice to join with the **Afghan Professionals Resettlement Task Force (Task Force)** to help with our work as well. In addition, volunteers may apply to serve as **Mentors** in the **Pilot Program**. In these capacities, volunteers may, for example, mentor Afghan legal professionals applying to LLM programs, studying for the bar exam, and seeking employment in the U.S. legal system; help the Task Force with drafting documents needed for agreements with law schools and other co-sponsoring organizations; reach out to state and local bars and law schools for potential partnering with the Task Force; and mentor Afghan legal professionals who seek to qualify for law-related professions—e.g., paralegals, immigration advocates.

With your support, the **Pilot Program** will provide resettled Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers—especially women—access to legal education through LLM programs, which will allow them to sit for a bar exam and pursue career opportunities in the U.S. legal system. The **Pilot Program** is designed to serve our Afghan colleagues who hope to rebuild their legal careers in the U.S. after being driven from Afghanistan with no options to return. For more information about the **Pilot Program**, visit this recent article exploring how the Pilot Program aims to help Afghan legal professionals establish themselves in the United States (<https://www.abajournal.com/web/article/aba-project-aims-to-provide-afghan-legal-professionals-with-tuition-and-expenses-for-llm-programs>).

To earmark your gift to the **Pilot Program**, please go to [ambar.org/donateINTL](https://www.americanbar.org/donateINTL), and select **Afghan Legal Professionals Scholarship** from the **Designation** drop-down menu. All donations go to the ABA Fund for Justice and Education, the ABA's charitable 501(c)3 conduit, so they qualify for a charitable tax deduction. For assistance with your gift of securities or electronic funds transfer (EFT), please contact Ceilanne.Libber@americanbar.org. Thank you for considering joining forces with the ABA, the legal services community, law firms, and corporate partners to extend a lifeline to Afghan refugee legal professionals. Please contact me, mhbyowitz@wlrk.com, if you have questions, want to volunteer, or have suggestions for others who might be interested in assisting.