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**Hebron University**  
College of Law and Political Science

**Call for Paper Abstracts**

**THE LAW PROFESSION IN PALESTINE IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT**

*PROSPECTS FOR REFORM*

*An International Conference*

Hebron City, Palestine  
23-24 November 2016

**Topic and Timing**

Hebron University College of Law and Political Science (in partnership with Al-Najah National University, Birzeit University, Al-Quds University and the Palestinian Bar Association and a number of Netherlands universities), will organize an international conference on the legal profession in Palestine and the prospects for its reform, taking into consideration experiences from other countries of the world. The conference will take place on 23 and 24 November 2016 at Hebron University campus, West Bank, Palestine. The conference organizers call upon law professors, researchers and jurists from any country in the world to submit paper abstracts (about 300 words) to be presented at the conference.

**Context**

Notwithstanding all challenges that faced Palestine over the past century, Palestinian lawyers managed to build a well-established bar association comparable to those bars existing in independent states. The Palestinian Bar Association is an elected institution that manages the law profession, defends lawyers' interests, and oversees legal ethics.

The genesis of the current Palestinian Bar Association is attributed to the first meeting of Palestinian Arab lawyers in Ramallah for the purpose of creating an Arab Palestinian Bar in 1945. Fragmented after the geographical partition of Palestine in 1948-1949 war, lawyers have always been contemplating establishing representative bodies. Under Israeli occupation after 1967, Palestinian lawyers managed to set up three representative bodies: one for Gaza lawyers, one for practicing West Bank lawyers, and a third represented West Bank striking

lawyers affiliated with the Jordanian Bar Association. Palestinians had to wait for half a century to re-initiate the discussion on the formation of one Palestinian Bar in 1994. The dream started to be realized with the adoption of presidential decree that unified the three factions under a transitional bar council that lasted until 2003, when the first election of the Palestinian Bar was conducted. This Bar achieved significant results, including setting up the legal basis for law profession (the current 1999 Advocates Law), building relations with judicial institutions nationally and globally, adopting social security scheme for lawyers, and instituting traditions for legal ethics and professional responsibility.

Yet there are still challenges ahead that face the Palestinian Bar Association. The involvement of female lawyers in leadership positions is still in its infancy phase notwithstanding the increasing number of females in the profession. The apprenticeship system for young lawyers should be reformed with a view to provide meaningful training and to maintain quality control for those who enter the profession. Legal ethics should be regularized based on the existing traditions in Palestine, on one hand, and by drawing from experiences of other stable countries, on the other. Criteria for lawyers' fees need to be introduced based on a carefully designed analysis. The Bar Association should adopt and lead a comprehensive system for legal aid, probably in collaboration with university law clinics. Yet politicization of the law profession remains the main challenge with the division between the West Bank and Gaza by the Israeli military occupation as well as by the current Palestinian split.

A detailed paper on the law profession in Palestine is attached.

### **Conference Themes**

Proposed papers can be written in English or Arabic on any of the following issues:

- Developments of the law profession in Palestine and challenges facing it.
- The law governing lawyers.
- Bar associations.
- Qualifications for the law profession.
- Quality control for those who enter the law profession and continuing legal education.
- The apprenticeship system.
- Rights and obligations of lawyers.
- Law profession and gender.
- Lawyers and legal aid.
- Legal ethics.
- Disciplinary measures against lawyers who violate professional responsibility.
- Bar examinations.
- Lawyer fees.
- Relations of the law profession with legal education: law schools, practical lawyering diplomas, lawyers institutes, legal clinics, law curricula, and teaching legal ethics.
- Relations of lawyers with the judiciary and prosecution.

### **Speakers**

Speakers at the conference will come from Palestinian universities, particularly An-Najah, Birzeit, Al-Quds and Hebron; from the Palestinian Bar Association, judges, prosecutors,

NGOs, as well as experts from the Netherlands universities and other legal experts from various parts of the world.

### **Administrative Aspects**

There are no registration fees. Participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses. However, the conference organizers will cover the meals for the two days of the conference. Upon request, hotel accommodation for participants coming from outside Palestine or from outside Hebron or Bethlehem will be provided at the expense of the conference organizers. Limited airfare subsidy (up to 500 Euros) might be available for five international participants who submit distinguished paper proposals and who otherwise would not be able to participate.

### **Conference Steering Committee**

- Dr. Mutaz Qafiaheh, Dean, College of Law & Political Science, Hebron University.
- Dr. Akram Daoud, Dean, Faculty of Law, An-Najah National University.
- Dr. Yaser Amouri, Dean, Faculty of Law & Public Administration, Birzeit University.
- Dr. Musa Dweik, Dean, Faculty of Law, Al-Quds University.

### **Organizational Committee (Hebron University)**

- Dr. Mutaz Qafisheh, Associate Professor of International Law, Conference President.
- Dr. Bassam Qawasmeh, Assistant Professor of Law, Conference Rapporteur.
- Dr. Ahmad Switti, Head, Department of Private Law, Member.
- Dr. Ratib Jabari, Assistant Professor of Law, Member.
- Dr. Isam Milhem, Assistant Professor of Law, Member.
- Ms. Diana Khleif, Lecturer of Law, Member.
- Mr. Bilal Fannoun, Lecturer of Law, Coordinator (English).
- Mr. Hendam Rjoub, Coordinator of Hebron Legal Clinics, Coordinator (Arabic).

### **Timeline**

- Deadline for paper abstract submission: 10 October 2016.
- Date for the notification of the acceptance of paper proposals: 20 October 2016.
- Conference time: Wednesday and Thursday, 23-24 November 2016.

### **Paper Submission**

Proposed paper abstracts, along with the participant's CV and her/his full contact information, can be sent to:

- In English to: Mr. Bilal Fannoun: [bilal3mran@gmail.com](mailto:bilal3mran@gmail.com)
- In Arabic to: Mr. Hendam Rjoub: [hendamr@hebron.edu](mailto:hendamr@hebron.edu)