

Female judges in the Arab Region and their impact on judicial practice

Closed Workshop: May 16, 2024

Participants biographies



LEBANON

Rana Akoum

Judge Dr. Rana Akoum is the head of the Enforcement Court in Jdeidet el Metn, Mount Lebanon Governorate, Lebanon. Her areas of expertise include Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Related Laws, Central Banks, Banking Laws, Statelessness, Nationality Laws, and human rights. She has been in the judiciary for around 20 years. She is also the focal point for Anti-Corruption Cooperation at the Ministry of Justice with UNODC since 2015, and has been representing the Ministry of Justice at the Parliamentary “Justice and Administration” Committee on drafting Anti-Corruption Laws. Currently, Judge Rana Akoum is the head of the “Task Team on the Compliance of Anti-Corruption Legislations with International Standards” established by the Minister of State for Administrative Reform. She is also the Head of the Office on International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance at the Ministry of Justice. Ms. Akoum studied law and holds a PhD in private law from the Lebanese University in Beirut.

JORDAN

Samar Alshayeb

Samar Alshayeb is a retired judge and lawyer based in Amman, Jordan, who mostly specialized in fields of private law, such as commercial, tax and banks law, as well as labor law. She started her work as a magistrate judge in labor cases in 2002 after previously working as a lawyer for the Arab Bank and the Alshayeb law firm. Judge Alshayeb practiced as a judge and chief judge for over 18 years, mostly at the Amman Appeals Court. In 2012, she completed an LL.M. in International Legal Studies at the American University in Washington, D.C. as a Fullbright scholar. She participated in numerous international and regional conferences and seminars.



Philipp Bremer

Philipp Bremer joined Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) as Director of the Rule of Law Programme Middle East and North Africa based in Beirut in July 2021. Previously, he worked as an Associate (Rechtsanwalt) with an international law firm in Düsseldorf, Germany. He studied law at the University of Mannheim and completed his legal training, among other positions, with Axel Voss, MdEP at the European Parliament in Brussels and in the office of Minister of State Prof. Maria Böhmer, MdB in the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.



Rola El-Husseini

Dr. Rola El-Husseini is an associate professor with the department of political science at Lund University (Sweden) where she has been working since September 2017. She received her PhD from the *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales* in Paris (France) and was a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University (USA) before holding several positions at American universities including Texas A&M University, CUNY Graduate Center, and George Washington University. Her areas of expertise include Middle Eastern politics, political Islam (especially Shi'ism) and gender, Islam, and politics. Her first book *Pax Syriana: Elite Politics in Post-war Lebanon* was published by Syracuse University Press in 2012. She is currently finalizing a book manuscript on women and politics in eight Arab countries since the Arab Uprisings.

EGYPT

Sherin Hafez Moussa Farhoud



Judge Sherin Farhoud is the current Head of the Commissioners' Board at the Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt. She is the first female judge to hold this position since the establishment of the Supreme Constitutional Court in 1979. Judge Farhoud joined the Commissioners' Board in 2005 after a two-year secondment. Prior to joining, Judge Farhoud served as Chief Prosecutor at the Technical Office of the Administrative Prosecution in Alexandria.

In addition to her roles, Judge Farhoud has participated in several high-level Judicial conferences. Most recently, she joined the Chief Justice and Head of the Supreme Constitutional Court Judge Boules Fahmy in the annual meeting of the Venice Commission Council of Europe representing the Union of Arab Constitutional Courts and Councils. She participated in all editions of the Cairo Meetings of the Chief Justices and Presidents of African Constitutional Courts and Councils held in Cairo under the auspices of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. Judge Farhoud has published sev-

eral articles including *Egyptian Women's Empowerment in the Supreme Constitutional Court* and *The Requirements of Positive Discrimination and the Concept of Empowerment* in the Supreme Constitutional Court's journal.



Valeska Heldt

Valeska Heldt, LL.M. is a German lawyer by training, who joined KAS' Rule of Law Programme for the Middle East & North Africa as a Research Fellow in Beirut in June 2022. Valeska previously worked in the field of international criminal law, as an investigator in a US-based fact-finding mission related to the Rwandan Genocide, and later as a legal trainee on cases of universal jurisdiction counselling Yazidi victims of ISIS-led crimes in Germany. She holds an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from Georgetown University (Washington, D.C., USA) (2018).

LEBANON

Tatiana Karam



Judge Tatiana Karam has been serving as a Lebanese Judge since 2016, a position she attained at the age of 23, making her one of the youngest Trainee Judges in Lebanon. Currently, she is appointed to the 6th Chamber of the Tribunal of First Instance of Beirut, where the Chamber presides over cases involving criminal juveniles, financial matters, and customs issues. From August 2022 to March 2023, Ms. Karam was appointed to assist in the investigations into the Beirut port explosion alongside Judge Bitar. She holds a degree in Law and an LL.M in Business Law from Saint Joseph University – Beirut (USJ). She recently completed the "Leaders for Justice" program organized by the KAS MENA Rule of Law Programme. She has also been engaged in mediation training with LAMAC (the Lebanese Association for Mediation and Conciliation) to effectively integrate mediation into her judicial role.

EGYPT

Yousra Mohamed Kamal Abdelfattah Ghanem



Counselor Yousra Kamal is a counselor at the Egyptian State Lawsuits Authority (ESLA), specializing in international commercial law and arbitration. She obtained her LL.M. from Pepperdine School of Law in California. Ms. Kamal joined ESLA in 2013 and works in the Foreign Disputes and International Cooperation Department. ESLA is a judicial authority responsible for defending the Egyptian government before courts and arbitration tribunals. In her role, Ms. Kamal handles international arbitration cases, international law related matters, and international cooperation issues. Kamal is proactive in her professional development, attending conferences and courses such as the Executive Training on Investment Treaties and Arbitration for Government Officials offered by the Columbia Center, the Intensive Program in European Law and Economics at the Riga Graduate School of Law, and Online course "Patent Law and Global Public Health "PatentX" offered by Harvard Law School and WIPO Academy.



LEBANON

Mayssam Noueiri

Mayssam Noueiri is a retired judge, now closely working with civil society organisations in Lebanon with the main goal to regain the democratic state and fight corruption in Lebanese institutions. Before retiring, Ms. Noueiri served as the Director-General of the Ministry of Justice (June 2014 – March 2019). Prior to this, she was a member of the commercial chamber of the Beirut Court of Appeals. She headed the said commercial chamber for 14 years, and was additionally named the First President of the Beirut Court of Appeals during the last four years before her nomination as the Director-General of the Ministry of Justice. Judge Noueiri holds a Diploma of Law from St-joseph University (USJ) in Beirut, a master's degree in political science from the American University of Beirut, and Comparative Law diploma from the Institut Français de Droit Comparé - Paris.



MOROCCO

Salima Rouhi

Judge Salima Rouhi is a judge on the Trade Court of first instance of Casablanca and a member of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and her Moroccan chapter the Union of Moroccan Women Judges (UMAWJ). She currently holds the post of secretary-general within the Union of Women Judges and the post of regional director for the Europe/MENA region among the IAWJ. Previously, she chaired the Chamber of tort cases, the Chamber of Violence against women and children and the Chamber of the Labor Law. She was a member of the Chamber of personal status of Moroccan expatriates (mixed-race marriage, exequatur). She is currently a PhD candidate at the Civil Law Laboratory, French Section, at Abdelmalek Saadi University in the city of Tangier, where she is conducting research for her thesis titled *The Judge and the Contract: Towards a Legal Humanism*.