

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION RULE OF LAW INITIATIVE

*Promoting the Rule of Law in Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia
Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa*

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22 December 2009

Mr Ermir Dobjani
People's Advocate / Ombudsman
Office of the People's Advocate
Tirana, Albania

Dear Mr. Dobjani:

Please allow me to express my most sincere appreciation for your invitation to attend the 10th Anniversary celebration of the People's Advocate institution in Albania, and my thanks for the most warm and hospitable reception you and your staff showed me and all the guests at the event on 10 December 2009.

The anniversary celebration was a remarkable way to highlight the great progress your institution has made since its creation 10 years ago, and its importance as a defender of human rights in Albania. The way you have used the unique voice of the institution to shape public debate and encourage respect for human rights principles in Albania is a credit to the concept of Ombudsman institutions, and should be an inspiration for other similar institutions throughout the region.

ABA ROLI (then called ABA CEELI) was proud to support the People's Advocate Institution during its creation and early development in Albania, and it was an honor to be present with you to mark 10 years of continued efforts. The 2008 Judicial Reform Index for Albania, published by ABA ROLI this year, remarked that "the People's Advocate's activities over the last three years have produced a cultural shift among the people, from skepticism to the belief that the PA is doing its job to defend their rights".

I wish you and the whole institution continued courage, growth and success in the next 10 years and beyond.

Warm regards,

Gina Schaar
Country Director Kosovo