

**MIN CHOON LEE**  
CHAIRMAN, GLOBAL COUNCIL  
**BRENT M. MCBURNEY**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

[MINCHOON.LEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MINCHOON.LEE@GMAIL.COM)  
[BMCBURNEY@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG](mailto:BMCBURNEY@ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG)  
[WWW.ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://WWW.ADVOCATESINTERNATIONAL.ORG)

**AUGUST 2015**

**"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;  
and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,  
not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging  
one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25**

**Dear Friends,**

One of the strongest aspects of Advocates' ministry is the coming together face-to-face with brothers and sisters to encourage one another. In many places, our advocates are under daily attacks against their faith and need our prayers. Many represent clients who are persecuted. Too often, they find themselves an island in a sea of hatred, discouraged, tired. Being able to join together with like-minded advocates, they find solidarity and encouragement. The next three months bring three such opportunities.

First, Advocates Africa will be holding its 11<sup>th</sup> bi-annual continental conference from August 12-16 in Cape Town, South Africa. The theme for the conference is religious liberty. We greatly appreciate your continued prayers between now and throughout the conference as many who had hoped to attend face challenges with travel visas. In addition to the conference, the Global Council will be meeting together, as will the Advocates board of directors.

Second, the Federación Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos (FIAJC) will be holding its 11<sup>th</sup> Convencion Latin Americanas de Abogados Cristianos (CLAC), in San Salvador, El Salvador from September 3-6. Please continue to pray for all of our sisters and brothers from across Latin America as they continue to finalize plans for attending this key gathering. The general theme of the XI CLAC is fighting violence in the region.

Third, Advocates Asia will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> annual conference from October 22-24 in New Delhi, India. Please pray for our colleagues in India as they continue to seek approvals for holding the conference and for the details associated with travels and visas for all those planning to attend.

Finally, enclosed with this letter is Part Three of the story of the Rule of Law Institute Bulgaria. I know that you will be encouraged by it. Thanks again for your prayers and financial gifts that help us to stimulate Christian advocates to love and good deeds, and enable them to "not forsake" assembling together in Africa, Latin America, Asia and around the world.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney  
President and CEO



**“RULE OF LAW INSTITUTE” DURING THE PERIOD 2007- 2015:  
AFTER THE ACCESSION OF BULGARIA INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION  
Latchezar Popov, Esq., Chairman of the Rule of Law Institute**

After the accession of Bulgaria into the European Union (EU), major political, economic, and legal changes occurred. Since then, all Bulgarian legislation must follow the decisions of the European Commission and European Parliament; as well as submit to the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union. Accordingly, we started doing activities in Bulgaria through partnerships with our neighbors and countries from the European Union.

The Rule of Law Institute (RLI) became one of the founders of the “Balkan Human Rights Network” with the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. Also, RLI began to gather Christian lawyers from our neighboring countries in Southeast Europe.

The Institute contracted with the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior to train police officers and cadets from the Academy of Ministry of Interior with our “Police Manual on Human Rights.” In the Academy, we trained 120 policemen and policewomen, plus thirty cadets from around the country.

Within the Balkan Human Rights Network, we wrote the “Balkan Quick Check,” and the user’s guide to it. The aim of these tools are to help businesses detect potential human rights violations caused by the effect of their operations on the employees, local residents, and all stakeholders. We also created a tool called “Human Rights and Business Country Risk Briefing on Bulgaria.”

In 2008, together with fifty NGOs and experts, we addressed the unconstitutionality of a bill for amending the Family Code aiming to legalize “non-marital cohabitation.” As a result, the Parliament stopped discussing the bill. That same year we effectively stopped local legislation in Burgas, one of the biggest Bulgarian municipalities near the Black Sea. A local legislator attempted to pass a law prohibiting the building of Christian temples—except for traditional Eastern Orthodox temples—within less than 300 meters from schools and kindergartens. Also, we sent a written statement to the Council of Ministers arguing why the proposed bill for amending the Creeds Act would not work according to international legislation. The bill proposed that 1,000 people start a registered denomination—our efforts stopped the bill.

At the annual gathering of the European Federalists held in Sofia, the chairman of RLI gave a speech and established our official motto: “Rule of Law and Ethics.” To achieve this goal of “rule of law and ethics,” we began having monthly prayer business breakfasts and inviting experts and key leaders for a discussion about Christian ideas.

Since 2007, we focused on the fight against corruption, and presented at multiple conferences in Bulgaria organized by the Bulgarian Union of Municipal Officers. In 2010, we organized a major international conference in Sofia with the topic “Corruption and the International Achievement in its Prevention” in which foreign judges attended and lectured.

During 2012, in collaboration with officers from Supreme Court of Cassation, Supreme Cassation Prosecutor's Office, Chamber of the Notaries, Bar Association, Chamber of the Builders, Ministry of Interior, and the Union of Jurists, we offered The Council of Ministers, Ministry for Regional Development, and Ministry of Justice a proposal for amending legislation for the preliminary contracts in the field of construction and sales properties in cash.

Recently, we gave an official statement by memorandum on the proposed draft for the Law on Judiciary. The proposed draft discussed the terms of the requirements for the appointment of judges, prosecutors, and investigators. The Union of Jurists and Bar Association appreciated our statements and published it on their websites.

Currently we are working on a project to amend the Penal Code in Bulgaria in terms of increasing the rights of NGOs to accept and rehabilitate convicted persons with sentences less than two years in prison.

This year's intern from Regent Law greatly appreciated and enjoyed working on these projects. We continue to receive interns, from different law schools, who spend a month or more with us learning and writing about European legislation and the integration of faith and practice.

In line with our motto for ethics, we translated and published the book "Peacemaker" and its related brochure in 2007. We organized two levels of courses for teaching peacemaking in Sofia, the capitol, as well as Plovdiv, and the towns Stara Zagora and Pleven. Just this month I gave the "Peacemaker" presentation and training to sheltered people from a Bulgarian NGO that deals with vulnerable groups such as alcoholics and drug addicted persons.

During our bi-monthly meetings we taught our groups the book "When Christians Act as Christians: God's Call to Christ-like Civility" by Jeffery Rosenau and the booklet "Your Personal Encourager" by Selwyn Hughes. With permission from the manager of Character First Ministry, we published the brochure titled "Bible Stories and Memory Verses for 49 Character Qualities" in Bulgarian. This brochure provoked our next topic on how to build and maintain Christian character. The same topic was discussed during our annual 2013 RLI national conference.

Last month we celebrated RLI's 20-year anniversary with a special forum where we discussed integrity as a necessary component of our work as lawyers. Honorary diplomas were given to the judges, professors, and members for their distinctive contributions. Among the speakers were two bright young ones—one a student, the other an attorney—around the age of 25 whom we consider our third generation of RLI lawyers.

We planned and developed a program for the annual conferences through 2017. In 2016, the national conference will take place in Plovdiv—the second largest city of Bulgaria—with the topic being the "Rule of Law and the Truth." In 2017, the Conference will be held in our seaside capital Varna.

We continue our bi-monthly meetings with lawyers and journalists for education and encouragement of the integration of our faith and practice. As a rule, we invite special designated speakers to speak about this specific topics.

As the next generation grows, we strive to live and work according to what we understand as a calling for us in our legal profession.

**This is Part Three of a three-part celebration of the  
20th Anniversary of the Rule of Law Institute, Bulgaria.**

**(AUGUST 2015)**