

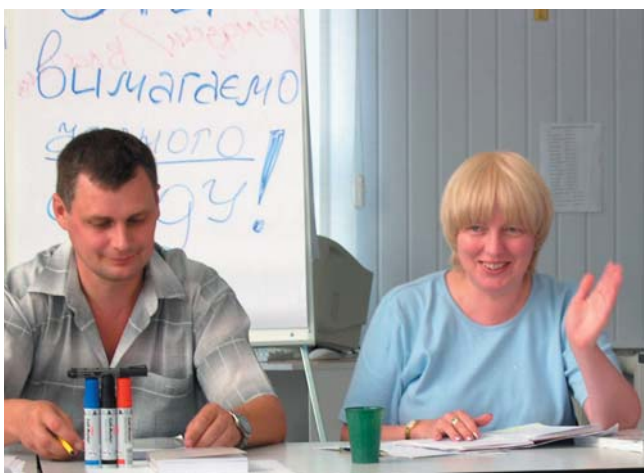


## Through Legislation, Research and Education, the Media Law Institute is Transforming Media in Ukraine

led by media lawyer Taras Shevchenko, the Kyiv Media Law Institute (MLI) supports media law development, freedom of speech and access to information in Ukraine through legislative work, research, and education. The institute monitors and comments on draft laws brought forth at parliamentary hearings, develops new media and information law curricula for law and journalism schools, and cooperates with Ukrainian and international organizations to protect freedom of speech and journalists' rights.

Topics of concentration for MLI at present include creation of public broadcasting in Ukraine, privatization of the print sector, transparency of media ownership, and development of a new state information policy and regulations on the media.

MLI was founded in 2005 and operates with the support of the non-governmental organization (NGO) Internews Network and its Strengthening Independent Media in Ukraine (U-Media) Program.



Moot court judges at the 2005 Media Law Summer School.

### LEGISLATIVE WORK

- **PSB Draft Law:** MLI presented its own draft law on Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) to the Ukrainian Parliament in April 2005. During the drafting process, MLI launched a public education campaign and published and distributed its book, *European Standards of Public Service Broadcasting*, to government ministers, members of Parliament, the National Council on TV and Radio, the Central Election Committee, the Supreme Court, and others. MLI's director served on the working group in Parliament that developed the official draft law on public service broadcasting using a substantial part of the MLI draft.

- **Election Law Amendments:** In July 2005, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted a new election law that included several amendments on the media proposed by MLI. In particular, Parliament removed from a previous law the provision that a journalist could comment on a party's program only if it was paid for by another political party. MLI was first to target this provision as non-democratic and, on June 23rd, it issued a widely distributed statement to this effect. MLI also worked on provisions that have already become part of the election law — such as the candi-



Ukrainian lawyers and law students participated in the Media Law Summer School in 2005.

dates' right to reply when they believe the media has defamed them. The previous law prescribed that, in such cases, the media were automatically obliged to refute the information.

### RESEARCH

- **Media Law Curricula:** The Institute develops, publishes, and institutionalizes new curricula on media and information laws for law and journalism schools, actively cooperating with Ukrainian and international organizations in research activities which investigate such issues as how best to support the protection of freedom of speech and journalists' rights.

- **Resource Center:** The MLI also functions as a resource center for U-Media partners and other organizations, including media associations, media outlets, journalists, state institutions, universities, and students. The Institute provides support in the form of analysis, legal commentaries, and publications, such as MLI's

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weekly electronic bulletin *Media Law and Practice in Ukraine*. The organization also maintains a web site: [www.medialaw.kiev.ua](http://www.medialaw.kiev.ua).

## EDUCATION

• **Distance Learning:** In March 2005, with 37 students participating, MLI initiated the first Internet media law course in Ukraine — a distance-learning program for journalists. The course addresses the lack of legal knowledge among journalists, while allowing participants to continue their professional work without interruption.

Students in this program are chosen on a competitive basis and represent electronic and print media in Kyiv and the regions of Ukraine. Participants receive 21 lessons



Federica Prina from Article 19, left, leads an MLI seminar discussion.

per course, along with additional Internet resources, and are tested via e-mail. Course topics include freedom of speech, access to information, copyright, protection of journalists' sources, defamation, protection of privacy, European Court standards, public service broadcasting, and differences in regulation between print and electronic media.

• **Summer School:** In the summer of 2005, MLI launched the first Media Law Summer School in Ukraine — a professional training program for Ukrainian lawyers and law students. The summer school focused on the European Convention on Human Rights, the case law of the European Court on Article 10, and other media-related articles, as well as on Ukrainian legislation concerning media law issues. The three-week program featured lectures by Ukrainian and foreign media law experts.

More information about MLI and its current activities can be found on the Institute's web site listed above.

Internews Network's U-Media Project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

## MEDIA LAW INSTITUTE STAFF

**Taras Shevchenko**, Director of the Kyiv Media Law Institute (MLI) holds a Master's degree in law from Kyiv National University, Ukraine. He studied human rights at Birmingham University, United Kingdom, in 2002, and media law at Oxford University, United Kingdom, in



2003. Mr. Shevchenko has worked as an Internews Network media lawyer since 2001 and he currently teaches media law at Kyiv National University's Institute of Journalism. For more information, contact him at: [taras@medialaw.kiev.ua](mailto:taras@medialaw.kiev.ua).

**Ihor Rozkladay** has eight years experience as an information technology (IT) assistant and lawyer working for various organizations and private companies in Ukraine. He is currently working toward a Master's degree in law at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Ukraine. His belief in the need for information development and the protection of human rights and freedom of speech in Ukraine has led him to sign on with the Internews Network and Media Law Institute teams. For more information, contact him at: [irozkladay@medialaw.kiev.ua](mailto:irozkladay@medialaw.kiev.ua).



**Vitalina Pryhodko** is an undergraduate student in journalism at Kyiv National University's Institute of Journalism. She has three years experience as a journalist and editor working for various publishing houses in Ukraine. Before entering university, Ms. Pryhodko



served as a freelance journalist for the Mykolayiv regional newspaper *Ridne Prybuzhzhia*. Upon relocating to Kyiv, she edited women's magazine columns at the Burda Ukraine publishing house in 2003 and produced a culture news column for Karavan Media's *S Toboy!* magazine in 2004. She has served as an assistant at the Media Law Institute since April 2005. For more information, contact her at: [vprihodko@medialaw.kiev.ua](mailto:vprihodko@medialaw.kiev.ua).

**Olha Lyubun**, MLI lawyer, is currently in a Master's degree program in law at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy in Ukraine. She has four years' experience working in the legal, marketing and public relations spheres with Philip Morris Ukraine, Region, Ltd., and the Rosynka Company. Ms. Lyubun's professional interests include advertising regulations, information access and defamation. For more information, contact her at: [olyubun@medialaw.kiev.ua](mailto:olyubun@medialaw.kiev.ua).



ALEXANDRA GANTUSH

## ABOUT INTERNEWS

Internews® Network is an international non-profit organization that works to improve access to information for people around the world by fostering independent media and promoting open communications policies. Internews' programs are built on the conviction that providing people with access to vibrant, diverse news and information empowers them to make their voices heard and to participate effectively in their communities.

Internews projects currently span Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. Formed in 1982, Internews Network, Inc. is a founding member of Internews International, whose members work in 50 countries.

More information about Internews Network and its programs around the world may be found at [www.internews.org](http://www.internews.org).



## For More Information:

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