



Union Internationale des Avocats
International Association of Lawyers
Unión Internacional de Abogados

Rassemblement des avocats du monde • Bringing Together the World's Lawyers • Reunir a los abogados del mundo

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, November 12, 2020

European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL) Awarded the 2020 UIA/LexisNexis Rule of Law Prize

[European Lawyers in Lesvos \(ELIL\)](#), a charitable, non-profit organization, specialising in asylum law and providing free legal assistance to asylum seekers on the Greek islands of Lesvos and Samos, was awarded the 2020 UIA Rule of Law Award in cooperation with LexisNexis.

The Award was presented by Nigel Roberts, VP, Global Associations at LexisNexis and VP and Secretary of [the LexisNexis Rule of Law Foundation](#), and Jacqueline R. Scott, Director General of UIA-IROL ([the UIA Institute for the Rule of Law](#)) at the [opening ceremony](#) of the first UIA Virtual Congress that took place on October 28, 2020.

ELIL is the only organisation on Lesvos that focuses on providing legal information, practical support and tailored advice to asylum seekers. Jointly founded in 2016 by the German Bar Association (DAV) and the European Council of Bar Associations, ELIL operates now as an independent charity with the support of the French *Conseil National des Barreaux (CNB)*.

Since its foundation, more than 215 European lawyers from 18 countries have volunteered with ELIL and – alongside ELIL's team of full-time permanent Greek lawyers – have provided free legal assistance to over 11,000 people.

With this Award, UIA and LexisNexis recognize ELIL's strong commitment to ensuring effective access to justice to refugees by providing independent and informed legal advice to those who desperately need it. In addition, as Ms. Jacqueline Scott highlighted *"Incredibly, [ELIL] has continued its work despite COVID and a tremendous fire that decimated the refugee camp in Lesbos"*.

"As with each and every one of our illustrious previous winners, (...) the European Lawyers in Lesvos have that passion and courage to make a difference, advance the Rule of Law, and change the world for the better", said Nigel Roberts.

UIA believes that ELIL's collective effort is a remarkable example of the role lawyers and the legal profession play - and can continue to play - in upholding and promoting the Rule of Law.

UIA congratulates ELIL's staff, volunteers and supporters for this highly deserved recognition.

The UIA Rule of Law Award in cooperation with LexisNexis

The UIA Rule of Law Prize was created in 2016 in cooperation with LexisNexis to recognise outstanding contributions to the advancement of the rule of law, particularly within the legal community. Since its establishment, it has been awarded successively to the Malaysian Bar in 2016, Mr. Saidbek Nuritdinov, President of the Lawyers' Union of the Republic of Tajikistan, in 2017, to the Honourable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States' Supreme Court in 2018, and to Mr. Bertrand Favreau, President of the European Bar Human Rights Institute (IDHAE), and President and founder of the Jury of the Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize, in 2019.

More about the UIA

UIA is the global and multi-cultural organisation for the legal profession, established in 1927 and now with members in 110 countries, which provides professional development, learning, promotes the rule of law, defends the independence and freedom of lawyers worldwide, and emphasizes friendship, collegiality and networking among members.

For more information go to: www.uianet.org - uiacentre@uianet.org
Press contact: Marie-Pierre LIENARD, Communication Officer mplienard@uianet.org