

Conference:

Strengthening Judicial Capacity to Improve Women's Access to Justice

Session:

Strengthening capacities in the legal professions to improve women's access to justice

Presentation:

Gender equality and women's rights in training for lawyers

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Introduction

Strengthening capacities in the legal professions to improve women's access to justice is one of the priorities in 21st century.

Gender equality is the perfect sign of the democracy of any state and state authorities inside the state. All democratic states try to integrate women in all decision making process, moreover, there are number of countries where exist the special law on quotation for members of parliament that ensures the specific guaranteed amount of women parliamentarians to be involved in legislature bodies of the countries.

European countries, member states of Council of Europe, are signatory parties of the European Convention on Human Rights and its Article 14 (Prohibition of Discrimination) prohibits any kind of discrimination including gender based discrimination, and namely, according to Article 14:



"GEORGIAN BAR ASSOCIATION"

‘The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status’.

Hereby, we should underline that as a rule in all constitutions of the countries, member states of Council of Europe, they itself regulate the prohibition of discrimination based on any ground, including gender based discrimination.



Gender equality and women's rights in training for lawyers – from the perspective of Georgian Bar Association

1. Women members

Georgian Bar Association (hereinafter `GBA`) is a unified Bar for all practicing attorneys in Georgia. GBA is a legal entity of public law and is established based on `Law on Advocates`.

GBA unites more than 7 000 member lawyers and out of them 4150 are practicing lawyers, the rest have suspended their license due to one or another objective reason prescribed by law (like being in public service, being a judge etc).

As mentioned above nowadays GBA has 4150 active members and out of this number approximately half is woman, and namely, 1916 members are women who practice law and execute the functions of attorney in practice.



Women Trainers

As mentioned above Georgian Bar Association is a unified Bar that by law regulates the entrance into lawyer's profession, controls the deontology proceedings, and executes the mandatory continuous legal education program for its members.

Every lawyer in Georgia, who is a Bar member should gather 12 credit hours of continuous legal education during a calendar year.

GBA on the one hand via its training center organizes the variety of trainings and seminars for lawyers as well as on the other hand has a list of service providers who organizes trainings for GBA members (like universities, law firms etc).

GBA has a list of accredited trainers who are experts in different fields of law and who have gone through specific trainers trainings (so called ToT) and have gained a status of trainer of GBA.

Gender equality is guaranteed in this direction as well and women's rights are fully integrated in this direction as out of existing 76 trainers 38 trainers are women.



Statistics from last two exams

As mentioned above Georgian Bar Association is official entity that organizes the exams of entrance into profession via its Training Center and hereby can provide statistics of last two exams, where the number of applicants was 1270 candidates, out of this number 795 applicants were women. Based on results of the exams 346 applicants successfully passed the exams and out of this number 220 applicants were women.



1. Staff^[1]

Current staff of Georgian Bar Association consists of 24 people and out of this number 19 are women.

Position	Sex (Gender)
Chairman	Man
Accountant	Man
Lawyer of Ethics Commission (1)	Man
Postman	Man
IT manager	Man
Assistant of Chairman	Woman
Secretary General of GBA	Woman
Coordinator of Board of GBA	Woman
Director of Training Center	Woman
Coordinator of Educational Board of Association	Woman
Coordinator of Registry	Woman
Coordinator of Training Center (1)	Woman
Coordinator of Training Center (2)	Woman
Senior lawyer of Ethics Commission	Woman
Lawyer of Ethics Commission (2)	Woman
Lawyer of Ethics Commission (3)	Woman
Public relations officer	Woman
Librarian	Woman
Three regional Coordinators	Women



It is important to underline that these are the positions that are not elected positions but appointed by Chairman and competition commission when the vacancy is available.

Although on the other hand below will refer to positions within the Bar that are elective via the general assembly of the association (that consists of all members of the association).

1. Elected Positions

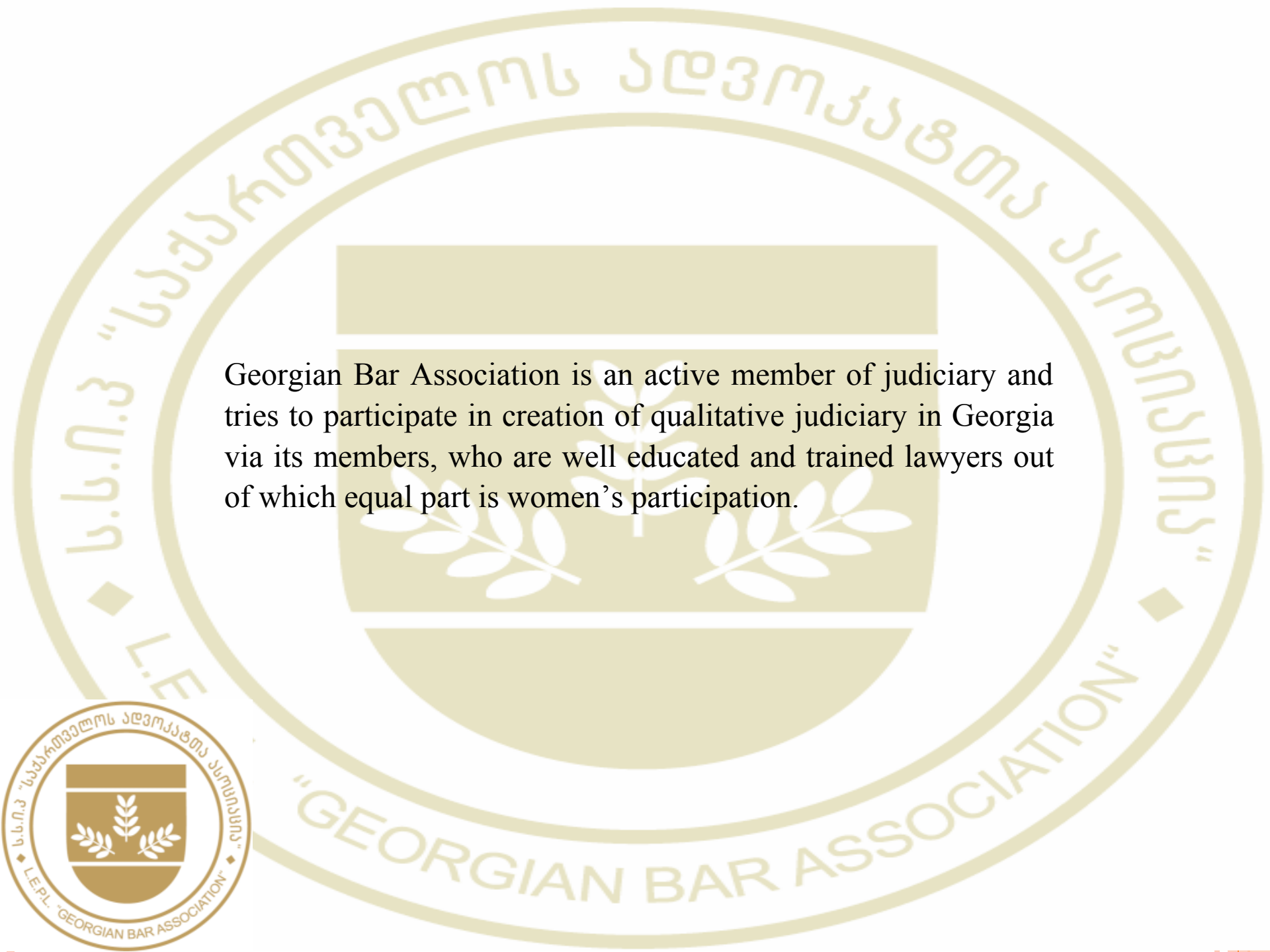
There are three elective bodies in the association that are elected every four year by the general assembly of the members of the association, these bodies are:

- Board
- Ethics Commission
- Audit Commission

Hereby should be underlined that out of 15 members of Ethics Commission 9 members are women and out of 4 members of Audit Commission, half are women.

Therefore Georgian Bar Association creates all grounds for women integration in legal profession as well as good practice for women's access to justice in Georgia.





Georgian Bar Association is an active member of judiciary and tries to participate in creation of qualitative judiciary in Georgia via its members, who are well educated and trained lawyers out of which equal part is women's participation.

