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READING AND UNDERSTANDING LEGISLATION
FOR MEMBERS OF THE OMAN MAJLES A'SHURA

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February 5th-7th, 2005

Day 1: How to Evaluate A Bill In Form

A. Structuring a Bill – Theory and Practice

I. Structuring a bill: Theory

1. The architecture of a bill
2. How to link theory to practice

II. Structuring a bill: Practice

1. Parts of a bill
2. Grouping and ordering
3. Location of technical sections

III. A default bill

B. Standards, Methods and Principles of Structuring

1. Three standards
2. Three methods
3. Three principles

Day 2: How To Evaluate A Bill In Substance

I. Purpose of legislation

1. Why we legislate
2. Subsystems of a bill
3. How a bill fits into the other statutes
4. Five steps to understanding the substance of a bill

II. Methodology for problem-solving

1. Identification

2. Interpretation
3. Proposing a solution
4. Control and evaluation mechanisms

III. ROCCUPI principles: A guide to discovering behavior, causes and solutions

1. Rule
2. Opportunity
3. Capacity
4. Communication
5. Interest
6. Process
7. Ideology

IV. Reaching an optimum solution

1. ROCCUPI principles and interpretations
2. A detailed solution
3. Scrutinizing alternative options
4. Reversing the ROCCUPI
5. Weighing the costs vs. the benefits

V. Identifying the content of a bill's section

1. Purpose of the legislative sentence
2. Who does what?
3. "What?"
 - a. Write in the form of behaviors
 - b. An obligation to do
 - c. Granting discretion
 - d. Prohibition
4. Qualifying the verb

VI. Two games for checking the adequacy of a bill:

1. Walking through.
2. What-if game

Day 3: Law as a Tool For Social Change

A. The Legal System as a Cause of Poor Governance and Weak Development

I. Law and social change

1. Development, institutions, and behaviors
2. Development requires change of institutions
3. Change of institutions requires change of behavior

II. Law and development

1. The function of the legal order in development
2. Law as an applied expression of policy
3. Law as a crucial step in changing state-induced behavior

III. Why do people behave as they do in the face of a legal rule?

B. Ensuring Effective Implementation and Non-Arbitrary Decisions

1. Introduction
2. Implementation functions
3. The problem: Ineffective and arbitrary
4. Implementing the rules addressed to the implementers
5. Summary