

in a mind map. Accompanying slides will show the structure of this transnational knowledge in images. The end result is a map of multicultural and multi-system compliance efforts. Every day, each of us faces the task of getting from here to there. “There” can be the grocery store, a town you are traveling to, or a website with valued information. In the context of international compliance and complex transactions, cross-border rule changes are hard to navigate, as the map to even simple destinations keep changing.

But when considering international law, we explore and research the rules both here and there for a very important reason. When we cross over the borders that are used to govern our affairs, the rules change. To find our way, we want to know the rules and to communicate them. Mapping them may help.

Mind maps are visual structures that use space, color, shapes, and context. They enable knowledge to be acquired, retained, recalled, and transferred with proven improved effectiveness in making information more accessible. Approximately 60% of the population are visual learners.⁵ See Figure 1 for a sample of a map I built to teach the structure of the law for electronic signatures. Notice how structure and shapes enhance even a basic outline.

Finally, from a pedagogical perspective, there is a very important reason for using mind mapping, and one which all of us must realize now holds true on a global basis: millennials—people 25 and younger—are shifting toward visual, digital, and modular acquisition of knowledge. They seek, acquire, and use information in digital and visual bites. Mind maps enable complex information—such as international law—to be structured into the content objects from which students learn best.

COUNTRY DATA ON THE RULE OF LAW: THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT RULE OF LAW INDEX—SUMMARY OF ALEJANDRO PONCE’S REMARKS

The rule of law is a highly complex concept, and while the World Justice Project defines it on the organization’s website as “a system of rules and rights that enables fair and functioning societies,” there are principles and dimensions that may refine the concept. These components are listed on the project’s interactive website (<http://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index>) as residing in four universal principles and nine factors. They are used by the World Justice Project to create measurable benchmarks intended to reflect how citizens and residents—ordinary people—report their experiences of the rule of law in the 99 countries that are included in the Rule of Law Index.⁶ Both lawyers and other users of the legal system reveal their experiences with outcomes in the system.

⁵ MICHEL MARIE DEZA & ELENA DEZA, *ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DISTANCES* 569 (2d ed. 2013) (“*Visual thinking, or visual/spatial learning, picture thinking*) is the common (about 60% of the general population) phenomenon of thinking through visual processing”).

⁶ The World Justice Project defines this system as one in which the following four universal principles are upheld:

1. The government and its officials and agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law.
2. The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property.
3. The process by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced is accessible, fair, and efficient.
4. Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals that are of sufficient number, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.”

WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT, *What Is the Rule of Law?*, <http://worldjusticeproject.org/what-rule-law>. The website goes on to list the nine factors, each of which contains sub-factors and variables: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice, criminal justice, and informal justice.

The method used for the reporting of results in the analysis of these data is focused upon country scores, and each score is “calculated using a large number of questions drawn from two original data sources collected by the World Justice Project in each country: a General Population Poll (GPP) and a series of Qualified Respondents’ Questionnaires (QRQs).”⁷

The visualization attempts to show the data in all their dimensions, transmit the results of data-gathering, and immediately show country, regional, and global comparisons. What is complicated and hard to communicate becomes clearer.

The snapshot for Spain (Figure 2) provides an example of a country diagram. Using color and a detailed listing of the scores relating to factors and indicators, it is possible to capture the rule of law analysis both in its complexity and with options at the website to view an extended profile with text from the survey questions presented alongside the results.

Maps, tables, a grid with rankings, and the ability to view results by factor, income group, or region are among a few of the options for display of results. The displays use both a “heat map,” where darker hues are used for different levels of scoring, and “spider graphs,” like the above, tracing and comparing results across groups. This index takes data visualization into a realm of practical application for promoting transparency, policy, and methodology debates, and advocacy.

**GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAW DATABASE: A CASE LAW
DATABASE PROJECT OF THE O’NEILL INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL AND
GLOBAL HEALTH LAW—SUMMARY OF ANA S. AYALA’S REMARKS**

The Global Health and Human Rights Law Database is a free online database of global health topics and primary legal documentation that creates a research matrix bringing together, in a topical framework, case law, national constitutions, and international instruments relevant to the use of human rights standards for addressing health issues.⁸ The focus of the database is on litigation, with full-text judgments available for the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania, and individual countries within each grouping. Many case law texts are available both in the vernacular language of the jurisdiction and in English, and this is a great contribution to health and human rights advocates and scholars in the international community, given that comparative case law collections are frequently unable to provide translations of the cases into any other language.

Searching across topical areas such as diet and nutrition, chronic and non-communicable disease, and many others, one can filter the topics by region or country, for example, viewing case law from Africa on mental health. The cases show how the database covers decisions from national courts as well as regional courts and also United Nations bodies that use standards based on international human rights law to resolve health-related matters.⁹

The criteria for selection of the texts included itself makes the landscape of the database clearer even without the most dramatic of visualization techniques. Provided below is the statement on the website, and it clearly makes the case for curatorship of texts in any well-structured database.

⁷ WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT, *The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 162* (2014), http://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/files/wjp_rule_of_law_index_2014_report.pdf. Much more detail on the study’s methodology, validation, definitions, strengths, and weaknesses is reported in the annual index itself; *see id* at 16–197.

⁸ The database is available at <http://www.globalhealthrights.org/>.

⁹ See Figure 3 for an example of a summary of a Niger case, with full text available.

WJP Rule of Law Index® 2014

Spain

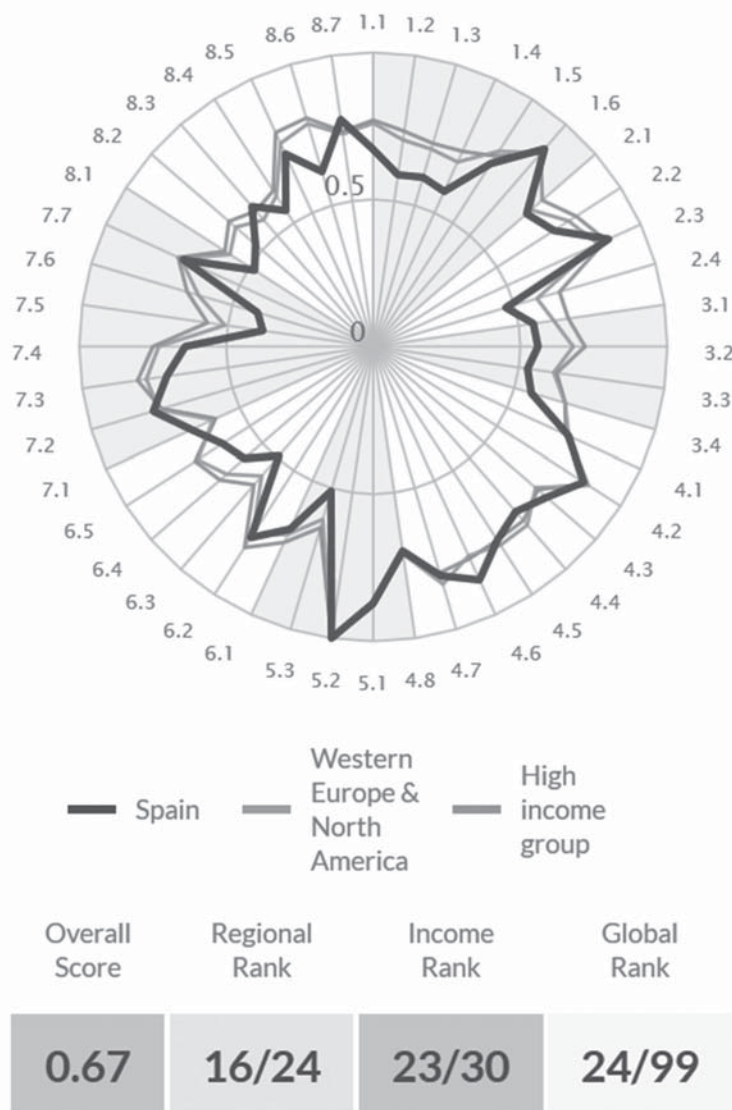


FIG. 2 World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index, 2014. This spider graph for Spain uses color in its web presentation, both in PDF and in a dynamic database, and shows data comparing Spain's scoring in several areas as compared with regional and income groupings.