

## Maryna Kavaleuskaya Comments on the Belarusian Republican Bar Association's Proposed Rules Regarding Attorneys' Online Conduct in Naviny

**"They Want to Silence Lawyers Even on Facebook"**

Naviny

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Maryna Kavaleuskaya commented on new rules proposed by the Belarusian Republican Bar Association that focus on attorney online behavior. The proposed rules state that lawyers who post opinions on the internet, including on social networks, should be certain those opinions conform to the association's rules of professional conduct and Belarusian law. Kavaleuskaya said the "initiative is not aimed at improving the ethics of practicing lawyers." She stated that "[t]he only goal of the new initiative, in my opinion, is to create a formal basis to expand control over public statements of attorneys." Kavaleuskaya noted that publicity of attorney work is the only efficient tool available to Belarusian attorneys for the defense of clients given the current events in Belarus and the severe issues with the rule of law in the country.