

**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE  
JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS  
April to June 2003**

The following report summarizes the major activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas for the period comprised of the months of April to June, 2003.

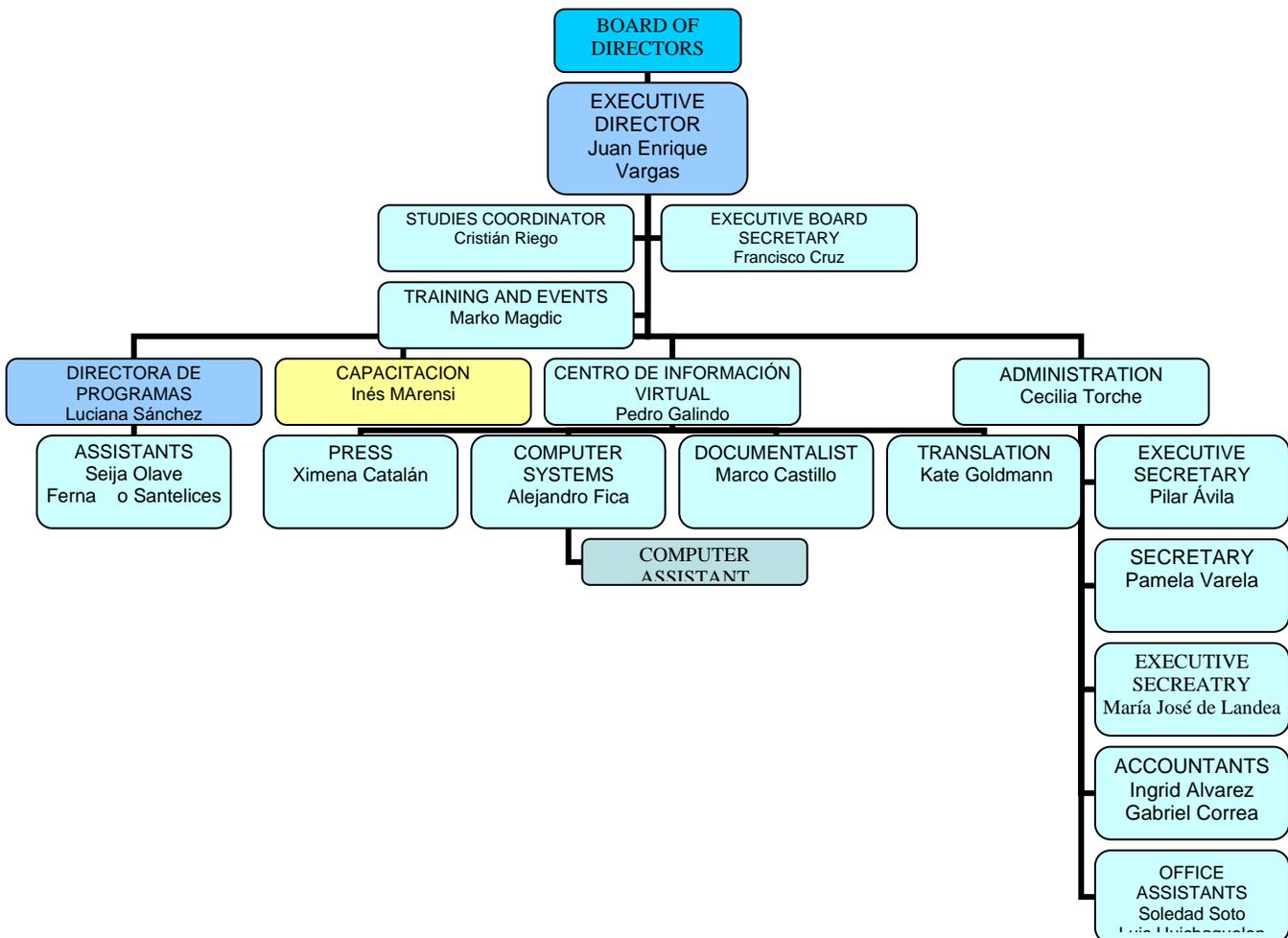
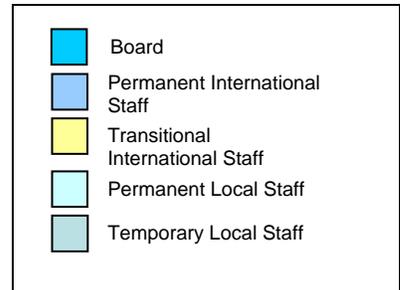
**ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AND RESULTS OBTAINED**

**A. JSCA INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The JSCA has been able to consolidate its presence in the region and strengthen its contributions toward the improvement of judicial public policy. One demonstration of this fact is the constant requests for services received by the JSCA on behalf of public and private institutions in the justice sector. This demand has allowed us to reformulate our internal structure, substantially increasing our professional staff, as is shown in the following Organizational Chart, which reflects the following changes in JSCA personnel:

- **Creation of the Academic Direction of the JSCA.** Mr. Cristián Riego was recently named to this position, which corresponds to the development of academic activities and strategic planning of the activities in the area of Studies and Training.
- **Studies Area.** Seija Olave was recently brought in on a full-time basis to help develop the different projects coordinated in the area of studies.
- **Training Area.** During this period Inés Marensi joined the team with the objective of developing the training area and helping with the beginning of the Canadian International Development Agency, (CIDA) project.

Our current Organization Chart follows:



With the objective of providing bilingual documentation that will help in the dissemination of the products prepared by the JSCA, we incorporated a Translation and Text Editing Section into the administration section this quarter. The area consists of a team of four translators. Kate Goldman, the official JSCA translator who joined our organization in May 2003, has formulated a strategy to maximize the area's productivity. Translators Maxine Lowy and Peter Kozak have recently joined the team and will be dedicated to the translation of a collection of articles presented in a seminar on Justice and Democratic Governance within the context of the General Assembly of the OAS held in June. They will later work on editing the Report on the State of Justice in the Americas.

**Some of the quarter's most important projects in the area of translation have been:**

- Translation of ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) Web pages
- Maintenance of the JSCA Web page
- Translation and presentation of Web pages associated with the area of training and the competition of paid internships
- Translation of texts related to the General Assembly of the OAS, including press releases
- Translation and editing of texts that will form a central part of the Report on the State of Justice in the Americas, including the comparative chapter, which was presented to members of the JSCA Board of Directors
- Information related to the Seminar on Judicial Management to be held in San José, Costa Rica in September 2003
- Information and calls for bids related to new JSCA projects that belong to the area of studies and focusing on gender and race.
- Translation of the Nexos Newsletter
- Translation of the CIDA project reports

**b) Administrative Area**

Mr. Gabriel Correa joined the staff as a full time accountant. Changes in this area worthy of note include:

- **Changes implemented in the Accounting Area and activities undertaken during the quarter.** Work is currently taking place on developing the JSCA Internal Procedure Manual. A professional Guatemala, with expertise in the area of Administration and studies in Georgetown University (pro-bono internship) will soon join the group. A new accounting system (Softland) was implemented to allow for accounting in multiple monetary units and improving the system of control of income and expenditures by cost center and business units, thus allowing for faster and more updated information.

Furthermore, we are currently in the process of implementing the Softland Winner Gestion system make on-line accounting information available to each project director, thus aiding in better budget management and control in each area.

In the month of April, we requested a technical report from our auditor that allowed us to determine the JSCA's fixed and variable costs (amount and percentage), and likewise estimate a percentage of overhead to be used as criteria for determining the contribution that projects should make to the JSCA Fixed Costs.

The project financed through United States Agency for International Development (USAID) monies concluded on April 30. These funds supported the JSCA's initial activities in Chile and were administered through the Judicial Development Center (CDJ).

- **Auditing.** The Ernst & Young auditing company is currently concluding an audit of the project financed through the United States Agency for International Development USAID. The primary objective of this review of accounts is to conduct a financial audit that considers the review of expenses that took place during the period and to verify any funds that may be available at the end of the period under review. With respect to income received from the USAID and expenses incurred during the period, both are currently being subjected to a complete review. In relation to counterpart and other income and expenses, these were approximately 85% validated.

#### **c) Bilateral Agreements.**

The JSCA signed mutual cooperative agreements with the following institutions during this quarter:

- The Federal Justice Council of Brazil
- Universidad Católica "Nuestra Señora de la Asunción" of Paraguay
- The Arbitration and Settlement Center of the Chamber of Commerce of Guayaquil, Ecuador
- The Supreme Court of the Jurisdiction of the Countries of the Eastern Caribbean

#### **d) Data Base of institutional contacts.**

Approximately 160 new contacts have been entered into the data base this quarter. We were also able to update a large amount of contact information due to the events organized during the quarter and the need to send invitations to the to the institutions of the justice sector, particularly Chilean Non-Governmental Organizations that were invited to the launching of the book "*Justicia y Sociedad Civil*," held in June.

Following the plan established for monthly organizational updates, this quarter we updated 308 contacts for Supreme Courts and Public Defenders' Offices of the Americas, either by institutional web pages or by telephone, thereby verifying the accuracy of our information with respect to these institutions.

#### **e) JSCA Board of Directors Meeting:**

The VIII meeting of the JSCA Board of Directors was held in Santiago, Chile, on June 7. In attendance were the President, Mr. Douglass Cassel; Councilors Mr. Federico Callizo, Mr. George Thompson, Ms. Loreto Ruz in representation of Ms. Soledad Alvear; the Executive Director, Mr. Juan Enrique Vargas; the Board of Directors Secretary Mr. Francisco Cruz; director of Programs, Ms. Luciana Sánchez; and Academic Director Cristián Riego. Also in attendance, in the capacity of observer, was Mr. Ramón Brenna, Director of ARGENJUS, Argentina, one of the JSCA's associated organizations.

During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed and provisional agreements were reached, subject to ratification:

1. Approve the Executive Director's report. The board also reiterated its positive evaluation of the activities that have taken place and the actions currently underway, with a particular mention of the following projects: Civil Society Organizations Network, the Study on Gender and Judicial Reform, the Statistics in the English-speaking Caribbean, and the Training programs for the Criminal Justice Reform in Latin America. With respect to the latter, the Board congratulated the formal commencement of this initiative through the signing of the instrument with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in the beginning of the General Assembly.
2. Renew the mandate of the Executive Director, to be submitted for approval by the V Meeting of the Justice Ministers and Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), as established in article 12 of the Statutes.
3. Sanction the proposal to modify the Statutes, presented by the Board Secretary, with respect to the method of filling the vacancies on the Board of Directors that arise for reasons other than the normal expiration of the term, as defined in article 11.3 of the Statutes. This is due to the fact that they can be replaced with the unique competition of the Permanent Council of the OAS, provided that the next regular or extraordinary General Assembly will be held in a period of six or more months from the vacancy has become official.
4. Approve the Auditing Report submitted by the Executive Director and agree that the Ernst & Young Auditing Company continue conducting such audits within a limit of three years, with the agreement of the Director
5. Ratify the Cooperative Agreements for Work and Mutual Collaboration signed by the Executive Direction.
6. Propose the appointment of Board Members Callizo and Thompson to the positions of President and Vice President, respectively, effective January 1, 2003 at which time the current mandates expire.
7. Congratulate the Executive Director and his staff and thank the Chilean Ministry of Justice for the success of the work done during the Seminar on Justice and Democratic governance, held June 4-6, within the framework of the General Assembly.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board of Directors be held in the course of the first two weeks of January.

**B. ACTIVITIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE JSCA**

In compliance with its institutional objectives, the JSCA is in the process of developing different activities in the countries of the Americas. The following is a list of countries where we have been conducting our most important activities this quarter, with reference to our regional coverage. Details of these projects and activities are developed later in this report.

Table of countries in which the JSCA is conducting studies or training this quarter:

<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>STUDY</b>
Argentina	Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, Judicial Statistics, Access to information, CSO Network
Belize	Judicial Statistics
Bolivia	Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, CSO Network
Brazil	Racial Discrimination and A. to Justice, CSO Network
Canada	Racial Discrimination and A. to Justice
Eastern Caribbean	Judicial Statistics
Colombia	Racial Discrimination and A. to Justice, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
Costa Rica	Judicial Statistics
Chile	Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, Gender and criminal procedure, Judicial Statistics, Info. Childhood-juvenile, Access to Information, CSO Network
Ecuador	Gender and criminal procedure, Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, Training for Justice Operators, CSO Network
El Salvador	Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
USA	CSO Network
Guatemala	Gender and criminal procedure, Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
Haiti	CSO Network
Honduras	Gender and criminal procedure, Criminal Procedure Reform Follow-up Study
Mexico	Training for Justice Operators, CSO Network
Panama	CSO Network
Paraguay	CSO Network
Peru	Training for Justice Operators, Access to Information, CSO Network
Dominican Republic	Racial Discrimination and A. to Justice, CSO Network
Venezuela	CSO Network

## 1. Generate and publicize instruments to improve information on Justice in the Americas

### 1.1 Virtual Information Center (VIC)

In the month of June, a survey was conducted to measure the degree of satisfaction, usefulness, and impact of the JSCA publicity instruments (newsletters, magazine, web site, and others). The survey also aims to capture specific information to improve these products and as a diagnostic for issues related to projects that the JSCA is currently developing. The survey was prepared with the aid of French eMarketing specialist Axelle Dewas, who is currently doing a Pro-Bono internship with the JSCA.

The survey was distributed to a representative sample of JSCA product users (official institutions in the justice sector, civil society organizations, etc.) in the 34 member countries. The results of the study will be released in August.

#### Web site

##### *New developments in the web site*

Continuing with the process of the redesign and on-going updating of our web site, this quarter we redesigned several pages that reside within ours: the *CSO Network Web Site*, and the *Studies and Training* pages. A number of independent pages were added and a new section with *Events Pages* was added. All of this activity generated a new development in the JSCA *Intranet*, as detailed below:

- **CSO Network Web Site:** This site is related to JSCA issues and it is accessed through a section from the main menu of the JSCA site, it is navigated independently. Changes included making it visible from the Central Web Site and adding similar sections (Documents, Publications, Legislation, Links). It uses the same Data Base as the JSCA, filtered by level of interest a topic may have for the CSO Network. Further changes include:
  - Reordering and improving the access to information of the Informed Bulletin and the sections on Meetings and Activity Calendar.
  - Various Information Pallets were added to emphasize different pages of the site. These are administered from the JSCA Central Intranet.
- **Training Pages:** The main page of this section has changed, and new sub-sections were added: *Programs and services*, *Internships*, *Forums*, and *Judicial Schools*. Additional pages were added for the *Paid Internship* competition (application form and pre-qualification results).

To improve the administration of the information of this competition it was necessary to create a Table of Applicant Data, which resulted in:

- The connection of the Application form with the Table of Applicant Data and,
- Administration in Intranet of applicant information (order, consult, catalogue, and emit individual records).

- **Studies Pages:** This section has been completely redesigned, and the only remaining task is to enter the respective content for its final release in the Central Web Site. The primary change was the treatment of the information it manages; it is now incorporated into a “content administrator” so that it can only be updated by those who are directly responsible for this area. This new design and content will be visible to the general public in the next quarter.
- **Events Pages:** A Contents Administrator was created to generate Independent Pages of JSCA Events. This allows the user to create a new web site for each event that requires the input of pre- or post-event information (registration forms and results, for example).

To access the Events information, an option was created in the Activities section of the Central Web Site’s main menu. Based on these improvements, the generation of a new site for some event could make the user directly responsible for the subject, having to first create the pages and then link them with the main menu. To do so, it was necessary to generate tables of additional data in the data base and the administration of the information within Intranet.

- **Intranet:** Intranet is a computerized system that manages much of the JSCA information, everything that corresponds to the dynamic contents of the Web Site, and the Contact Data Base. The majority of the permanent development in Intranet is generated in the dynamic contents of the Web Site, and this quarter it was necessary to incorporate manager programs to update data for some of the above-mentioned pages (Events, Training and Studies). Further developments include:
  - Manager for basic country information.
  - Manager for CVs or personal summary.
  - Manager of data for Judicial Journal Page.
  - Development of the option to upload files (images and documents) to the Site, thus leaving the work to a VIC end user

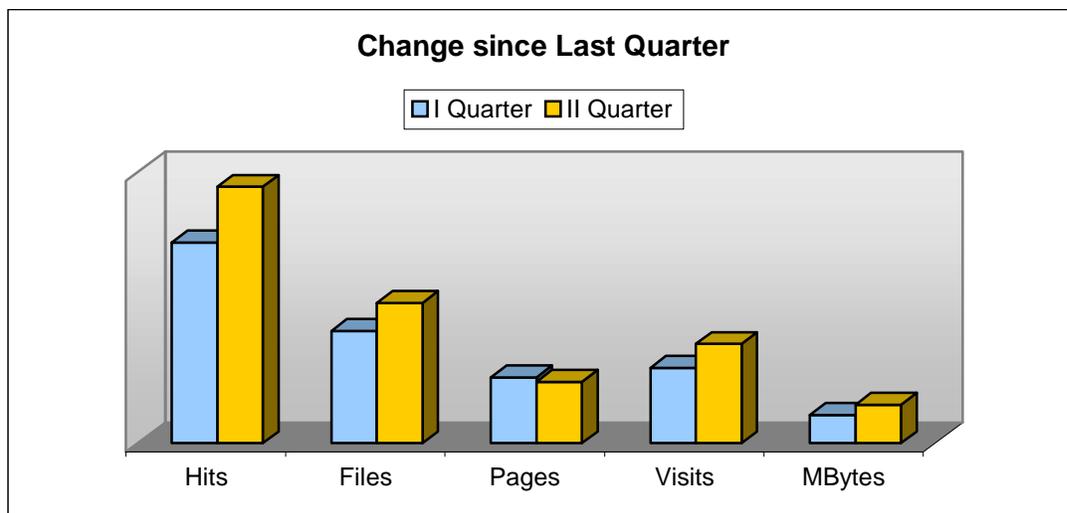
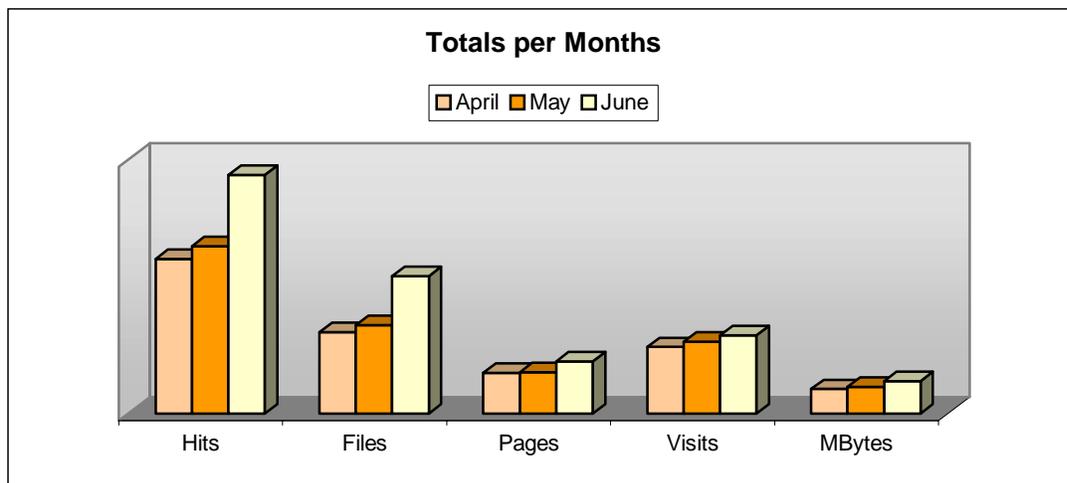
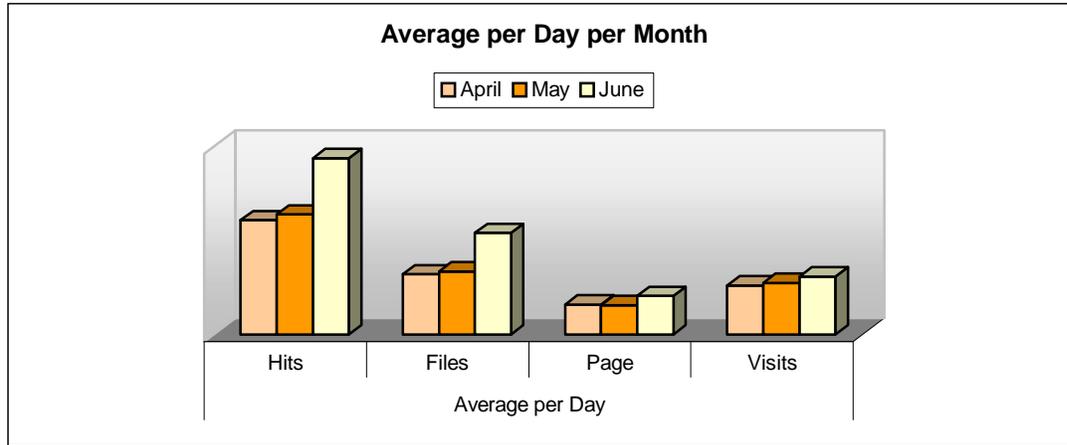
### ***Visitor Traffic***

During this quarter the JSCA web site registered a total of 25,610 external visits with an average of 281 user sessions per day. These figures represent a 31.5% increase over last quarter. These data indicate:

- 158,399 pages were visited during the quarter with an average of 1,741 pages per day by external users. Oddly, this is 6.7% less than the previous quarter, which would explain that the visits concentrate on fewer pages.
- The majority of the visits come from the United States, Peru, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile.
- The areas most visited during the quarter were Training, Events, and Legislation (especially in Peru); the Nexos Newsletter; and reports on JSCA studies continue to capture a large number of visits.
- The site registered external traffic of 9,904 Mega Bytes in the quarter (35% more than last quarter). This means that during the period, external users downloaded more than

12,000 relevant documents from the site (considering an average of 800 KB per text of legislation or a study's national report).

The following chart shows the flow of visitor traffic for the quarter:



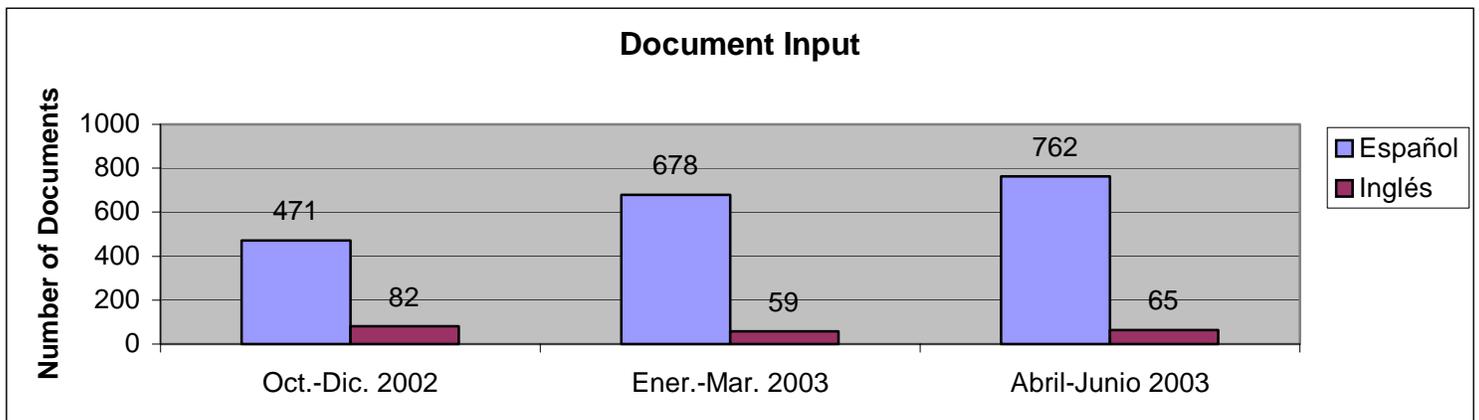
As mentioned at the beginning of this section, we have been implementing a user satisfaction survey that will allow use to perform a detailed analysis in order to make improvements that correspond to our web site and its different sections.

### *Entering new information in the Site*

- **Virtual Library:** We have continued to feed information into this section with a variety of on-line documents, legislation, summaries, and bibliographic references. At the end of this quarter the system registered 461 studies, reports, and articles: 323 legislative documents; and 137 book reviews. Furthermore, 3,164 descriptors (topics taken from a specialized thesaurus) in English and Spanish were assigned to facilitate document searches within the web site. During the coming quarter we will improve our virtual library search tools in order to facilitate finding and treating documents required by the users.

### *Other activities*

- **Documentation Center (in the JSCA Office),** at the end of the quarter, the Documentation Center has 398 volumes (261 books, 73 CD Roms, and 64 journal titles). During the next quarter we will be implementing the system of bibliographic references that will be accessible through our web site in order to make information available to the public on the volumes we have in our offices.



## 1.2 Press coverage during the quarter

Beginning this quarter, the quarterly reports will include information on the most important press coverage received by the JCSA, its activities and products.

- The *Justice and Democratic Governance Seminar*, held June 4-6, within the framework of the 33<sup>rd</sup> *Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS*, received good coverage in the Chilean and other press. Prior to the seminar, the activity was publicized through various web sites of different organizations and communications media in the Americas: Integral Program of Judicial Reform in Argentina, the Undersecretary of Public Management of Argentina, Infordesarrollo.org, the CLAD Association, the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, the Ministry of Justice of Chile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, Orbe News Agency, and others. The seminar began with a field visit to the city of Curicó in Chile's VII Region to observe the functioning of the institutions of Chile's new criminal justice system. The visit appeared on three television news programs: TVN Red Maule, VTR Televisión, and Televisión Regional TVR; on local radios Alfa Omega, Libertad, Bío –Bío, and Condell; and in the newspapers El Centro, La Prensa, and Maule Express. During and after the activity, El Mercurio, Chile's most widely-read newspaper, ran stories in the National News and the Reports sections on the event; the electronic news El Mostrador, Chile's most important web news; in the news section of the Ministry of Justice of Chile web page, and in the news section of the Criminal Public Defender's web page. International press present at the event included Mexico.
- With respect to JCSA activities held during the 33<sup>rd</sup> *Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS*, held in Santiago de Chile on June 8-10, 2003, information was included in the web sites of the OAS and the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Relations. The Press was present during the Assembly and delivered its releases to all of those in attendance, as these were considered as working materials in the module of the delivery of corresponding materials. The same delivery was made in the press room set up for the duration of the General Assembly.

### **1.3 Report on the situation of Justice in the Region**

The first draft of the narrative text of the Report was concluded at the end of the quarter. This is the preliminary version of some of the national chapters and the completed version of the comparative chapter that brings together the results of the surveys, studies, and reports on the justice and related sectors prepared by private institutions, international organisms, and risk-assessing agencies.

The national chapters that had already been edited by the end of the quarter were sent to specialists and others in the area of justice issues of the countries in question for their revision and observations. The comparative chapter was distributed for discussion among the members of the JSCA Board of Directors and to the members of the *Sistemas Judiciales* Editorial Committee (see 1.4).

There has been a great deal of interest in the information contained in the *Report*. After we distributed the draft we began to receive a number of requests from different organizations and individuals asking for permission to cite the preliminary document in their research (in Peru, Argentina, Mexico) or to mention and discuss it in regional events, such as the Third Conference on Justice and Development organized by the IDB in Quito, Ecuador.

The *Report* will be officially presented in San José Costa Rica in September during the Second Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management, which will focus on information at the service of the judicial government.

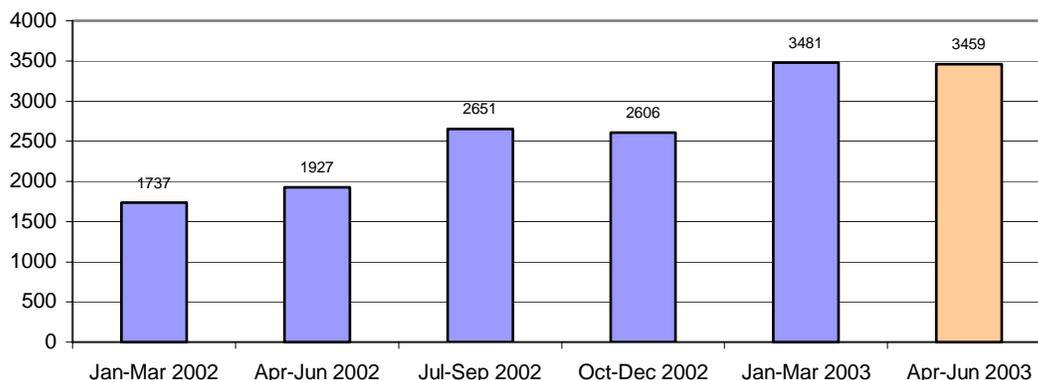
### **1.4 The Nexos Newsletter**

Editions 22, 23, and 24 of the newsletter (April, May, and June) were published in both English and Spanish. The July issue marks two years of uninterrupted publication. In terms of presentation, we have been incorporating more image resources (photos) and have used the space for short messages to publish and/or publicize announcements and job opportunities, etc.

Nexos currently has 3,459 subscribers, which is approximately the same as last quarter. The Spanish edition increased slightly (0.6%) with 13 new subscriptions, and the English version decreased by 2.5%. We consider these fluctuations to be normal, especially considering that the English newsletter increased by 143% in the last quarter. We are currently waiting for the results of the client satisfaction survey mentioned earlier in this chapter to be able to improve its quality and increase direct subscriptions.

There are also another 10,000 people who receive the publication indirectly, through forums and discussion lists on issues of justice and law.

Total subscribers to the Newsletter



The following special reports were also published as independent sections of the newsletter:

- Justice, governance, and international cooperation
- The efficacy of juvenile courts in the United States
- The relationship between prosecutors and police in Canada.

### 1.5 *Sistemas Judiciales Journal*

Volume 5, which focuses on Judicial Management and Court Administration, has been completed and will be released in August. It includes a dossier of current initiatives for improving judicial management with a synthesis of experiences of the different countries of the region and special articles on the subject written by regional specialists (eg.: experts from the National Center for State Courts, NCSC, and the Chilean Paz Ciudadana Foundation, among others).

This edition includes the Comparative Report of the second stage of the Follow-up Project on the Judicial Reforms in Latin America, which presents the major trends observed in the eight countries included in the study to date (Costa Rica, Chile, Paraguay, the Argentine Province of Córdoba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Venezuela).

The journal's Editorial Committee, composed of jurists, experts, and academics with recognized experience in the region's judicial field, will meet for their second annual meeting and will discuss the three-year-old journal's advances and future challenges. They will also take advantage of the occasion to hold a forum-debate on the major findings contained in the preliminary version of the *Report on the State of Justice in the Americas*. More specifically, they will discuss the comparative chapter of this report, which compiles the major results of the surveys and studies done by international organizations that include aspects of the justice sector in their reports.

Preparation has begun for Volume 6 of the journal, to be published in December. The central issue will focus on Information and Justice. The edition will include an abbreviated version of the comparative chapter of the *Report on the State of Justice*, accompanied by three critical commentaries prepared by regional experts. It will also include a transcription of the forum-debate programmed for the Editorial Committee meeting, and a descriptive dossier on the state of the issue in the countries of the region.

## **1.6. Compilation and dissemination of advances made in the area of children's rights.**

The JSCA, Universidad Diego Portales, and UNICEF have joined forces, prompted by the need for updated jurisprudence in the area of children's rights, which currently lacks systematization in the region. The effort seeks to survey relevant jurisprudence in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

The information has been requested from different providers within the justice systems studied, such as Supreme Courts and Juvenile Courts, among others. The search for legislation related to children's rights in the 4 countries is now coming to a close and the data collected is being processed.

### **Objectives**

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Gather relevant jurisprudence on children's rights in 4 specific areas - tuition and visits, procedural safeguards in criminal procedures, criteria for determining sentences in criminal procedures, and education and health – in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.
- Obtain commentary from each provider that justifies the choices made in the rulings and explaining the relevance of each.
- Gather all of the laws that refer to the respective rulings to allow for a better understanding on the part of the reader.
- Once these objectives have been fulfilled, the information will be used in training of judges, attorneys, and other system operators.

### **Project Products**

A web page will be constructed containing the respective rulings with links to the laws and regulations invoked in the process of reaching those decisions. A search engine will aid in exploring them satisfactorily. The page will be located within the Universidad Diego Portales web site with a link to the JCSA and UNICEF. This product will be ready by at year end.

## **1.7 Other publications**

The 2002 Activity Report and 2003 Plan of Action were published in April, and 1,000 copies were released in English and Spanish. The publications reported on the JSCA's projects and events of last year and those planned for this year. The JSCA web site has an electronic version of the publication. Printed copies were distributed in events such as the Seminar on Justice and Democratic Governance, which took place in June in Santiago de Chile within the framework of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, and where 70 copies were distributed. The publication has been well-received by its readers.

### a) The JSCA at a Glance

The JSCA modified the version of the institutional publication “The JSCA at a Glance,” updating its content and adding projects that will be undertaken in 2003 and 2004. It also incorporated results obtained during 2002 and the first quarter of 2003. A thousand copies were printed in English and Spanish, to be distributed to the public as an institutional presentation.

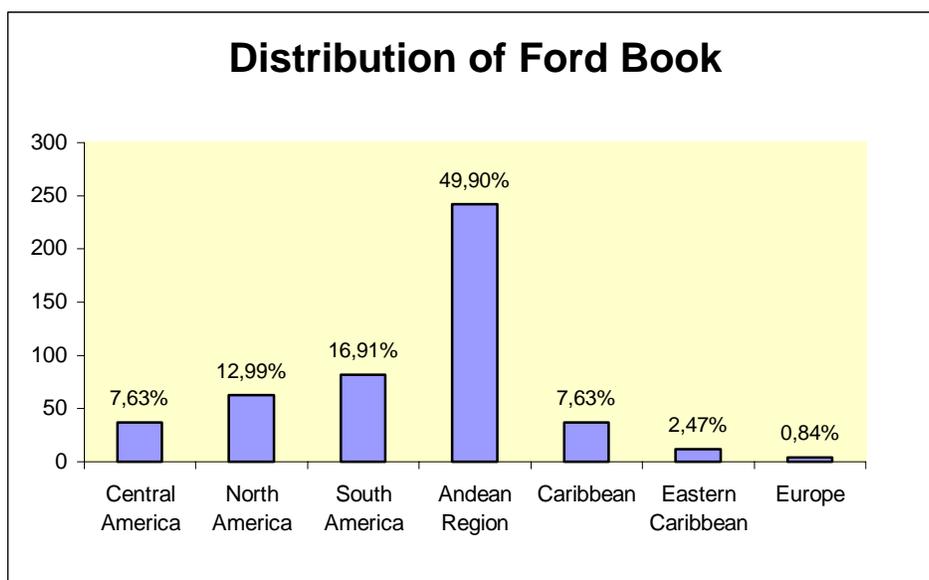
### b) Publication of the Follow-up Study of the Criminal Procedure Reforms: Second Evaluation of Chile

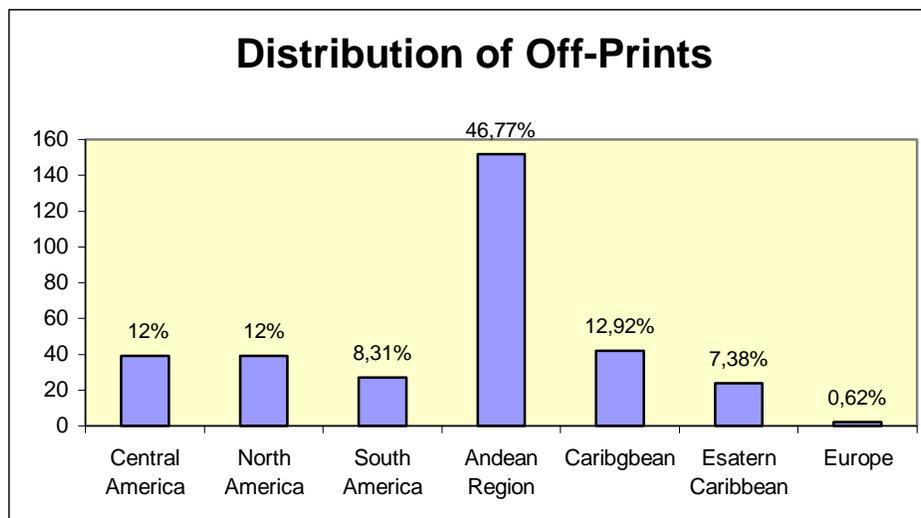
The printed publication of the results of the Second Evaluation of the Criminal Procedure Reform in Chile was launched in June. The study falls within the framework of the Follow-up Study of the Criminal Procedure Reform that the JSCA has been conducting since 2001. The Criminal Justice Program of the Universidad Diego Portales and the JSCA were responsible for the publication, and the 1,500 copies printed have been distributed directly through Seminars in the General Assembly of the OAS and indirectly via requests by institutions and individuals. To date approximately 700 copies have been distributed through different events and seminars

### c) Publication on the Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Judicial Reform

The distribution of the book “*Justicia y Sociedad Civil: el papel de la sociedad civil en los procesos de reformas a la justicia. Estudios de casos en Argentina, Chile, Colombia y Perú*” (Justice and Civil Society: the role of civil society in the processes of justice reform. Case studies in Argentina, Chile, Colombia y Peru) continued this quarter. Distributed primarily in Spanish-speaking countries of the region, we have circulated 625 books of the original 1,000 copies printed and 525 bilingual off-prints (2,000 printed, which focuses on the case study countries). A detailed distribution list is available upon request.

Table: books and offprints distributed





This book was presented during the Second Annual Meeting of the Network of Civil Society Organizations for Justice in the Americas, with the presence of those responsible for the national research, representatives of the Ford Foundation, and the international expert in charge of the project, Mr. Luis Pásara. Also on this occasion, members of the network present in the meeting and distinguished representatives of various international organizations participated in a debate, as is detailed below. Pending presentations are planned for July and August in Argentina, Chile, and Colombia. The presentation in Chile will be made during the meeting of the Editorial Committee of the *Sistemas Judiciales* journal on July 9.

### **1.7 Homologation of statistics and judicial indicators.**

This quarter saw a number of activities related to the project that continues the work of homologating the statistics and judicial indicators, funded by the USAID and presented to the IDB, which they approved last quarter (with an 18-month donation of US\$100,000; the first disbursement of \$40,000 was made in June, 2003). The most important activities included:

- We began conversations with the countries of the study (Belize, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala) to ensure implementation and maximize the collaboration, coordination, and representation of the interest of the local judicial authorities.
- The following documents were presented to and approved by the IDB: mechanism for selecting and hiring consultants for the project (and terms of reference); Work plan and Timeline; Financial Plan.
- The process of selecting and hiring the consultants for the project began in late June and will end in mid-August.
- Work has begun on the Second Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management: the Information Service of the Judicial Government. This seminar will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica on September 25-26, 2003. It has been supported to date by the IDB, USAID, and the Supreme Court of Justice of Costa Rica. A web page within the JSCA site has more information [www.cejamericas.org](http://www.cejamericas.org). This seminar is the continuation of the First

Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management held in Santiago de Chile in August 2003.

- The Manual published in December 2002, *Cifrar y Descifrar* (Code and Decode: manual for generating, collecting, disseminating, and standardizing judicial statistics and indicators: preliminary edition) was translated into English and published. The English version is available to the general public through our web site.
- A Regional Workshop on Judicial Statistics for the English-speaking Caribbean was held in St Lucia on April 28-29, sponsored by the Supreme Court of the Eastern Caribbean. The English version of the *manual* was used as the primary working document in this event. More details on the results are section on events, below

### **Events:**

- Workshop on Judicial Statistics. Working in conjunction with the Supreme Court of the Jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean countries, the JSCA organized a Regional Workshop on Judicial Statistics for judicial operators and those in charge of court information systems in the English-speaking Caribbean in Castries, St. Lucia on April 28-29. Thirty-eight people from different countries of this American sub-region attended the activity. The JSCA provided materials developed and based on the experiences and needs of Latin American countries (the “Code and Decode” manual, which is part of a larger JSCA project on Judicial Statistics). The schedule was organized around debates that allowed the participation of judges, court managers, librarians, registration system, jury, specialists in statistics and members of the press. It began with some basic questions on what judicial statistics are and what they are used for, and the discussion continued on to how judicial information systems should be constructed. Finally, the group discussed the content of those information systems and the problems inherent in data collection and processing. During the event the JSCA and the Supreme Court of the Jurisdiction of the Eastern Caribbean countries signed a mutual cooperation agreement.

## **2. Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of experiences between the key parties of the justice sectors of the region**

### **2.1 Training**

#### **a) Development of physical and distance training modules.**

During the first meeting of the 33rd Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS on June 8, the Ambassador of Canada in Chile, Patrick Parisot, in representation of the Canadian Government, and the Executive Director of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, Juan Enrique Vargas, signed a contributory agreement for the Institutional Strengthening Project through a training program aimed at optimizing the implementation of the criminal justice reform in the Americas. Bill Graham, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Soledad Alvear, Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, participated as witnesses in the signing. The Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will contribute CAN\$1.7 million to finance the project. The JSCA will be responsible for conducting the project, which will primarily consist of a training program that will include physical and e-learning distance courses to train trainers to repeat the process locally. The project also considers conducting a number of studies (on Gender and on Cultural Diversity), through which specific training modules will be developed to become part of a general program.

The project has a duration of 3 years and foresees a target audience of 900 justice sector operators (direct and indirect beneficiaries). Another important component will be the development of web modules housed within the JSCA web site that aim to promote ongoing exchange and service in support for the training program.

#### **b) Training for judicial operators in Ecuador.**

Activities continued in preparation of the design and execution of a Training Program for Judges and Directors of the Criminal Courts on Specific Skills Necessary for the New Criminal Procedure Code in Ecuador. These activities included filming videos, preparing materials and readings, and making final adjustments to the design. The first training workshop will take place on July 25.

#### **c) Requests for Training Activities**

- The RENACE Foundation of the State of Monterrey, Mexico has asked the JSCA to provide a training course on Oral Trials and Litigation Techniques.
- The JSCA participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights “Justice and Security,” held June 23 to July 4 in Costa Rica, organized by the IIHR, in which Cristián Riego made a presentation on the current state of the judicial reforms in Latin America and their impact on citizen security.
- The Coordinating Organism for the Modernization of the Justice Sector of Guatemala requested that the JSCA conduct an activity that would allow them to observe Chile’s new criminal system in operation, primarily in the aspects referring to the preliminary procedures, and that would include a theoretical module on oralization in the criminal procedure process. The JSCA is organizing this activity for the last week of August, with the expectation that it will be attended by Supreme Court Magistrates, the Executive Secretary of the Coordinating Organism for the Modernization of the Justice Sector and other relevant parties involved in the Guatemalan justice system.
- Based on a request by the Investigations Institute of the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Peru, the JSCA is organizing an activity for October 2003 that will include field visits to observe the functioning of Chile’s new criminal procedure system. The working schedule prepared for the Peruvian delegation includes debates with JSCA experts and judicial authorities.
- The Criminal Procedure Institute of Peru has requested that the JSCA design and conduct a 4-day Seminar on “The Processes of Justice Systems Reforms in the Americas: the Challenges of an Accusatory System,” to take place in Lima in October

#### **d) Other activities.**

The JSCA was invited to participate in the National Meeting of Mexican Training Institutes, an activity that took place in the headquarters of the Federal District High Court of Justice on May 16-17. Attendees included authorities of the Institute of Judicial Studies of the Federal States of Mexico and representatives of academic institutions, governmental organisms, and international cooperative organizations (USAID, American Bar Association, National Center for State Courts, the General Council of the Judicial Branch of Spain, the Spanish International Cooperation

Agency, the European Union Commission, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the World Bank).

## 2.2. Internship Program.

### a) Pro-Bono Internships in the JSCA.

During this quarter, the following interns are participating in the JSCA's Pro-Bono Internship Program

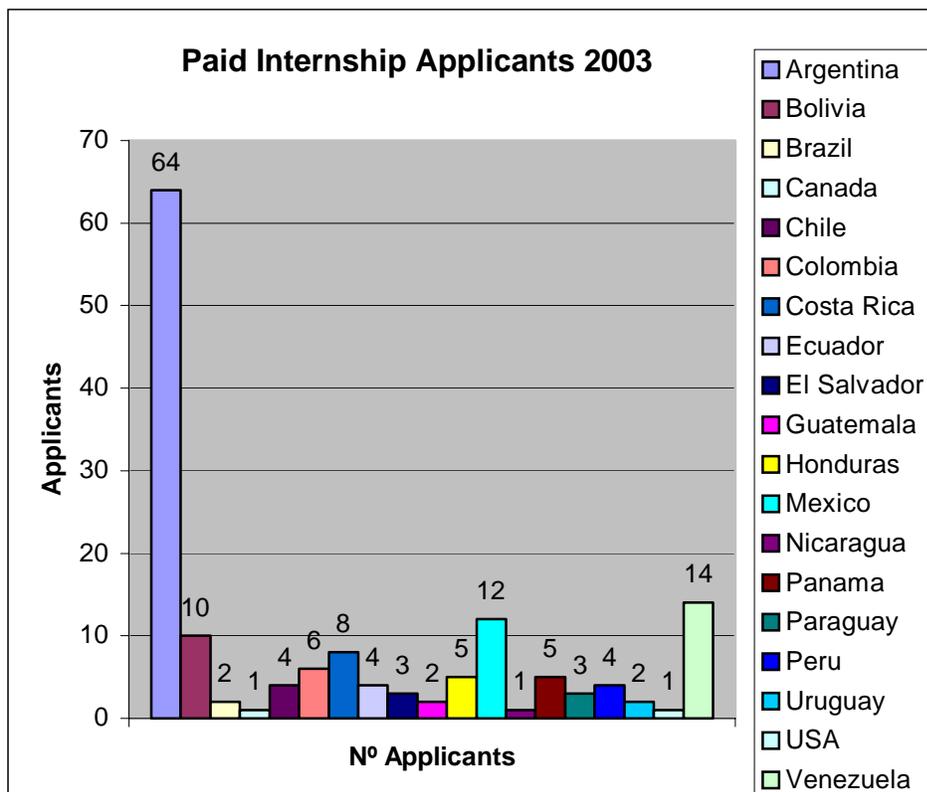
- Sujatha Sebastián (USA), student at Bryn Maus College /March – June 2003)
- Daniela de Nader (USA–Brazil), student at the University of Mississippi (March - June 2003)
- Elleen Blessinger (USA), student at American University (March - May 2003)
- Jessica Wilcox (USA) student at Barnard Collage (March - June 2003)

### b) Paid Internships in the JSCA.

In early June, the JSCA widely publicized its call for applicants for 2 paid internships for young professionals to work in the JSCA headquarters from September 2003 to February 2004. We received 151 applications from 20 countries of the region. The final results of the selection process will be announced in the JSCA web site in late July. The number of applicants and their qualifications increased in comparison to last year's competition. The number of women applicants also increased slightly.

Table: applicants by country.

Country	No. Applicants
Argentina	64
Bolivia	10
Brazil	2
Canada	1
Chile	4
Colombia	6
Costa Rica	8
Ecuador	4
El Salvador	3
Guatemala	2
Honduras	5
Mexico	12
Nicaragua	1
Panama	5
Paraguay	3
Peru	4
Uruguay	2
USA	1
Venezuela	14



## **2.3. Events organized or sponsored by the JSCA or with participation of JSCA personnel**

### **a) Events Organized by the JSCA**

The Justice and Democratic Governance Seminar was held in Santiago de Chile on June 4-6. The meeting took place within the framework of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS and was organized by the Ministry of Justice of Chile in conjunction with the JSCA.

#### Attendance and participation

The course had 96 participants from 18 countries of the region and 2 from Europe: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, France, and Romania.

The attendees included representatives and authorities from the OAS and alternative representatives from countries accredited before the Organization, Justice Ministers or their representatives, and representatives from international, governmental, and civil society entities related to the sector and international cooperative agencies.

#### **Development of the activity**

June 4 was reserved for a visit to Curicó, where the a delegation of the seminar was able to witness the Chilean Criminal Procedure Reform in operation. This visit was co-organized with the Public Defender's Office of Chile.

Forty-five people traveled to Curicó, where they attended a preliminary hearing for an Oral Trial, visited the court facilities, met with the authorities of the institutions that participate in Chile's new criminal justice system, and attended a meeting with the community of the province in the VII Region of Chile.

The seminar's official inauguration on Thursday, June 5, included a ceremony with the participation of Chile's Justice Minister and Supreme Court President and other Chilean and international authorities and close to 140 people in attendance. The 2-day seminar averaged 90 participants per day, with public events that raised the number to 100.

Chile's National Defender took charge of the closing ceremony, which was attended by approximately 100 people.

## Primary Results of the Seminar

### Background

One of the fundamental requisites for establishing Democratic Governance is having properly-working systems of justice and conflict resolution. However, those systems in the Americas are deficient in terms of coverage offered, speed of procedures, and the quality and predictability of their resolutions. These problems are perceived by the public, resulting in a generalized poor evaluation of judicial services. This has constituted one of the primary motivations for the substantive judicial reforms in recent decades that have taken place in nearly every area of this governmental sector.

- The presentations made in the seminar provided a review of the most important aspects of the reform processes.

### Results

It became evident during the seminar that the traditional image of the region's justice sector as being heavy-handed and antiquated has changed and that it is now seen as one of the most dynamic sectors of the government and with an increasingly clear contribution to democratic governance in the States.

However, with the records of the relationship with the negative perception of the people, the pending task that remains is to make the changes toward the accused, which demands, among other things, having appropriate models of judicial organization available in every area; adjusting the operations and programs of the judicial schools to the processes of change; strengthening the judicial coverage and improving legal aid systems; following-up on the criminal justice reform processes and taking special care in developing models of conduct appropriate for the logic of the new systems, for which it is imperative to instill a new notion that values innovation in this sector, particularly in those areas that can and should be more dynamic.

These are some of the issues of the agenda of reforms in the region that must be strengthened with the support not only of the institutions of the sector, but with the public authorities, civil society, and international cooperation as well.

Another result of the activity was the decision to launch the Spanish and English versions of the book "*Justicia y Gobernabilidad democrática*" (Justice and Democratic Governance) in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice of Chile in September. The book will contain the documents and presentations made during the seminar. It is important to point out that the event received coverage from a number of communications media.

**b) JSCA-sponsored events.**

- Public Defender's Office. The JSCA sponsored an activity organized by the Office of the Public Defender of Repeals Court of the Province of Buenos Aires, the Forum for Democratic Justice, CELS, and the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, which consisted of a meeting on the issue of Torture in the Province of Buenos Aires: Past, Present, and Perspectives. The event took place in La Plata, Argentina on June 12, 2003.

**c) JCSA participation in events.**

- On April 13-14, the Executive Director of the JSCA gave a presentation on Justice Reform in Latin America in the IV Annual Conference on legal policies and law in the Americas, held in Gainesville, Florida, USA. More than 50 experts and governmental representatives from different countries of the continent gathered for the event, which was organized by the Center for Governmental Responsibility, of the University of Florida (United States), and covered topics related to policy and law in the Americas.

- Juan Enrique Vargas, Executive Director of the JSCA, attended the Meeting of the Inter-American Association of Public Prosecutors that took place in Madrid, Spain, April 20-25m 2003. This was a Special Meeting of the AIAMP held under the title of "International Judicial Cooperation and Terrorism." More than 60 people attended, including representatives of the Ibero-American Prosecutors Offices and other authorities.

- On May 8, 2003, in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Executive Director of the JSCA attended an event on the Rights of the Child co-organized by the OAS and UNICEF for Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. More than 120 people attended the meeting. The objective of the event was to analyze the Consultative Opinion 17/2002 released by the IACHR, at the request of the Commission, on August 28, 2002

The central point of the consultation was the request for interpretation on behalf of the Court on articles 8 and 25 of the American Convention of Human rights, in order to determine whether the special measures established in article 19 of the same Convention constituted "limits to the judgment or discretionality of the States" in relation to children and adolescents. The Commission also requested that the Court formulate valid general criteria on the matter within the framework of the Inter-American system of protection of human rights. Distinguished members of the Court and the Commission presented their views in a round table discussion, and prestigious experts responded as commentators. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians, governmental officials, magistrates, attorneys, representatives of civil society organizations and the academic sector of Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay.

-More than 50 people from the academic and judicial sectors attended the official launch of the book "*Gestión de Tribunales: Experiencias y Tendencias*" (Court Management: Experiences and Trends) on May 13, in Santiago, Chile. The activity took place in the facilities of the Santiago Court of Appeals and was organized by the Chilean Institute of Judicial Studies. The book includes various documents from the CD on Judicial Management that was designed and prepared by the JSCA as a result of the International Seminar on Experiences of Reforms and Judicial Management, organized by our Center last August.

- The JSCA participated in the Meeting of Argentine Ford Foundation Donees on May 13 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Among the recipients included were the Association for Civil Rights, the Institute for Comparative Studies in Criminal and Comparative Studies (INECIP), Poder Ciudadano, and the Conciencia Foundation. During the event, attended by the JSCA Director of Programs, they discussed the Ford Foundation's future lines of action with its donees with respect to the current crisis in Argentina's Judicial Branch. In this sense, they discussed joint lines of action based on a document titled "A Court for Democracy," which the donees signed and presented to the Argentine Government, to be taken into account for future judicial appointments to the Argentine Supreme Court.

- The JSCA Academic Director attended the Meeting of Peruvian Ford Foundation Donees on May 26 in Lima, Peru. The participants included civil society organizations, the Legal Defense Institute (IDL), the Andean Jurists Commission (CAJ) and the Universidad Católica de Lima. The purpose of the event was to discuss different strategies to influence the Peruvian judicial reform.

- In Santiago, Chile, June 8-10, the JSCA participated in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Period of Regular Sessions of the General Assembly of the OAS, presenting an activity report through the President of the Board of Directors. The General Assembly elected two new members, Jaime Arellano Quintana, of Chile, and Lloyd Beresford Ellis, of Jamaica, to the JSCA Board. The continent's maximum political forum also renewed the mandate of the current Board President, US academic Douglass Cassel. Furthermore, during the General Assembly, the Government of Canada and the JSCA signed a contributory agreement, which was promoted by the Post-Summit Fund of the Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, of CAN\$1.7 million (Canadian dollars), to fund an institutional strengthening project for criminal procedure reforms in the Americas. It is important to indicate that during the General Assembly, the JSCA used a new method of institutional promotion for the first time. A stand was installed by the main door of the hall where the Assembly took place. The stand was continuously occupied by at least two members of the JSCA staff to provide general information about the Center and specific details about the projects, as well as to distribute the different JSCA publications. This new system of promotion, diffusion, and institutional dissemination proved to be very effective, not only because it increased the JSCA data base, but also because the Center's activities and projects became widely known to important representatives attending an event of the stature of the General Assembly of the OAS.

## **2.4. Networking**

### **a) Civil Society Organization Network (CSO Network)**

As coordinator of the Network of Justice CSOs of the Americas, the JSCA organized the network's second annual meeting, which was held on April 24-26, 2003 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The event was sponsored by the Délégation régionale de coopération pour le Cône Sud et le Brésil, Ambassade de France au Chili; USAID; the Human Rights and Citizenship Program of the Andean Region and Southern Cone, the Ford Foundation, and the UNDP/SURF for Latin America and the Caribbean. The meeting was attended by representatives of Network member organizations (with the exception of Paz Ciudadana of Chile, the Libra Foundation of Argentina, and the Human Rights Coordinator of Peru, for internal reasons in each of these organizations independent of the organization of the event). Representatives of the following international

organizations also attended: Ford Foundation Brazil; Konrad Adenauer Foundation Brazil; Konrad Adenauer Foundation Uruguay; UNDP Peru; UNDP LAC; UNDP Oslo; UNDP Haiti; the World Bank; and the Tinker Foundation. Also in attendance as observers were representatives of the Vera Institute (USA); the Pro Justicia Foundation (Peru); the Pro Bono Institute (Brazil); and Luis Pásara, expert in issues of civil society and judicial reform, who also participated as a panelist.

The program for this 3-day event is available at [www.cejamericas.org/redosc](http://www.cejamericas.org/redosc), along with information about the attendees and documents from the meeting. The first day was reserved for internal discussion among members of the network, and an open debate was organized for the second. Bibliographic material produced by the CSOs that work toward improving justice was presented on the third day.

Based on the results of the meeting, we expect to generate the first products in 2003 that will help advance the work of creating a regional justice observatory from a civil society perspective. These products are:

- A tool box for gathering information, experiences, and completed projects of the members of the Network on issues of common work and interest, along with an evaluation of the impact of each project or strategy utilized and their best uses.
- A list of indicators on access to justice and judicial independence, and other issues that reflect the work that has already been done in this area in the region;
- New indicators on judicial access and independence to be used by the Network and its members in their respective countries and at the regional level. A preliminary application of the indicators will be made with the data base that has already been compiled from information supplied by network members.

Based on those results, and considering the difficulties and achievements involved, we will prepare the bases for the design and discussion of regional intervention strategies to be carried out by the Network and as a form of progress for the next year in the construction of the observatory. The JSCA is currently working with Network CSOs to achieve these objectives. During the months of May and June, we organized different exchanges through the Network's list of e-mails and held chats with members of the Network in order to discuss the best tools for collecting and systematizing the data.

The Venezuelan Non-Governmental Organization Mirador Democrático (Democratic Watch) joined the Network in June. The Network is becoming stronger, which is evident in the exchange of communications and joint work that takes place through the list of e-mails and chat sessions: this quarter there were 4 chat sessions with Network members, with an average participation of 6 CSOs in each. Likewise, the exchange taking place through e-mail lists was 62 messages in April, 51 in May, and 28 in June, although the average number of messages sent is 25 per month. We believe that the large increase in April and May was due to the Annual Meeting in late April.

### ***InfoRed Newsletter***

Issue number 5 (June-July) of the bi-monthly newsletter was prepared this quarter. As a means of diffusion for this publication, it was sent to the list of those who subscribe to the Spanish-version of the Nexos newsletter. Once again, we are waiting for the results of the survey to determine the level of satisfaction with our products in order to improve the quality and increase its reach.

## **b) Public Defenders Network**

The JSCA is one of the institutions that collaborated in organizing the congresses for the constitution of the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders. In June the Defenders Association of Rio de Janeiro began the call for the Second Inter-American Congress of Public Defenders to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil October 15-18. The JSCA's participate in this event will consist of presentations given by its authorities, as well as cooperation in publicizing the event and facilitating attendance. We are therefore coordinating with other USAID-funded institutions that take part in this event, such as the IIHR of Costa Rica. The JSCA has also collaborated with this process through English, French, and Portuguese translations of various documents that are relevant to the discussion.

## **3. In-depth studies of justice systems and strengthening innovative ideas in the discussion of judicial reforms.**

### **3.1 Follow-up and Support for the Criminal Procedure Reforms**

#### **Second Stage of the Project:**

- Validation of the Second Chile Report. On April 7 a Workshop was held in Santiago to validate the Second Report of the Follow-up of the Criminal Procedure Reform in Chile. The event was organized by the Universidad Diego Portales with JCSA support and was attended by approximately 25 representatives of Chile's different judicial institutions. One outcome of the workshop was the document-book "*Evaluación de la Reforma Procesal Penal*" (Evaluation of the Criminal Procedure Reform), which was officially released on June 10 in Santiago, Chile.

- Presentation of the Second Chile Report. The JSCA made a presentation on the Criminal Procedure Reforms in the Americas in a seminar on the Current State and Challenges of the Chilean Criminal Procedure Reform for the Metropolitan Region. The seminar was held on June 10, 2003 in Santiago, Chile and was attended by more than 300 people. The activity was organized by the Universidad Diego Portales and sponsored by the JSCA. A second motive for the event was the official launch of the book that contains the final version of the second report on the state of the criminal procedure reform in Chile, entitled "*Evaluación de la Reforma Procesal Penal*" (Evaluation of the Criminal Procedure Reform).

#### Some significant data...

- In Chile: there is a draft bill currently under consideration by the Executive Branch with the primary objective of making changes in court organization and administration. Generally speaking, it aims to fuse the preliminary and oral trial courts to form the criminal courts, made up of criminal judges, in order to make better use of human resources. In terms of administration, the project seeks to strengthen the functions of the administrator and the president-judge to overcome a series of disadvantageous practices detected in the courts.
- In Ecuador: based on the conclusions and results of the follow-up project, academic and JSCA consultant Andrés Baytelman was called as a consultant to analyze a series of legal reforms to be introduced, the creation of an inter-institutional coordination committee, and the call for a reform implementation plan, among other aspects.

- In Mexico: the follow-up project has resulted in continuous contact between the JSCA and various institutions in different Mexican states. This has resulted in a series of visits and workshops to introduce the new system held within and outside Mexico.
- Also under consideration is the possibility that the JSCA offer technical assistance to the Mexican government for carrying out the legal procedures of the reform
- In Colombia: based on the impact generated with the region's follow-up project, the Executive Director of the JSCA was invited to participate in the parliamentary discussion of the criminal procedure reform project that is currently underway.
- In Costa Rica: the Supreme Court of Justice is currently analyzing the possibility of introducing reforms to the process that tends toward orality in the preliminary stage, which constitutes one of the major problems that the follow-up project detected in the different systems of the region.

### **Third Stage of the Project.**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the project, the study will be implemented in Bolivia (with CEJIP, the Center for Justice Studies and Participation of Bolivia, a member of the JSCA CSO Network), Honduras (with FESPAD/CEPES, of El Salvador, member of the CSO Network and the organization that was in charge of implementing the study in their country during the second stage of the project) and in the Province of Buenos Aires in Argentina (with CELS, the Center of Legal and Social Studies, also a member of the CSO Network).

The hiring of local teams was completed in May and in June, and the JSCA team made initial visits to Bolivia and Honduras. The most was made of both meetings in that in addition to meeting with the research teams and clarifying concerns about this aspect of the project, both countries also conducted field visits in order to directly observe the functioning of the relevant aspects of the judicial systems to be studied.

The three local teams have already sent their schedules of activities and have begun their research. We expect preliminary results from all three countries in late September.

### **3.2 Gender and criminal procedure reform.**

With funding from the Flora and William Hewlett Foundation and CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, the JSCA has initiated the Gender and Criminal Justice Reform Project in Chile, soon to be followed by implementation in three other countries of the region. The project is divided into four major phases. The first is dedicated to the design of the data collection tools required in phases 2 and 3. This data is both quantitative (which includes the existing regulations) and qualitative, provided through interviews with different parties and system operators. The fourth phase corresponds to the analysis of the data collected and the preparation of the country reports, which will later be compiled into a comparative report.

The project has the following objectives:

- Contribute information on the practices of the employees and institutions of the criminal justice system in the cases of sex crimes and attempts on the physical integrity within the framework of domestic violence.
- Create basic tools for follow-up and evaluation of these practices that can easily be converted into programs for different governmental and non-governmental areas.
- Present these results to generate opportunities to discuss, control, create, and carry out joint judicial public policies that consider the perspective of gender.

Additional to these general objectives, the specific objectives we state are the following:

- Evaluate the degree to which the criminal procedure reform processes in the different Latin American countries have had an impact on matters of gender.
- Establish the way in which crimes with essentially women as victims are resolved by the system, especially in sex crimes and crimes that affect physical integrity.

The Chilean study is concentrated in twelve areas in the II, II, IV, VII, and IX regions, where the criminal procedure code has already been implemented.

In this study, the information has already been collected, and the interview stage has begun. A preliminary report indicating the primary findings of the research was presented in the Second Regular Session of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as part of the meeting held July 17-18, 2003 in Washington, DC.

The research team is currently preparing the final report that is expected to be presented in Chile in late September.

During the coming semester we plan to begin this research in another three countries of the region and publish the final report on Chile.

### **3.3. Access to judicial information.**

In the month of June the Ford Foundation's Southern Cone Program for Citizenship and Human Rights approved the project on "Access to Judicial Information," that the JSCA and the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR will develop in Argentina, Chile, and Peru. This project will gather information on the effective access of three groups (direct users of the justice system, communications media, and academia) to the information produced by the institutions of the judicial systems (judicial branches, judiciary councils, public prosecutors, and public defenders) in the countries mentioned.

We are currently in the process of hiring local experts in Argentina, Chile, and Peru. The project will last one year and release its preliminary results in the last quarter of this year.

### **3.4. Women's Courts.**

With funding from GTZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit, the JSCA is developing this project with two components. One is to evaluate the juridical and judicial effects of the Women's Courts on the human rights of women, particularly in the Chilean experience. The other is to use this analysis to produce a guide that refers to the implementation of women's courts of law dedicated to the resolution of conflicts that involve the human rights of women, which is being successfully developed in some countries of the region, such as Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay. This guide responds to the need to replicate the women's courts as a learning experience to review and detect concrete cases of systematic discrimination of the rights of women in the administration of justice.

In the current stage of the project, the preliminary version of the guide is being used for a round of discussions, the results of which will be incorporated into the final version.

The final version of the Guide will be presented in the regional meeting planned for November 2003 and will be complemented based on the validation and discussion that takes place at that time.

### **3.6. Research on Racial Discrimination in the administration of justice.**

The JSCA has begun, with funding from the Government of Brazil, a study on institutionalized Racial Discrimination in the administration of justice. The same study will be conducted in Brazil, Canada, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. An observation guide will be prepared to specify the information gathered in each country, sources, the number of cases, and the way to process the information. The research will then be conducted in the selected countries to analyze legislation and relevant jurisprudence on the issue of racial discrimination, with a complete follow-up on the cases. Finally, a comparative report will be prepared that includes the information collected in the local studies and drawing general conclusions from there. The project will begin in August and have a duration of five months.