



Judicial Strengthening Initiative for Bulgaria

QUARTERLY REPORT FIRST QUARTER 2007

January 1, 2007 - March 31, 2007

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TABLE OF ACRONYMS

AIF	Access to Information Foundation
BCNL	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law
BJA	Bulgarian Judges Association
BTC	Broadcasting Training Center
CATP	Court Administration Training Program
CC	Constitutional Court
CIP	Court in Partnership
CJT	Continuing Judge Training
CPT	Continuing Prosecutor Training
CLRP	Commercial Law Reform Project
CMS	Case Management System
DOJ	United States Department of Justice
EU	European Union
EWMI	East-West Management Institute, Inc.
IAJ	International Association of Judges
ICNL	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law
IDI	Institutional Development Index
IREX	International Research and Exchanges Board
IT	Information Technology
JDP	Judicial Development Project
JPI	Judicial Performance Index
JSA	Judicial System Act
JSI	Judicial Strengthening Initiative
LDI	Legislative Drafting Institute

MC	Model Court
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MP	Member of Parliament
NACC	National Association of Court Clerks
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIJ	National Institute of Justice
PR	Public Relations
PSA	Public Service Announcement
RCJI	Regional Criminal Justice Initiative
RFA	Request for Applications
RIA	Regulatory Impact Assessment
SJC	Supreme Judicial Council
UISCC	Unified Information System for Combating Crime
UJB	Union of Judges of Bulgaria
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

USAID JUDICIAL STRENGTHENING INITIATIVE FOR BULGARIA

FIRST QUARTER REPORT

January 1 – March 31, 2007

INTRODUCTION

As required under its contract with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), East-West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI) submits the following report for the Judicial Strengthening Initiative in Bulgaria (JSI) for the First Quarter period January 1 – March 31, 2007. The report tracks the tasks and subtasks identified under the contract and in the 2007 workplan: improving court administration, improving the capacity of magistrates and court staff, assisting with drafting and implementing key laws.

Highlights during the quarter included Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) adoption of the Courts In Partnership program and selection by the Council of its first four partner courts, local ceremonies to transition ten courts to Model Court status with widespread media outreach and coverage, a Participant Training Program trip to Washington D.C. for court and judicial system press attachés, renewed advocacy by the SJC for Judicial System Act (JSA) amendments that would strengthen national court administration, and a MC/CIP chairpersons meeting that included eight members of the SJC.

Fifteen grantees under the third and last USAID JSI competitive grants program received JSI training and started work, JSI held well-attended public forums on the new JSA and on improved access to court records, at the JSA forum the Minister of Justice presented the draft law and there was wide debate on areas of concern to magistrates, existing targeted grantees continued institutional strengthening, and competitive grantees continued programs on public outreach and court monitoring, and presented training on better practices for access to court information.

The National Institute of Justice continued growth and progress toward full sustainability. NIJ accepted and began operation of the Local Court Training Plan program, the Board approved the NIJ Media Plan, the new Initial Prosecutor Training Manual based on the revised Criminal Procedure Code was completed with forty-one training modules, USAID JDP/JSI developed court administrator training programs were transferred to the NIJ, and the NIJ took the important step to internalize self-improvement and approved the Monitoring and Evaluation checklist. The JSI was involved with presenting, either through its Bulgarian partners or on its own, over 3,000 person days of training during the quarter.

TASK I: IMPROVE COURT ADMINISTRATION

A. MODEL COURTS AND COURTS IN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As JSI looked towards the completion of its activities with the Bulgarian courts, there was a great deal of activity in the first quarter of the year. This included a number of visits to Courts in Partnership, and assessments that led nine Courts in Partnership to become Model Courts, and one Model Court to receive Special Recognition. JSI took a variety of steps concerning the

Court Improvement Plan, the document which underlies the Courts in Partnership program. These included revising the current plan, and taking steps to develop a second plan. JSI also initiated processes by which the Supreme Judicial Council can take over the Court Improvement Plan and Courts in Partnership initiatives, thereby guaranteeing longevity for these programs. JSI continued to assemble Chairpersons from Courts in Partnership, hosting another of these meetings in Dobrich, and this one was attended by eight SJC members. In addition, the JSI work necessary to finalize the Information Center concept for the SJC neared completion.

1.1 Support to Courts in Partnership and Other Courts

The primary goals of the Model Court and Court in Partnership Program are continued improvement of court administration and operations through individually identified standards from the Court Improvement Plan.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

1.1.1 Court Improvement Plan Support: JSI continued to work with all Courts in Partnership, to help those not yet-transitioned courts to achieve the 75% benchmark, and to help Model Courts to work towards their goal of 100% compliance with the Court Improvement Plan. In continued support to the Courts in Partnership, JSI conducted site visits to Dobrich District Court, Gotse Delchev Regional Court, Plovdiv District Court, Plovdiv Regional Court, Shumen Regional Court, Sliven District Court, and Yambol Regional Court.

Based on evaluations conducted in the fourth quarter of 2006 and first quarter of 2007, JSI determined that ten courts had achieved Model Court status and thereupon arranged transition ceremonies for each of these. Nine courts were honored for the transition to Model Court status: Bourgas Regional Court, Dobrich District Court, Dobrich Regional Court, Montana District Court, Plovdiv District Court, Plovdiv Regional Court, Sliven District Court, Varna District Court, and Varna Regional Court. The tenth court, the Smolyan Regional Court, became the only court in Bulgaria to achieve Model Court status on two separate occasions, and it was honored with Special Recognition. USAID-Bulgaria Mission Director Michael Fritz participated in the combined transition ceremony for Dobrich District Court, Dobrich Regional Court, Varna District Court and Varna Regional Court, a ceremony that eight SJC members also attended. Later in the quarter Mr. Fritz and JSI CTO Svetozara Petkova participated in the transition ceremony for the Bourgas Regional Court. USAID Democracy-Local Governance Chief Gene Gibson participated in the Smolyan Regional Court Recognition Ceremony.

1.1.2 Update Court Improvement Plan: Continuing from meetings begun in December 2006, JSI staff met to discuss and revise the core standards and scoring criteria for the 26 original core standards. JSI staff also continued with the assessment of practices submitted by all Courts in Partnership to identify those deemed to be the best practices for any given core standard. JSI staff is revising the Court Improvement Plan pursuant to these discussions, and will assemble those best practices selected for inclusion. Once finalized, the revised Court Improvement Plan will be distributed to all courts in Bulgaria.

1.1.3 Second Court Improvement Plan: As noted below at Section 1.2.2, SJC Support for Court Improvement Plan, JSI recognizes that the SJC, in cooperation with Chairpersons from current Courts in Partnership, will be in the best position to sustain principles which underlie the Court Improvement Plan. To that end, JSI's methodology is to develop the Second Court Improvement Plan closely with the SJC as well as leaders from current Model Courts. Following discussions with the SJC Court Administration Committee Chairperson and SJC Secretary General, JSI and the SJC will work to create a development team whose mandate will

be creation of the next court improvement plan. Following several discussions, JSI and SJC representatives agreed that a retreat will provide the best forum in which to discuss the principles that underlie this type of endeavor and to create the standards by which these principles may be realized.

The JSI made recommendations to SJC members and administrative staff on whom should take part in development of the Second Court Improvement Plan. With one exception, the SJC's Court Administration Committee accepted these recommendations, and the retreat is set to take place during the second quarter of 2007.

1.1.4 Information Centers and Combined Registries: Some of the most significant work during this quarter occurred as JSI finalized the information center concept. This included the updating of all brochures developed under the Judicial Development Program, updating of the roadmap, including court contact information, development of the IT policy for information center users, unification and additions to sample forms, logo selection and development of two training programs related to information centers (one training program for courts and one for the NIJ). This work represents the combined efforts of a working group of chairpersons and clerks from Courts in Partnership, and many members of the JSI staff.

The finalized concept and supporting documentation were forwarded to the SJC for their widespread consideration. Those groups specifically reviewing the concept include the SJC's Court Administration Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Information Technology and Research Committee. In the second quarter of 2007 JSI intends to promote the concept among all SJC members with the goal of asking the SJC to formally approve JSI's information center concept and require that it be distributed to all courts in Bulgaria.

JSI continued its efforts to assist courts to establish information centers and combined registries. During the quarter JSI saw the completion of information centers in Montana District Court and Smolyan Regional and District Court, and provided support to Vratsa District Court and Gorna Oryahovitsa Regional Court in the form of information boards. JSI continues to work with the Regional and District Courts in Haskovo, and the Regional Court in Bourgas, as these courts finalize their information center plans.

1.1.5 Chairpersons Meetings: In February JSI hosted a CIP Chairpersons meeting in Dobrich. Chairpersons or representatives from thirty Courts in Partnership attended, as well as eight members from the Supreme Judicial Council. The meeting agenda included presentations from NIJ Deputy Director for Administrative Matters, Stoil Pashkunov, and from JSI staff regarding ongoing and upcoming activities.

JSI met early in the quarter with a small working group of MC/CIP chairpersons to continue planning toward a possible council of court chairpersons. With drafts from members of this informal group, JSI prepared a concept paper for use at the chairpersons meeting in Dobrich. During the Dobrich meeting the concept paper was distributed and the attendees had a spirited discussion on the concept of an "Advisory Council of Court Chairpersons," an idea to provide a forum in which court chairpersons can discuss areas of common concern. While there was widespread agreement that the idea was one worth pursuing, the structured approach contained in the concept paper was not accepted. In order to maintain the dialogue that began in Dobrich, JSI will invite those chairpersons interested in discussing the matter further to a meeting to be held in the second quarter of the year.

1.1.6 Operations Review Template: During the process by which JSI updated the Court Improvement Plan, JSI undertook further modifications to ensure that the Court Improvement

Plan will function as an Operations Review Template through its focus on court and other office procedures. The final version to be submitted to the SJC will include these modifications.

1.1.7 Verbatim Court Recording: During the reporting period JSI IT staff updated the list of courtrooms to receive verbatim recording equipment. JSI will equip 76 courtrooms in 29 Appellate, District, and Regional Courts in Bulgaria. Upon completion of equipment and software installation JSI staff will conduct regional training seminars on the use and operations of verbatim recording.

There were significant delays in delivery from the US of all IT equipment, including the verbatim recording equipment. All verbatim recording equipment is among that hardware in the first of two IT shipments. As of the close of the first quarter all first shipment hardware was not yet in Sofia, and the customs clearance process will not begin until all equipment is received. Delivery and customs clearance must occur before further verbatim installations can begin.

1.1.8 Improve Use of Management Statistics and Reports: As part of the revisions to the court improvement plan, JSI staff collected from all CIPs and evaluated the documents that are used for purposes of improved court management. The best of these documents were selected for inclusion in the “Best Practices” section of the revised Court Improvement Plan, to be submitted to the SJC and distributed to all Bulgarian courts in the second quarter of 2007. Many of these reports are directly related to statistics that monitor a court’s case delay reduction program, implemented pursuant to the Court Improvement Plan.

1.1.9 Automation Support Not Tied to CMS Use: All automation support not tied to CMS, including installation of computer server upgrades and flat screen monitors for various Information Centers, has been delayed because of delays in receiving hardware shipments. See section 1.1.7, Verbatim Recording, above.

1.1.10 Presentation of Evidence: During this reporting period the JSI discussed selection criteria for placement of carts and resolved to provide evidence carts to those courts that have sufficient caseload and local attorneys who are technically capable to effectively use this equipment. Following these discussions JSI will place evidence carts at the Sofia Palace of Justice, as well as in shared court facilities in Plovdiv and Varna, with the fourth evidence cart likely placed in Veliko Turnovo.

Further progress in this initiative depends on the hardware purchases set for customs clearance in 2007, as described in 1.1.7, Verbatim Recording.

1.1.11 Closeout Event: JSI staff took the initial steps in planning the closeout event for the Courts in Partnership program, scheduled for 21 June 2007. This included discussions on format, invitees, and location.

1.1.12 Support to Other Courts: Support for non-CIPs moved to starting efforts with the courts selected by the SJC as its own Courts In Partnership. JSI continued revisions to the Court Improvement Plan to make it more useful for these new SJC CIPs and for other non-CIPs wishing to use the Plan. Revisions should finish early in the next quarter for the revised Plan to be distributed nationally. Personnel from non-CIPs have also been involved in trainings under the CATP. The courses included seminars on Leadership and Strategic Planning (September 2006) and Human Resource Management (December 2006). As discussed in section 2.9, below, those courses were transferred to the NIJ during the quarter.

1.2 Coordination with the Supreme Judicial Council

Under this subtask, the JSI is to provide the SJC with information on the activities and accomplishments of the CIPs and solicit SJC member participation in CIP activities and events in order to promote and recognize the accomplishments of the CIPs.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

1.2.1 Updating SJC on CIP Work: Throughout the reporting period JSI maintained regular contact with Panayot Genkov, Chairperson of the SJC Court Administration Committee, Slavka Kamenova, SJC General Secretary, and SJC’s administrative managers, and kept them updated on progress among the JSI Courts in Partnership and on development of the program in general. Eight SJC members attended and participated in the February Chairpersons meeting in Dobrich and received updating on CIP work.

1.2.2 SJC Support for Court Improvement Plan: In the previous quarter, JSI had initiated discussions with the Chairperson of the SJC Court Administration Committee on how to ensure the sustainability of the principles that form the basis of the Court Improvement Plan. Following several discussions in this quarter, and the submission of a proposal by JSI, Judge Genkov and JSI agreed that the best approach would be for the SJC to appoint its own Courts in Partnership, and that JSI and SJC would combine their efforts in plan implementation. With JSI participation, the SJC then selected four “SJC Courts in Partnership”: Lovech District Court, Sandanski Regional Court, Vratsa Regional Court, and Yambol Administrative Court. In order to help the SJC support the new Courts in Partnership and to improve the SJC in its ability to sustain the Court Improvement Plan, JSI modified the current Court Improvement Plan.

JSI and SJC staff conducted a joint initial site visit and assessment to each of the SJC Courts in Partnership. Each initial site visit included JSI and SJC staff meeting with the Court Chairperson, and a Deputy or Court Administrator. It is worth noting that the Sandanski Regional Court Chairperson asked that each judge and clerk attend the initial visit, and also invited a member of the press. This level of involvement is a positive indication of the level of interest the newly selected courts have in pursuing this initiative.

In addition to the meetings mentioned above, JSI organized and chaired a meeting attended by Judge Genkov, the Chairpersons of the SJC Courts in Partnership, Chairpersons from four JSI Model Courts, General Secretary Slavka Kamenova, and key SJC legal staff. Participants at the meeting engaged in a discussion of the work and benefits inherent in the court improvement process.

B. SJC INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JSI continued to work with the SJC to improve their capacities, and provide the framework in which a developed judicial system functions properly. During the reporting period JSI was an active participant in the process by which the SJC began its strategic planning. JSI further assisted SJC in the areas of budgeting and audit as it provided trainings and roundtable discussions on these issues. JSI remained committed to helping the SJC use statistics as a means of managing the courts, and continued its efforts with the SJC’s Statistics Working Group. One of the highlights of the quarter was the coordination between JSI and SJC’s press attaché with resulting coverage by the international press on SJC’s activities. Recognizing the importance of sound discipline procedures, JSI began its evaluation of the SJC procedures governing magistrate discipline, as well as an evaluation of the asset disclosure procedures and forms recently adopted by the SJC.

1.3 Improved Capacities of the Supreme Judicial Council

The JSI is to make recommendations and train staff and Council members on how the SJC can more effectively perform its responsibilities as an office for the national administration of the courts.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

1.3.1 Regulatory Framework: JSI continues to monitor the progress of the regulatory framework which governs the judiciary, most notably as the Government of Bulgaria and Parliament consider amendments to the Judicial System Act. In 2006 JSI's Ireland PTP group and the SJC Legal Standing Committee drafted proposed amendments to the JSA and forwarded these to the MOJ's JSA working group. The proposed amendments sought to improve the capacities of the SJC to administer the courts on a national basis. Unfortunately, the MOJ working group did not include any of the proposed changes and amendments in the JSA. When informed that the changes would not be included in the initial draft, the SJC called for a vote and reiterated their support for the Ireland PTP recommendations. Before the draft was submitted to parliament by the Council of Ministers, proposed language was added to include the process for court administrator competitions as proposed by the SJC. See also section 3.3.2, below.

1.3.2 National Court Administration: As noted above in Section 1.3.1, the MOJ working group on the JSA chose not to include the recommendations made by the Ireland PTP group and adopted by the SJC, but the recommended process for an SJC organized competition for hiring court administrators was later included. This is an achievement both for efforts to implement national court administration and for the legislative advocacy of the SJC. Along with JSA change efforts, JSI stepped up its efforts in this area to encourage SJC support for national implementation of the Court Improvement Plan, with the idea that many of the standards included in the Court Improvement Plan require improved court administration. JSI initiated discussions with the SJC's Court Administration Committee aimed at having the SJC enlist the assistance of Model Court Chairpersons in nationwide implementation of the Plan.

1.3.3 IDI and SJC Staff and Facility: Key in this area was the work conducted on the SJC Strategic Plan. Early in the reporting period the SJC decided to develop a Strategic Plan, an Action Plan, and Programs for achieving the goals and priorities of the SJC, and assigned this task to the SJC General Secretary. The SJC asked that the first draft of these documents be completed within one month. Faced with this daunting deadline, the SJC General Secretary contacted JSI for assistance. JSI supported development of these initial documents, most notably by hosting strategic plan development meetings on 25-26 January 2007. In addition to the support from JSI staff, the project provided outside facilitators to work with SJC staff on plan development. As a result of this cooperation SJC General Secretary was able to present the draft Strategic Plan to the SJC Committees. The full SJC will likely consider this draft during the second quarter of 2007.

JSI continues to assist the SJC in building capacity of SJC staff. In this regard JSI reviewed and made recommendations for the SJC's training program. JSI anticipates that several of the training programs identified will take place during the next reporting period. See also section 1.3.5, below.

The updated Institutional Development Index (IDI) is attached to this report.

1.3.4 Improved Budgeting Process: In February 2007 JSI staff participated with Spanish Twinning Project consultants in a round table discussion on improved budgeting processes for the courts and the SJC. The overall theme of an “independent judicial budget and process” was discussed in light of the pending JSA amendments. Discussions focused on proposals that would establish executive branch involvement that would dilute “judicial independence” in the budgeting process. The JSI staff and Spanish consultants voiced opposition to these pending amendments.

1.3.5 Audit: JSI continued to support the SJC Audit Unit by consulting about auditor training and providing further financial support for trainings. During the reporting period three of the SJC’s eight auditors attended the Institute of Internal Auditors’ course on Methods to Fight Fraud and Embezzlement. JSI anticipates providing continued financial support for these types of trainings in the second quarter.

1.3.6 Selection, Promotion and Disciplinary Processes for Judges: JSI undertook an extensive review of two key aspects of judicial discipline. First, JSI reviewed those procedures used in processing complaints of judicial misconduct. A first draft of this analysis was completed and JSI undertook discussions concerning next steps to be taken. Similarly, JSI reviewed the procedures and forms recently approved by the SJC on asset disclosure. An analysis of these procedures and forms was drafted and circulated among JSI staff.

1.3.7 Improved Public Relations: The JSI continued to provide technical assistance to the SJC press attaché in the first quarter. These activities included: coordination of SJC member participation in the Chairpersons meeting and Model Courts transition ceremony in Dobrich and Varna, participation in the SJC journalists awards selection committee, and planning of media outreach on SJC disciplinary processes with JSI Competitive Grants recipient Journalists Against Corruption (in the form of an upcoming documentary to be shot in the second quarter). The first quarter highlight in this ongoing collaboration was the successful submission of a story on SJC judicial discipline to the international news service *Reuters*. The JSI Communication Advisor and SJC press attaché assisted the *Reuters* Bureau Chief in receiving timely, factual information on the SJC termination of two top prosecutors. The story made it to the *Reuters* World Desk, and onto the wire to 500,000 subscribers and their millions of readers. See 3.4.1 for more information on the *Reuters* story, and the relevant attachment.

In addition to technical assistance, the JSI also supported the SJC press attaché in two international training programs. First, through collaboration with the USAID Participant Training Program, the SJC press attaché attended the Judiciary-Media Relations training in the United States in January. See section 3.5.1, below, for more information. Second, at the request of the Spanish Twinning program working with the SJC, the JSI assisted two visiting German magistrates in their work on media outreach with the SJC press attaché and the SJC PR Committee. As a follow-up to this collaboration with the visiting German magistrates, the JSI arranged an international judiciary-media practices roundtable, with these same visitors, to be hosted in the second quarter by the Chief of Staff of the Supreme Court of Cassation.

JSI co-organized the SJC’s Annual Journalists awards. A member of JSI’s legal staff participated as a member of the official selection committee. The first stages of the selection process occurred at the end of the reporting period, and will continue into the next period at which time the awards will be presented.

By the end of the first quarter, the SJC had not as yet given final approval to the new SJC Media Plan, and had not completed the 2006 Annual Report.

1.3.8 PHARE Coordination: As the Spanish PHARE Project prepared to complete its work with the Supreme Judicial Council, JSI engaged in its final event with Spanish PHARE with a roundtable discussion with SJC members, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Economy, on improved budget preparation and processes, set forth in greater detail at Section 1.3.4.

1.3.9 Closeout: Discussions on the structure of a SJC closeout event are ongoing, and it appears that the SJC event will be part of the larger JSI event to be held at the beginning of the third quarter.

1.4 Improved Collection and Use of Statistics

JSI is to work to support development of a weighted caseload process have continued.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: On February 12-13 JSI facilitated a meeting of the Statistics Working Group in Blagoevgrad. This meeting focused on three specific agenda items. First, the Statistics Working Group analyzed the information provided by 16 courts on a total of 160 questionnaires. This information will serve as the basis upon which to develop a case weighting formula. Second, the group compared the results of information provided in the questionnaires with information objectively obtained in four separate regional polls, with the goal of verifying the information provided in response to the questionnaires. Finally, the group outlined its final report and recommendations. This report and the recommendations contained therein will be presented to the SJC in the second quarter of 2007.

C. AUTOMATION

JSI took significant steps to ensure the functionality and compatibility of the Case Management System, including programming, testing and planning for transition to Bulgarian oversight. Work in the hardware related areas of the workplan awaits delivery of US purchased hardware.

1.5 Electronic Case Management System (CMS)

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

1.5.1 Support CMS Courts: JSI staff had two meetings with the SJC Research and Technology Committee, meetings attended as well by representatives from the MOJ's Registry Agency. This Agency is responsible for all judicial technology improvements and support. The SJC Committee confirmed its acceptance of CMS as an approved court case management system and referred the CMS to the MOJ to provide support. The JSI staff requested that the Registry Agency provide detailed information for the transition of the CMS to them for continuing support and maintenance. As of early March the Agency stated verbally that they did not have the funds or staff necessary to maintain CMS. The ability to provide further support to CMS courts will largely depend on the cooperation of MOJ and during the second quarter JSI will take steps to confirm MOJ's intentions with this system.

On the programming side, during this quarter the Random Case Assignment module was updated to allow greater flexibility in case distribution, particularly to give courts the ability to further refine those case types set forth by the MOJ. In addition, CMS was modified to accommodate those situations, such as other administrative responsibilities or leave, where a judge is not expected to maintain a 100% workload.

1.5.2 Unified Information System for Combating Crime (UISCC): JSI initiated efforts to ensure that CMS is compliant with the UISCC. During the reporting period Latona completed addition to CMS of all necessary UISCC data elements. As noted above, further development in this area depends on the cooperation of MOJ.

1.5.3 Conviction Certificates: CMS is fully compatible with the Bulgarian convictions certificate central registry. Therefore, there will be no additional work in this area.

1.5.4 Rollout CMS to Additional Courts: CMS was not installed in any new courts during this quarter. Further installations are planned for second quarter after delivery of new hardware.

1.6 Development of a Transition Plan for Automation Activities

1st Quarter Activities and Results: JSI began work on its transition plan which will include recommendations on the transfer of JSI's automation activities. This includes the transfer for various licenses, such as anti-virus and Lotus software, and web sites, as well as recommendations on the continued maintenance and support for CMS.

As mentioned in section 1.5.1, above, during the quarter the CMS received approval from the SJC IT Committee as a court case management system that needed support by the MOJ.

TASK 2: IMPROVE CAPACITY OF MAGISTRATES AND COURT STAFF

JSI activities in this task area for the first quarter are all either on target or achieved earlier than anticipated. The NIJ and the NACC both experienced a general rejuvenation of efforts and commitment as they realize the JSI is exiting. Noteworthy for the NIJ in the first quarter is the successful transfer from the JSI and incorporation of the Local Court Training program into the NIJ. The program provides the needed link and incentive to the Correspondent Judge program and offers a decentralized training delivery mechanism.

Following up the 2006 Magistrates Conference, the JSI staff prepared a manual with detailed information on how to organize a large scale national conference for magistrates in Bulgaria (a copy was sent to USAID in February). The guidelines reflect the JSI's experience in organizing two national conferences for judges and one national magistrates' conference in the period 2004 – 2006. JSI sent the manual to possible organizers of future magistrate conferences: the Supreme Court of Cassation, Supreme Administrative Court, Prosecutor General's Office, National Investigation Service, the National Institute of Justice, the Ministry of Justice, and NACC. The JSI received a letter of appreciation from the Evgeny Staikov in his role as head of EU Integration for the SJC.

During the 1st quarter of 2007, NIJ offered 5 initial, 15 continuing, 7 court administration, and six TOT trainings to a total of 882 participants. The trainings were delivered through 150 trainers/experts. These contributed to 2,184 person days of trainings for judges, 350 for prosecutors, 41 for investigators, and 408 person days of training for court clerks. Sixty-eight percent of the trainees were female. Through the competitive grants program, JSI conducted two trainings that contributed to 62 person days of training for judges.

Training Statistics, 1st Quarter, 2007

Type of Training	# Courses	Participants							Person Days						
		Magistrates				Clerks	Other	Total Part.	Magistrate Person Days				Clerk	Other	Total P. Days
		Judges	Pros.	Invest.	Total Mag.				Judges	Pros.	Invest	Total Mag.			
NIJ Initial Training	5	169	41	0	210	0	0	210	915	205	0	1120	0	0	1120
NIJ Continuing Training	15	335	43	11	389	0	9	398	941	124	32	1097	0	28	1125
NIJ Court Admin Training	7	10	0	0	10	147	0	157	20	0	0	20	408	0	428
NIJ TOT Training	6	96	7	3	106	0	1	107	288	21	9	318	0	3	321
NIJ Info Center	1	10	0	0	10	0	0	10	20	0	0	20	0	0	20
NIJ Subtotal	34	620	91	14	725	147	10	882	2184	350	41	2575	408	31	3014
JSI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JSI Grantees	2	31	0	0	31	0	9	40	62	0	0	62	0	18	80
JSI Subtotal	2	31	0	0	31	0	9	40	62	0	0	62	0	18	80
GRAND TOTAL	36	651	91	14	756	147	19	922	2246	350	41	2637	408	49	3094

A. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

2.1 Institutional Development

The NIJ will continue to work on the IDI, focusing on the Strategic Plan, Staff Development, and the delivery of two training programs for staff.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: In 2006 the NIJ Board approved “in concept” the draft NIJ Strategic Plan. The NIJ continues to work on its Strategic Plan. Deputy Director Yordanov provided several different format models for the Strategic Plan to be considered by the NIJ Management. JSI assisted the process by drafting a document outlining the rationale behind a strategic plan and also edited the existing strategic plan with commentary that will focus NIJ’s final document. All NIJ departments drafted their sections of the Strategic Plan and submitted them to the management for final review and adoption. The final Strategic Plan will be submitted to the NIJ Board in the second quarter.

The NIJ Management approved of the Staff Development Plan. The plan recognizes the obligation of the NIJ to provide training and professional development not only for its clients but also for its staff. The Staff Development Plan is an activity under the Institutional Development Index, and *work in this subtask has been completed.*

Under the NIJ grant and linked to the Staff Development Plan, NIJ staff participated in several different training programs. A series of “in-house” training activities occurred regarding the philosophy, approach, and methodology of the standardized program development process. Program Coordinators and key managers attended the programs. In addition, NIJ accounting personnel attended programs on how to identify fraud and abuse via accounting practices. All department managers attended a management program provided by Bulgarian consultant, Vesselina Penevska. The NIJ computer specialist attended a program on managing a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Network. Although *JSI has now completed its obligations for this subtask*, additional staff will attend additional training in the second quarter,.

JSI assisted the NIJ with delivery in the first quarter of a Training of Trainers program dedicated to the new civil procedure code trainers who worked with the Austrian PHARE project. This was a cooperative effort between the NIJ, USAID and the PHARE. The PHARE project trained judges on the substantive issues in the new code while NIJ and USAID trained them on adult learning theory and application.

Dragomir Yordanov, Deputy Director of the NIJ, on March 1 returned from seven months in the US attending public administration programs sponsored by Georgetown University. JSI conferred with him regularly during this educational absence. However, at this time, the benefits of his education are unknown.

The NIJ restructured the program departments and elevated the Court Administration Unit to a position equal to those of Initial and Continuing Training. This change recognizes the important role of the court administrative staff in the overall work of the judicial system. JSI staff assisted the Court Administration Unit in reviewing and updating court clerk training programs.

The NIJ requested assistance from the JSI regarding the opening of the second building. Due to delays with the PHARE project, the funds for some of the furniture and for library books were not available. Through the NIJ grant, small amounts of furniture and books were purchased. The NIJ invited the US Ambassador to speak at the ceremony for the opening of the second building.

2.2 Delivery of training at a local and regional level

The NIJ will strengthen its Correspondent Judge program by offering a structured approach to training coupled with financial support provided by the NIJ grant. Although JSI is continuing to provide on-going assistance to the NIJ in this area, *this subtask is completed.*

1st Quarter Activities and Results: In late 2006, JSI transferred to the NIJ the Local Court Training Plan program. The proposal approved by the NIJ Board included a targeted amount of funds to be dedicated to court clerks and a requirement to deliver at least one training program aimed at fighting organized crime.

In early 2007, the NIJ hosted an orientation program for all district courts, and for regional courts participating in the JSI Courts in Partnership program. Attendees were Correspondent Judges and court clerk representatives. Mr. Penev, NIJ Director and Ms. Leavitt, JSI Deputy Director addressed the audience outlining the rationale and expectations of the program. Judge Diana Miteva who had participated under the JSI program provided a “user’s” perspective and encouraged new participants to take advantage of the opportunity for partial funding. After reviewing court applications, NIJ approved twenty-two courts to participate. The range of training programs identified includes fighting organized crime, civil intake for court clerks, time management, and EU arrest warrant. The first NIJ Local Court Training was successfully conducted during the quarter by Kuystendil District Court and focused on the problems with regard to extradition and the European arrest warrant.

NIJ staff will conduct site visits to programs that are not NIJ programs. JSI prepared a checklist with all the tasks the NIJ observer should accomplish onsite and discussed it with the NIJ staff assigned as observers.

The budgeted amount for this program in the JSI grant to the NIJ was \$51,000.00. The participating courts obligated approximately \$22,000.00. With JSI approval, the NIJ re-distributed the funds to other grant activities.

NIJ proposed that the Correspondent Judges meet in the second quarter to discuss their experiences with the LCTP and to discuss which programs can be included in Continuing Judges Training. This effort reflects the commitment of the NIJ to incorporate fully the program and to build upon the successful LCTP programs to expand their Continuing Judge Training program.

2.3 Alumni Group

The JSI will assist the NIJ with the alumni group program, and the assistance will include media skills training.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: The JSI completed all preparations for the media skills training to be held in Blagoevgrad on 2-4 May. These preparations were planned in detail with the head of the NIJ Initial Training Division and the NIJ press attaché. The result is comprehensive magistrate media training which is based on two years of past JSI chairperson judge media trainings, and which will be offered to ten leading NIJ graduates (5 judges and 5 prosecutors), the NIJ press attaché, and three NIJ staff. (Agenda attached.) The training is the outgrowth of the Alumni Group development plan completed in 2006, and will form the centerpiece of the development plan. Meetings with the NIJ press attaché and NIJ Initial Training management led to a decision by both the JSI and the NIJ that intensive three day media training would be sufficient to teach NIJ graduates the necessary skills in media relations and advocacy. This training, continuing retreats for graduates, the yearbook, and the student directory, form the basis for continuing development of the NIJ alumni.

2.4 Legislative and Public Outreach

At least two additional NIJ staff identified for public outreach efforts and trained in media and outreach skills. One media training program delivered.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: During the first quarter the NIJ Board approved the NIJ Media Plan, an important media and public outreach milestone for the NIJ, and a product of JSI/NIJ full collaboration. The JSI continued ongoing technical assistance with the NIJ press attaché in the first quarter, including regular meetings on the NIJ media plan, collaboration on coverage of the launch of the third class of initial magistrates training, co-drafting a press release on the new NIJ Regional Training Program, promotion of the Prosecutor Initial Training Manual, and coordination of regional media contact lists for NIJ regional outreach. The JSI also completed planning for the training of three additional staff members in media skills. JSI and the NIJ management agreed that representatives from initial training, continuing training, and court clerk training would attend the upcoming second quarter media training for NIJ Alumni magistrates.

In the first quarter the JSI provided significant technical assistance to strengthen the transfer of media skills training curriculum to the NIJ. As part of the planning for the NIJ Alumni media training, the JSI met separately with the head of the Initial Training Division and with the head of the Continuing Training Division to discuss ways to improve and expand NIJ media curriculum, know-how, and the selection of trainers. Each NIJ manager and the NIJ press attaché expressed enthusiasm and a commitment to expand media training in both the Initial and Continuing Training divisions, and to use the curriculum and trainers recommended by the JSI. The NIJ/JSI collaborative work included discussion and agreement on the best Bulgarian locations and broadcast studios, and trainers in communication theory, court information practices, and broadcast media skills. The resulting media skills training program to be offered in May will act as a final “audition” for all elements of the JSI media skills training curriculum

transfer – topics, tools, and trainers – and will be attended by NIJ management as auditors of the best methods to use in the future.

2.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The JSI will conduct training for the NIJ staff on M&E concepts and principles and develop a checklist document outlining the uses of the M&E results. *This subtask is completed.*

1st Quarter Activities and Results: During the 1st quarter, JSI developed a thorough M&E checklist and submitted it to NIJ for their review and approval. The NIJ management conducted a number of meetings with key personnel designated to implement the M&E system. The document was approved and will be used by the Institute in the effective implementation of their M&E strategy.

In particular, JSI consulted NIJ on the different M&E tasks that have to be performed in the various stages of their different activities cycles, from early design phase, through start-up to actual implementation. The following issues were discussed in detail: establishing the M&E team and selecting a coordinator; determining information needs, as well as software adjustment and improvement, needs and ways to secure them; selecting evaluation designs that will best suit the specifics of the various activities; and the respective data collection instruments and methods.

The end goal of these efforts is the establishment of a well functioning and on-going M&E process, able to produce reliable, timely and consistent information for decision-making, budgeting and public awareness purposes.

B. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

2.6 Continuing Judge Training (CJT) Curriculum

Two training programs will be developed and transferred to the NIJ.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: A great deal of work occurred during the first quarter on developing new training programs for judges. JSI staff worked diligently with the NIJ Program Coordinators to train them on the use of the new approved NIJ training templates on introducing new computer skills, interviewing skills, and team work. Five new programs are under development: Financial Crimes, Property Law, Partitions, Cyber Crimes, and Accountancy for Judges. Some of the programs are being designed for audience members that will include prosecutors (Financial Crimes and Cyber Crimes). The Program Coordinators all met at least twice with the content experts to introduce the new approach and to begin in earnest the development of the content. At the time of this report, three of the five programs have training dates set.

The systematic approach changes the role of the Program Coordinators from a logistical role to a more professional role that ensures quality training programs developed in a standardized methodology. Although the level of effort by the Program Coordinators is intense, it will taper off after they have gone through the entire process once.

The CJT is on track with the work plan. All programs will be delivered before the end of the second quarter.

2.7 Continuing Prosecutor Training (CPT) Capacity Building

Training manual based upon the new criminal code, identified trainers, and on-going coordination with other implementers. *With the exception of the on-going coordination with other implementers, this subtask is completed.*

1st Quarter Activities and Results: Three prosecutors assisted by a judge developed forty-one training modules based upon the new criminal procedure code for use in NIJ's Initial and Continuing Prosecutor Training. The manual includes objectives, timeframes, content, activities, and training methodology. JSI distributed copies of the Prosecutor Training Manual to NIJ, DOJ, USAID, Prosecutor General's Office, and the Spanish and Austrian PHARE projects which are currently working with prosecutor training.

The development and distribution of the Initial Prosecutor Training Manual is complete and is a significant step forward for prosecutor training. The manual ensures quality and consistent training where before there was none for the new prosecutors.

The Prosecutor General's Office ("PGO") identified prosecutors with specific expertise to be trainers. NIJ worked with the PGO and JSI to establish TOT programs for them. Some prosecutor trainers attended TOT in the first quarter and others will attend in the second quarter.

The JSI co-hosted with the Prosecutor General's Office a meeting of key implementers working on prosecutor training. The goal was to improve coordination through improved communication and understanding of the PGO structure. The US Department of Justice, Spanish PHARE, NIJ and Initial and Continuing Department representatives participated along with other members of the JSI team and Prosecutor General's Office. The Austrian PHARE project was invited but did not attend. Margarita Popova, PGO, presented the internal structure of the Office and stressed the need for communication from all donors to key members within the Office. The JSI, DOJ, and the Spanish PHARE presented their programs. Discussion occurred regarding media training for prosecutors and money laundering training. As a follow up, DOJ met with the Spanish PHARE project to discuss further the money laundering program. The Austrian PHARE project along with all others received minutes of the meeting.

The DOJ met with JSI to discuss how the National Advocacy Center (NAC) could assist the NIJ and possibly the Police Academy. A telephone conference call to the NAC increased the understanding of both the DOJ and JSI as to how they may assist the NIJ. The National Advocacy Center followed up by sending course calendars and other documentation that was forwarded to the NIJ. In the second quarter, the NIJ will meet with DOJ and JSI to discuss further a partnership with the NAC.

2.8 Continuing Prosecutor Training (CPT) Curriculum

Two training programs developed, delivered, evaluated and transferred to the NIJ.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: The two training programs under development for Continuing Prosecutor Training are Financial Crimes and Cyber Crimes/Identify Theft. These programs will also include judges. The programs are scheduled to be delivered in the second quarter. Both programs follow the NIJ approved methodology.

NIJ will examine the Initial Prosecutors Training Manual in order to identify which modules may be most appropriate for Continuing Prosecutor Training.

2.9 Court Administration/Court Clerk Training

Four CATP trainings transferred to the NIJ. *Work on this subtask is completed.*

1st Quarter Activities and Results: Under this subtask, the JSI was to transfer four training programs to the NIJ. After some discussion, JSI decided to combine two of the four training programs. As a result, JSI transferred to the NIJ the programs in Leadership and Strategic Planning (a combined program), Human Resource Management, and Re-engineering. These transferred programs are based on existing programs delivered over the past two years. JSI took the training materials, elaborated them, and reformatted everything into the NIJ approved methodology. These programs now form a core component for court administration training focusing on court administrators and chairpersons. NIJ will begin delivering some of programs in the second quarter.

C. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

2.10 National Association of Court Clerks (NACC)

The JSI will assist the NACC to further strengthen their institutional capacity including improving the scores of the IDI. The JSI will conduct a “Membership Satisfaction” survey and the analysis will be included in their strategic plan.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: The NACC met its Institutional Development Index targets and required first quarter deliverables under the JSI Grant. Activities during the reporting period included a Board visit to regional sections in western Bulgaria, completion of the development of the new Court Secretaries manual, delivery of 3 trainings for court clerks and magistrates, assistance for the delivery of media training for magistrates, and the Annual Business Meeting. The long term evaluation impact (one of the Grant items), planned for the 2006 4th Quarter was again postponed for the 2nd Quarter.

Seven NACC Board members met with twenty-one chairpersons and representatives of 19 regional sections from western Bulgaria to discuss: the procedures for proposing and electing new Board members, the newly adopted financial sustainability plan, the requirements for regional sections to organize local trainings, the Association’s operations manual, the NACC social activities, and the financial and organizational state of the regional sections. The Association, with JSI assistance, conducted a similar meeting for the eastern Bulgaria sections in 2006 and will conduct another one in the 2nd Quarter of 2007 for the sections from central Bulgaria. This will complete coverage of the NACC sections throughout the whole country. These meetings are directly related to the two NACC Institutional Development Index priorities for 2006 – 2007 (1.2: The regional sections work effectively, observe the rules and take initiatives; 2.3: Mechanisms on ensuring and controlling the feedback from members are implemented).

The working group on the development of a court secretary manual met to revise and arrange the materials and finalize the manual. The JSI assisted in the facilitation of the final working group meeting and in the manual formatting. The JSI chose a vendor to print 1000 copies of the manual, and after the printing, JSI sent 600 manuals with a cover letter to all courts in Bulgaria and gave NACC the rest. The NACC will take over any further distribution of the manuals.

During the reported period NACC delivered three trainings: Team Building, Stress and Time Management, and Court Secretary, for seventy-four magistrates and court clerks from Sofia

Regional Court and Sofia City Administrative Court. In addition, the NACC assisted in the organization of a Media Training for magistrates from the Sofia City Administrative Court and with the Court PR as a lecturer. The NACC succeeded to deliver the trainings for less than planned funds. The Association, with JSI's approval, will spend the remaining funds to organize an additional training in the 2nd Quarter.

In March the NACC held its Annual Business Meeting to amend the Association Bylaws, elect a new Board and new Controlling Committee, and review the NACC accomplishments in the last year. Ani Zoximova, the newly elected president, has worked with the JDP and JSI in a variety of training capacities and served on numerous committees. She has a proven record for creativity, visioning and integrity. The delegates voted for changing current NACC Bylaws with regard to the current NGO Law amendments allowing for convening annual business meetings without prior announcement at the State Gazette. In addition the delegates approved the establishment of the position of NACC Honorary Chairperson. This person serves as a representative of the Association and has no formal authority. The former NACC Chairperson, Lazarina Dimitrova, was elected as the first NACC Honorary Chairperson. The delegates elected nine Board Members: five of the Board members were reelected and four are new to this position. This will ensure stability and smooth transfer of the activities of the old to the new Board. All Controlling Committee members elected by the delegates are new to this position. The JSI Deputy Director addressed the delegates.

The former Controlling Committee, with the Board approval, initiated a thorough financial audit of the Association for the period 2000 – 2006. The results of the audit, conducted by the National Incomes Agency and the National Social Security Institute, show that all NACC financial dealings since its establishment are in compliance with the Bulgarian legislation. The audit results speak for the excellent work of the NACC Board and Controlling Committee and will assist the newly elected organs in their work for the Association.

The NACC Board members met with JSI to discuss the Rules of Regulation of the Court Administration (the former Regulation 28). JSI introduced the plans and process regarding the forthcoming amendments of the Rules and invited NACC to attend the JSI forum on the new JSA. NACC did not attend the Forum but plans to attend the JSI working group on the new Regulation 28. At the working group the NACC will have the opportunity to present the results of the discussions at the Attestation Workshop conducted in the Fourth Quarter of 2006.

2.11 Supreme Judicial Council Staff Training Program

Develop the capacity of the SJC administrative staff through the design of a Staff Development Plan, three training programs delivered and at least two SJC trainers complete TOT.

1st Quarter Activities and Results: Building upon the work in late 2006 which included a training needs assessment and the outline of a staff development program, the SJC worked to improve the qualifications of their staff. JSI formally invited the SJC General Secretary to identify three to five staff members to be trained in TOT organized by the National Institute of Justice. It is important to underline the high interest of SJC in developing its training capacity. Although the invitation was formally referred to the General Secretary and the expectation was that only SJC Administration representatives will be involved, one SJC member (Supreme Administrative Court Judge Panayot Genkov) expressed his willingness to be trained as a trainer. The second area of work is the continuous training program. JSI offered to finance and to assist SJC to organize trainings under the already established procedure for local court training plans. SJC filled in the documents and plans to conduct 2 trainings in the 2nd Quarter. The training topics are “Problem Solving and Decision Making” and “Conducting Effective Meetings.”

Additional information regarding SJC training can be found under section 1.3.3., above.

2.12 Closeout Events related to Task 2

1st Quarter Activities and Results: The work for the NIJ closeout event included the location of the event, the Sheraton Hotel, and the date, June 1. The US Ambassador has confirmed as a participant at the event. The other logistical tasks include gift decision, menu, and invitations. Work continues on actual invitations to be distributed, photos to be printed and framed, and overall announcement of the event.

TASK 3: ASSIST WITH DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTING KEY LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW

Highlights of JSI initiatives under Task 3 during the first quarter include the launch of the third, last JSI grant cycle (See section 3.2), progress in legislative initiatives to improve access to court records and the new JSA (See section 3.3), and continued work to highlight the achievements of MC/CIPs (See section 3.5).

A. THE GRANTS PROGRAM

3.1 Targeted Grants

EWMI continues to provide three targeted USAID grants: to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the National Association of Court Clerks (NACC), and the Bulgarian Judges Association / Union of Judges in Bulgaria (BJA / UJB). The targeted grants will continue to provide support and are structured with conditionalities for performance toward the ultimate goal of building the capacity, sustainability and ability of the organization to enhance professionalism and integrity, to represent the interests of members, and to advocate for judicial reform and safeguarding of reforms.

a) NIJ Targeted Grant: See section 2.1, above.

b) NACC Targeted Grant: See Section 2.10, above.

c) UJB/BJA Targeted Grant: The principal goal of the grant is to assist the Union of Judges to further develop its own institutional capacity. Relevant for this quarter, the grant agreement also includes specific goals or activities requiring: a retreat, website updating, training, expansion of membership and membership activities, and efforts to increase funding.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

Retreat. As required by the written grant agreement, the BJA conducted a retreat of the former and newly elected Board members and designated regional section members. Activities at the Retreat included: a) a draft Agreement between the BJA and the professional organizations of psychologists and psychiatrists for mutual professional cooperation (establishing ethical professional standards for the court psychological and psychiatric experts and limiting corruption practices among court experts); b) SCC Judge Borislav Belazelkov presented the current developments on the Civil Code Draft Working Group; c) Judge Neli Koutskova, former BJA Board member and current BJA Spokesperson, discussed a project proposal for the Small MATRA Program.

Website. The BJA regularly updated the web-site with the BJA calendar, events, accomplished activities, legislation related statements, Board decisions, and other relevant information. The web-site is updated by the BJA media person and the Executive Director, both of whom have been trained by the JSI in working with the website. On the web-page the BJA issued regular statements and addresses on current matters of professional interest for the judicial community.

Training. BJA, first in cooperation with the Bulgarian Psychiatrist Association and the Bulgarian Association of Psychology, delivered training for judges on psychological and psychiatric court expertise, and second together with Spectra (a professional psychology NGO) conducted a training on criminal law for court experts working in the fields of psychology and psychiatry. Later in the quarter, the BJA Spokesperson moderated focus groups at a seminar on border justice problems for judges, prosecutors, police officers, and custom officers.

Membership. BJA established a new regional section that includes the courts from the city of Vratsa.

Grants. To meet the grant goal of broadening the BJA funding, the BJA Executive Director attended the JSI and World Learning workshops on prospective grant programs and donors. Based on the workshop information she developed project proposals, a list of potential donors, and a list of potential partnering NGOs. BJA continued implementing its current projects under other grantors: “Welcome in Society” Project financed by the EC under a PRI program; the “Development of the Judicial Reform in Bulgaria after 1989” Project, and the “Criminal Trial from A to Z” Project, financed by the Netherlands Embassy under the Small MATRA Program.

Annual Meeting. BJA started organizing the Annual Meeting that will take place at Plovdiv on the 22nd and 23rd of June.

3.2 Competitive Grants

The Grants program expands the scope of USAID support and interaction to many new communities where JSI has not worked directly with the courts. The USAID JSI Grant program multiplies the impact and sustainability of judicial reform by spreading it further geographically, by getting more people and more communities invested in actual efforts to reform, and by generating and implementing new ideas.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

3.2.1 New Grants. The JSI completed the selection process and launched its third and last grant cycle in January. The total amount that was disbursed was decreased due to contract budget cuts and amounts to \$266,000. The last JSI grantees are:

1. Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives, Sofia
2. Citizens for Legal Culture, Sofia
3. Ecomission 21 Century, Lovech
4. E-region Varna, Varna
5. Future for All, Sofia
6. Governance Monitoring Association, Sofia
7. Bulgarian IDLO Alumni Association, Sofia
8. Journalists Against Corruption Club, Sofia
9. Nadya Center, Sofia
10. NGO Center in Razgrad, Razgrad
11. Open Society Club – Gabrovo

12. Legal Initiative for Training and Development, Varna
13. Political Science Center, Sofia
14. ProMedia, Sofia
15. Youth Forum, Sofia

Grant Letters were drafted and signed and grants are effective as of January 15, 2007. Five of the organizations are previous JSI grantees, the other ten are new. Lovech is a first-time grants activity location.

3.2.2 Current Grants. Grants funded in 2006 continued their operations as planned. In February eighteen of the 2006 funded organizations had to submit their second quarterly reports. Final installment of grant funding was due upon approval of the reports. All organizations submitted their reports in a timely manner. Reports review did not show any deviations from the originally planned project activities or purposes.

Five out of the 27 2006 grantees have completed their projects

3.2.3 Grantee Calendar. The JSI Grants Administration Unit compiles on a monthly basis a Calendar of Events and Activities of the grantees reflecting all that is happening locally under the projects.

3.2.4 Grant Award Ceremony. The Grant Award Ceremony for the last cycle took place on January 19 at the Grand Hotel Sofia. All 15 new grantees were represented by the project manager and/or the project accountant. The USAID Acting Mission Director presented them with certificates and officially launched the activities under the last grant cycle.

3.2.5 Initial Training. Following the Grant Award Ceremony the JSI offered initial training in project and financial management to the new grantees. The JSI team discussed major JSI requirements and USAID specific regulations with the participants.

3.2.6 Grantees Development Workshop. To reach the goal of building the capacity of local organizations to become more sustainable and efficient, JSI held a Grantees Development Workshop on March 22 – 23, 2007, in Plovdiv. Representatives of twenty-four USAID JSI grantees participated in the event. The workshop included sharing of experiences and lessons learned in everyday operations, information on EU structural funds and operational programs, information on available sources of funding for projects post-USAID, and a review of the legislative framework concerning NGOs.

On multiple occasions participants shared that USAID as a donor provided a very partner-oriented work environment by avoiding endless bureaucracies and requirements, timely disbursements of funding, and a constant relationship between JSI staff and grantees. To quote one of the group members: “The truth is that we had no problems at all while working on our project. USAID is a dream donor.”

3.2.7 Advocacy Training. The JSI worked with the Bulgarian Center for Non-for-Profit Law to organize an Advocacy Training for grantee organizations. Availability of the trainer dictated the schedule for the training and it is scheduled for the first month of the second quarter.

3.2.8 Regional Public Exhibitions. The JSI has scheduled a regional exhibition to take place in April and will report accordingly in the second quarter.

3.2.9 Grant Closeout Event and National Public Exhibition. The organizational committee for the Grants Exhibition has initiated preparations for the Public Exhibition, which will also be the Grant Closeout event. The Grant Closeout event will most probably occur on 22 June 2007 and will be combined with the closeout event for USAID supported courts.

B. ADVOCATE FOR LAWS, RULES, AND POLICY REFORM

3.3 Legislative and other initiatives advocating judicial and policy reform

The JSI structures its activities around the goal of impacting the passage of laws by focusing public and professional input and providing technical assistance to develop quality legislation. One of the more important and needed areas of work today is to provide the venue and opportunity for the Bulgarian judiciary to actively participate in creating the laws and legislation that affect its work. The JSI promotes such participation through its partner and legacy organizations and in public forums. At the same time the JSI continues to work to directly draft and provide expertise in drafting important pieces of legislation affecting JSI work.

There have been major developments during the first quarter of 2007 in almost all legislative areas of JSI interest. The reporting period coincided with the first months of Bulgarian membership in the EU. This period is important in the light of the decision taken by the European Commission on 13 December 2006 for the establishment of a mechanism for collaboration and control on Bulgaria's progress in the area of the judicial reform.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

3.3.1 Public Forums/Debates/Conferences. Please refer below to Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.

3.3.2 Technical Assistance for the new JSA. After passage of the Constitutional amendments, the stress in the judicial domain was put on the draft of a new Judicial System Act (JSA). The working group of the MOJ renewed its meetings in order to bring the final draft of the JSA in compliance with the latest Constitutional amendments

All materials developed by the LDI experts on the draft JSA were provided to the MOJ to be made available to the members of the group. On a number of occasions MOJ representatives (and especially Deputy Minister Sapundjieva who has had MOJ responsibility for the JSA) have stated that the materials have been used as reference material in drafting the final version of the law.

On January 30 the JSI organized a media breakfast for journalists to present the findings of the survey developed by the LDI on the new draft and other materials prepared in order to assist the drafters. Media interest was enormous. It resulted in numerous publications and set the stage for a broad-based public discussion of the law.

Meanwhile the JSI maintained regular contact with the MOJ, assisted the liaison between the LDI drafters and Working Group members, and presented the draft law and the findings of the LDI to the JSI CIP Chairpersons.

The most significant event, still yielding results, was the JSA Forum organized together with the LDI on March 27. The draft JSA was officially announced two days prior to the event, and at the forum Minister of Justice Petkanov presented the draft of the law publicly for the first time, summarizing its strong and weak points.

The two keynotes of the Forum were the opportunity to give the floor to magistrates to voice their opinions, and the opportunity to have a real discussion on the law before it is introduced to Parliament. The event succeeded in gathering at one place the key figures of both the executive and the judiciary, ordinary magistrates, MPs most active in the area of judicial matters, representatives of the EU Delegation, and EU experts in the field of judicial reform.

After the official presentations of the Minister, the Supreme Courts, and LDI, representatives of all judicial system professional organizations made statements, and Deputy Ministers of Justice and MPs alike were substantively involved in the discussions. For the first time a real discussion between all three branches took place prior to introducing the draft law to the Council of Ministers and Parliament. This provided the judiciary with a tool to actively participate in creating the fundamental law affecting its work.

The Forum was widely covered by national and local media. More than 37 radio, print and TV broadcasts were devoted to the topic.

As a follow up to the event, the JSI will facilitate meetings between key MPs from the Legal Committee of Parliament and representatives of the judiciary in order to support the legislative process and to keep track of the important comments made during the Forum.

Next steps will include active JSI participation in the actual work of Parliament in discussing and drafting the law--both in areas of direct JSI interest and in general.

3.3.3 Improved Access to Court Records. The JSI has partnered with the Access to Information Foundation and BCNL in this area. The efforts culminated in drafting the actual texts, revising them as a result of the feedback received from many interested stakeholders and presenting them to the wide audience at a Discussion Round-Table on January 24 in Sofia.

The Discussion was preceded by a media breakfast for journalists on January 9 at the JSI office. The media expressed and continues to express huge interest in this area. The meeting with journalists resulted in a great number of publications and materials in the press. The press interest continues to be a powerful tool for convincing the respective authorities of the need for such changes.

At the public round-table the experts of the Access to Information Foundation presented the report with an analysis of the legislative framework and with conclusions and recommendations for concrete amendments in the texts of Regulation 28 to improve the access to court records. The main objectives of the discussion were to explore the need of harmonization of the legal acts regulating the area of access to court records and the public need to go further in creating more open and transparent procedures as a guarantee for equal and modern access to court records. Strong support for the proposals was expressed by the representatives of the Supreme Administrative Court, the Supreme Bar Council, the Union of Judges, the Union of Jurists, and members of the SJC. The proposals were officially supported by the State Commission on the Security of Information. The Discussion was attended by representatives of the MOJ.

Next steps of the JSI involve garnering the support of the SJC and other institutions and using it to try and influence the MOJ to adopt the necessary amendments. This is an intricate area of work and the JSI is utilizing different avenues to advocate for this important policy reform.

In addition to JSI's direct involvement, there are two USAID/JSI grants in this area. With active work by one of the leading judicial reform journalists in Bulgaria, the Youth Forum Association

is developing a 'Law Handbook for Journalists and Citizens: The Three *Information* Acts and More on the Subject of Access to Information'. The book will be presented to the wide audience, printed and available free and uploaded for free access and download on several portal and institutional web-sites.

The second grant is the Future for All Association in partnership with the Supreme Administrative Court. In the period January – March, all Chairpersons of the 28 newly established administrative courts were trained on the subject of "Improved Access to Court Records: Supreme Administrative Court Best Practice Multiplication." These Supreme Administrative Court Best practices show what courts can do to improve the access to court records even within the existing legal framework. The recommendations and experience, together with the feedback from the participants in the trainings will be summarized in a manual on "Improved Access to Court Records and Information: SAC Best Practice." The manual will be printed and disseminated in July 2007 in 1500 hard copies and uploaded for free unlimited access on the web-site of the SAC.

3.3.4 Analysis and Working Group on Regulation 28. The revised version of Regulation 28 was adopted in October 2004. It has been in existence sufficiently long in order to make an assessment on how the Regulation works and whether there is a need for any changes and improvements. As a first step the JSI invited the CIPs to share their ideas and opinions on the Regulation. Almost all courts replied, and JSI is now working to compile and analyze their opinions and prepare a document which will outline the areas that need work.

As a second step the JSI has established a working group involving the chairpersons of the biggest CIP courts and their court administrators. The first meeting of the group will be held in May 2007. The main objectives of the group are to develop a concept as to why and which parts of the Regulation should be revised and also to formulate the specific texts that would then be proposed to the attention of the MOJ.

3.3.5 Civil Procedure Code. The Civil Procedure Code is still between first and second reading in Parliament. The JSI maintains regular contact with the BJA in this area. Members of the BJA are members of the working group at Parliament working to revise the Code before second reading.

The BJA is looking at setting a date to provide training on the new Code for its members.

The JSI will engage in the work of the Legal Committee in Parliament once the Code enters the Committee again. We are expecting this to happen before June 2007, most likely after work has finished on the JSA.

3.3.6 Comparative Analysis of EU Court Administration Practices. The JSI has received the first draft of the analysis and will be reviewing it early in the second Quarter.

3.3.7 Monitor the Impact of Laws. In addition to its direct involvement, through two grants the JSI is indirectly involved in monitoring the impact of different laws and in some legislative drafting efforts: NGO Center Razgrad -- Court Watch in 5 towns, and Center for Economic and Legal Analyses – drafting a concept for a new Statutory Instrument Act.

3.3.8 Strengthening the Legislative Outreach of the SJC. The JSI is working together with the SJC to organize the first press conference in the second Quarter.

3.3.9 Judicial Reform Club. The JSI is preparing to organize the first meeting of this group in the second Quarter.

C. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE JUDICIARY

The JSI prioritizes increased public awareness of the work of the judiciary, and work towards improving the public image of the judiciary. This involves providing substantive information to the public and target audiences with an eye toward shaping opinion and promoting or defending certain issues.

3.4 Improved Public Perception of the Judiciary

The JSI continues to implement a multi-pronged campaign to improve public awareness of the work of the courts.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

3.4.1 Media strategy and coverage: The JSI continued to update its Media Plan, adding to its message strategy the final themes for the close-out period. These revised messages track the recent USAID and Embassy messages, which emphasize the sustainability of project activities, and practical benefits of the bilateral US-Bulgaria relationship. The JSI works to emphasize these new messages, as well as other core JSI messages, in its ongoing outreach activities.

The first quarter media strategy focused on promotion of a series of high profile events and news stories. These included forums on the JSA and Access to Information, several Model Court transition ceremonies, the start of the third class of NIJ magistrate students, and the termination of two high-level magistrates by the SJC. A sample of coverage of some of these events and stories demonstrates significant media attention. The two JSI forums: 34 confirmed stories, including 6 different television stations. The combined Varna and Dobrich courts transition to Model Court ceremony: 24 confirmed stories. Sliven District Court and Bourgas Regional Court MC ceremonies (same week): 23 confirmed stories. Relevant materials attached.

The February SJC termination of two top prosecutors also received heavy Bulgarian news coverage, but it is especially noteworthy that it received positive coverage as a “judicial reform” story by the international press. *Reuters* picked up the story only after a coordinated outreach effort by the JSI and the SJC PR Unit Head. Relevant materials attached.

3.4.2 Key Stakeholder Meetings: The JSI held its first 2007 meeting with law reporters, and focused this meeting on in-depth discussions with court beat reporters who are also trained lawyers. Past quarterly key media stakeholder meetings have been organized to disseminate information about JSI project activities, and to receive broad feedback from many stakeholders. The first quarter 2007 meeting was intended to receive more in-depth feedback, and to hone the final pre-closeout news stories from the JSI. The specific goals of the media partners planning meeting were: to test two possible JSI pre-closeout story ideas (new IT assistance to MC/CIPs, and the development of new SJC CIPs), to receive feedback on the JSA forum, and to receive suggestions for other story ideas from reporters with legal expertise. A summary of the input from the law reporters is attached.

3.4.3 Mock Trials: In accordance with the JSI Media Plan’s emphasis on local, participatory, youth-oriented, deliberative public outreach, the JSI supports community-based grantee NGOs working with the courts to increase public awareness. One main area of work continues to be

the development of mock trials. In the first quarter, the JSI Competitive Grants program continued to support mock trial projects through four NGOs: Media With A Human Face, the National Debate Association, the *chitalishte* “Svetlina”, and the Open Society Club.

3.4.4 Special Events

i. USAID and Embassy Events. The JSI assisted in preparations and communications for the following five visits and events:

DCM Visit to Sliven District Court: Deputy Chief of Mission visit to the Sliven District Court to see the CIP. The JSI prepared briefing materials on the progress of the court on organized crime cases.

NIJ Journalists Against Corruption Screening: USAID Mission Director visit to the NIJ for the screening of film by JSI grantee Journalists Against Corruption.

Dobrich and Varna Model Courts Ceremony: USAID Mission Director and Members of the SJC visited the transition ceremony of the four new MCs in Varna, following the MC/CIP Chairpersons Meeting in Dobrich.

Bourgas Model Court Ceremony: USAID Mission Director visited the transition ceremony for the new MC, and led a roundtable along with the USAID ROL Advisor and JSI CTO and local USAID ROL partners based in Bourgas.

Smolyan Model Court Ceremony: USAID Democracy and Local Governance Chief visited the new MC for its transition ceremony.

ii. USAID Internal Communications. The JSI continued its support for the following publications and communications:

USAID Newsletter submissions: Drafted and submitted eight news items about JSI events for the broader Mission in the first quarter.

USAID/Bulgaria Website support: Continued broad collaboration with the USAID Development Outreach and Communications Specialist, including providing JSI information for the USAID/Bulgaria website which resulted in four news stories on the site.

iii. Events related to JSI work. In addition to other JSI public events involved with legislative advocacy, the grants program, court administration, and training, the JSI supported the promotion of six events.

Access to Information Foundation Press Briefing and Forum: Two public events coordinated with JSI grantee, ROL partners, and journalists to present access to information findings to the press, and to deliberate on the findings with key ROL stakeholders.

NIJ Kick-Off Ceremony for the Third Class of New Magistrates: The JSI worked with the NIJ to promote this event which marked the first class of prosecutors to use the Prosecutor Initial Training Manual developed by the JSI. The event was attended by the NIJ Director, Supreme Court of Cassation Chair, and Chief Prosecutor.

Model Court Transition Ceremonies: Three additional transition ceremonies promoted the work of the new MCs at Plovdiv District and Regional Court, Sliven District Court, and Montana District Court. The events were attended by the JSI Director and staff attorneys.

iv. JSI Model Court films. In collaboration with subcontractor IREX the JSI continued to work with ProMedia to develop films on each of the new MCs for use at the transition ceremonies, and as a promotional tool for future court outreach. In the first quarter the JSI assisted with the completion of seven new films.

v. Anthology of Judiciary News Articles. In the first quarter, the JSI sent a request to journalists to submit articles for publication in an anthology of news coverage on the work of the courts. The JSI received many submissions, and began reviewing them for the final selection. The JSI also met with a graphic designer to discuss possibilities for lay-out of the anthology.

3.4.5 Journalists Ride-along: The JSI is working towards organizing the first 2007 ride-along in the second quarter.

3.4.6 Court Reform TV: The JSI met with a representative of the Broadcast Training Center to discuss the ongoing work on the documentary film series titled “Court Reporter,” funded under the USAID JSI grants program. During the first quarter the BTC began initial research on suitable cases, did location scouting, and began casting for the series. In addition to the work of the BTC, during the first quarter seven JSI grantee NGOs conducted work on films about court reform.

3.4.7 Internet. Weekly JSI website hits remained steady at an average of 260 new visitors and 970 return visitors each week in the first quarter. The JSI continues to update its website with project stories, photos, and press releases, and updates website “News Coverage of the Judiciary” in English and Bulgarian. http://www.ewmi-bg.com/news.php?m_id=1&lng=en The JSI also regularly contacts web-based news outlets with press releases and event invitations as part of its core media outreach work. The Varna and Dobrich Model Court ceremony provides an example of web-based outreach: six internet news sources published stories about the event.

3.4.8 Court Websites. The JSI continued to monitor MC/CIP websites in the first quarter, providing technical assistance when requested, and checking the status of court calendars posted on websites. As of the end of March, the Sofia Regional Court, for example, continues to post all civil and criminal division cases on its website – a part of its outreach plan developed with the JSI Public Trust and Confidence Working Group. Also, all MC/CIP websites were confirmed to have USAID branding. In addition to continued assistance to ten MC/CIP courts, JSI offered direct website assistance to six other courts (Lom RC, Montana RC, Oriahovo RC, Pleven DC, Troyan RC, and Vratsa Administrative Court).

3.4.9 Surveys. The JSI began preparations for the second national survey of USAID supported MC/CIP regions and non-USAID assisted regions by meeting with Alpha Research to plan the 2007 study. The model sample and control sample towns were selected, and a field research schedule was planned. Following the finalizing of the questionnaire and new list of towns, the JSI drafted a scope of work and contract for the new study. The field research will be conducted, and final report prepared in the second quarter. At the end of the second quarter the JSI will begin to disseminate the 2007 findings.

3.5 Improved Judiciary-Media Relations

The JSI and IREX continue work with the Key Stakeholders to improve the dialogue between the media and the judiciary.

1st Quarter Activities and Results:

3.5.1 Press Attaches: Following fourth quarter 2006 preparations with the USAID Participant Training Program and the National Center for State Courts, in the first quarter the international *Judiciary-Media Relations Training for Press Attachés* took place in Washington D.C. The training included meetings with some of the top Washington D.C. press officers, including those from the U.S. Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Courts, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. The participants met with law reporters from the *Washington Post* and ABC News, and watched oral arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court. Also in the first quarter, the JSI

planned an April follow-up workshop for participants to share their action plans, and compare the American practices with their own local efforts in their home courts.

The JSI continued to coordinate press events with local court press attachés and judicial spokespersons, providing technical assistance when needed.

The JSI continued to provide technical assistance to the press attachés of the SJC and the NIJ through regular meetings and contacts. The assistance involved media planning for events, and continued technical assistance on areas such as planning for SJC media outreach on judicial discipline, and the development of a media skills training for NIJ graduates.

3.5.2 Media Skills Training: In collaboration with IREX and ProMedia, one JSI media training for prosecutors was developed in the first quarter, and will be offered in the second quarter during the first week of May. The training will bring together select NIJ graduate junior prosecutors and a like number of NIJ graduate junior judges, all proven to have an interest in media outreach. Staff and management from the NIJ also will attend, thus strengthening the sustainability of the JSI media skills training program following its transfer into the NIJ Initial Training and Continuing Training curricula.

The JSI will organize two more regular media skills programs for judges.

3.5.3 Media Training for Prosecutors: See section 3.5.2, above. Media skills training for prosecutors will be coordinated and offered through the media relations liaison of the Chief Prosecutor's office who is also the prosecution NIJ liaison officer.

3.5.4 Media - Judiciary: The JSI will offer as in previous years trainings for journalists which mirror the media trainings for judges and are offered at the same time. The first such training is scheduled for May. The final day of these trainings brings reporters and judges together in a "Meet the Press – Meet the Courts" format.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION TABLES

JSI 1st QUARTER, 2007 CONTRIBUTIONS TO TARGETS

Indicator	2006 Baseline Data	2007 Annual Target	1st Quarter 2007 Results	Cumulative Annual Result (QR 1)	Fulfillment of Annual Target
<i>IR.2.2.1.1 Task 1: Improved Court Administration</i>					
#1. Number of agreements/MOUs signed with MCs/CIPs.	22	22	N/A	22 agreements	100%
#2. Number of Court Improvement Plans implemented by percentage completion.	78% completion	83% completion	82% completion	82% completion	98%
#3. Progress on SJC Institutional Development Index. Organization: Communications & Outreach: Management of Judiciary: Ethics & Discipline: Budgeting: Auditing: Appointment & Career Development of Judicial Officials:	34 points or 67% completion 12 points or 67% 3 points or 50% 6 points or 67% 5 points or 56% 2 points or 67% 3 points or 100% 2 points or 67%	41 points or 85% completion 16 points or 89% 4 points or 67% 7 points or 78% 6 points or 100% 2 points or 67% 3 points or 100% 3 points or 100%	35 points or 73% completion 13 points or 72% 3 points or 50% 6 points or 67% 5 points or 83% 2 points or 67% 3 points or 100% 3 points or 100%	35 points or 73% completion 13 points or 72% 3 points or 50% 6 points or 67% 5 points or 83% 2 points or 67% 3 points or 100% 3 points or 100%	85%
#4. Percentage of cases disposed within one year in MCs/CIPs.	82%	83%	N/A ¹	N/A	N/A
#5. Annual level of funding for the SJC.	63%	87%	87% ²	87%	N/A

Notes: All of the above data reflects deliverables as a result of the current level of effort.

¹ Statistical data is collected on semi-annual basis and will be available with Second Quarter of 2007 submission

² The 2007 annual level of funding for the SJC is a percentage of the amount approved (313,020,000 BGN) to the total amount requested (359,046,618 BGN). The requested amount does not include capital expenditure.

JSI 1st QUARTER, 2007 CONTRIBUTIONS TO TARGETS

Indicator	2006 Baseline Data	2007 Annual Target	1st Quarter 2007 Results	Cumulative Annual Result (QR 1)	Fulfillment of Annual Target
<i>IR.2.2.1.2 Task 2: Improved Capacity of Magistrates and Court Staff</i>					
#1. Progress on the NIJ Institutional Development Index.	35 points or 90% progress	39 points or 100% progress	37 points or 95% progress	37 points or 95% progress	
Organizational Structure:	17 or 94%	18 or 100%	17 or 94%	17 or 94%	95%
Communications & Outreach:	5 or 83%	6 or 100%	5 or 83%	5 or 83%	
Faculty Development:	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	
Curriculum Development:	7 or 78%	9 or 100%	9 or 100%	9 or 100%	
Evaluation:	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	3 or 100%	
#2. Annual level of funding for the NIJ.	75%	87%	87%³	87%	N/A
#3. Number of person days of training.	Judges: 9,773 C.Clerks: 3,195	Judges: 2,000 C. Clerks: 800	Judges: 2,246 C.Clerks: 408	Judges: 2,246 C.Clerks: 408	Judges: 112% C.Clerks: 51%
Total number of trainings offered this quarter:	Total number of trainers provided this quarter:		Total number of participants this quarter:		
36	150		922		

Notes: All of the above data reflects deliverables as a result of the current level of effort.

³ The 2007 annual level of funding for the NIJ is a percentage of the amount approved (2,188,000 BGN) to the total amount requested (2,521,207 BGN). The requested amount does not include capital expenditure.

JSI 1st QUARTER, 2007 CONTRIBUTIONS TO TARGETS

Indicator	2006 Baseline Data	2007 Annual Target	1st Quarter 2007 Results	Cumulative Annual Result (QR 1)	Fulfillment of Annual Target
<i>IR.2.2.A. Task 3: Assist with Drafting and Implementing Key Laws and Regulations to Support Effective Rule of Law</i>					
#1. Progress on the legislative reform index.	66%	80%	73%⁴	73%	92%
#2. Percentage of court users who are satisfied with the judicial system.	36.4%⁵	38% or better	N/A	N/A	N/A

Notes: **All of the above data reflects deliverables as a result of the current level of effort.**

⁴ Please see Legislative Reform Index attached

⁵ Baseline data is relevant to April 2006. 2007 survey results will be available with Second Quarter of 2007 submission.

QR1 2007 COMPILED DOCUMENTS LIST

QR1 2007 COMPILED DOCUMENTS LIST Task and Sub-Task Relevant Document Provided Judicial Strengthening Project	Document Status & Version (BG/EN)	Date Submitted & Type of Media		
		Electronic Copy	Hard Copy	CD
<u>TASK I: IMPROVE COURT ADMINISTRATION</u>				
<u>A. MODEL COURTS AND COURTS IN PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM</u>				
<u>1.1 Support to Courts in Partnership and Other Courts</u>				
Q1				
Advisory Committee for Court Chairs	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Building an Information Center Concept Paper	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Court Improvement Plan Strategy and Planning Documents	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Court Improvement Plan and Guidelines	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Dobrich Chairpersons Meeting Agenda	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Varna MCs Transition Ceremony Agenda	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
List of Court Site Visits Conducted	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Progress on the Court Improvement Plan Implementation	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
Case Disposition Statistics – 2006 Baseline	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>1.2 Coordination with the Supreme Judicial Council</u>				
<u>B. SUPREME JUDICIAL COUNCIL INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT</u>				
<u>1.3 Improved Capacity of the SJC</u>				
Q1				
SJC IDI 2007 Annual Target	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>1.4 Improved Collection and Use of Statistics</u>				
Q1				
Working Group on Statistics	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>C. AUTOMATION</u>				
<u>1.5 Electronic Case Management Software (CMS)</u>				
<u>1.6 Development of a Transition Plan for Automation Activities</u>				
<u>TASK II: IMPROVE CAPACITY OF MAGISTRATES AND COURT STAFF</u>				
<u>A. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE</u>				
<u>2.1 Institutional Development</u>				
Q1				
NIJ IDI 2007 Annual Target	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>2.2 Delivery of Training at a Local and Regional Level</u>				
Q1				
Guidelines for NIJ Local Training Observer	FINAL EN, BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
Calendar of Trainings	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>2.3 Alumni Group</u>				
<u>2.4 Legislative and Public Outreach</u>				
Q1				
Judiciary Media Training Agenda	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>2.5 Monitoring and Evaluation</u>				
Q1				
M&E Checklist and Guidelines	FINAL EN, BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>B. CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT</u>				
<u>2.6 Continuing Judges Training (CJT) Curriculum</u>				
Q1				
NIJ Training Templates	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>2.7 Continuing Prosecutors Training (CPT) Capacity Building</u>				
<u>2.8 Continuing Prosecutors Training (CPT) Curriculum</u>				
<u>2.9 Court Administration/Court Clerk Training</u>				
Q1				
Human Resource Management Training Package of Materials	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
Leadership and Strategic Planning Package of Materials	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
Reengineering Training Package of Materials	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>C. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES</u>				
<u>2.10 National Association of Court Clerks (NACC)</u>				
Q1				
Court Secretary Manual	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1

<u>2.11 Supreme Judicial Council Staff Training Program</u>				
<u>2.12 Closeout Events Related to Task 2</u> Q1 Manual on How to Organize a Magistrates Conference & Letter of Gratitude from SJC	FINAL BG	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>TASK III: ASSIST WITH DRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTING KEY LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE RULE OF LAW</u>				
<u>A. THE GRANTS PROGRAM</u>				
<u>3.1 Targeted Grants</u>				
<u>3.2 Competitive Grants</u>				
<u>B. ADVOCATE FOR LAWS, RULES, AND POLICY REFORM</u>				
<u>3.3 Legislative and Other Initiatives Advocating Judicial and Policy Reform</u> Q1 Legislative Progress Index	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1
<u>C. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR THE JUDICIARY</u>				
<u>3.4 Improved Public Perception of the Judiciary</u> Q1 Access to Information legislative Amendments Media Coverage Bourgas and Sliven Model Courts Media Coverage Varna and Dobrich Model Courts Media Coverage Judicial System Act Forum Media Coverage	FINAL EN FINAL EN FINAL EN FINAL EN	QR1 QR1 QR1 QR1	QR1 QR1 QR1 QR1	QR1 QR1 QR1 QR1
<u>3.5 Improved Judiciary-Media Relations</u> Q1 Media Stakeholders Meeting	FINAL EN	QR1	QR1	QR1