

INTRODUCTION

During the second quarter of 2008, the USAID/Mexico Rule of Law Program and MSD/Proderecho continued to support the progress of the new system of justice reform. Most notably, the passing of the Constitutional Reform in March saw the Senate approve the reforms by a vote of 71 in favor and 25 opposed. The Constitutional Reform at the federal level now charges the states with ratification. Collaborative efforts between the political parties PRI, PAN, and PVEM were influential in bringing about the approval of the constitutional reform, while parties PRD and PT and members of the PVEM were in opposition. The states that have ratified the reforms included Veracruz on March 18, Oaxaca on March 20, Chihuahua and Nuevo Leon on March 23. The expectation is that within the first month of the third quarter the 17 state majority will be realized. The new system contemplates the implementation of oral trials and lays the foundation for eradication of the inquisitorial system and corruption in criminal procedures. The reforms establish that confessions are no longer proof of crimes, nor are they sufficient proof with which to incarcerate individuals and that prison and detainment are no longer a rule based on the introduction of oral trials. Three new states are set to join Chihuahua and Oaxaca in their implementation of the new system of justice. Of the three states who are on track to implement the new system of justice during this fiscal year, two are set to do so in quarter 3 (Zacatecas, between September and December, and Morelos, on October 30 while Baja California will effect its change in 2009.

Legislation and Justice Reform

Most significant is the passing of the Constitutional Reforms at the Federal level in March, 2008. The Senate of the Mexican Republic approved with modifications the reforms for Public Security and Criminal Justice, and supported the creation of an accusatorial oral trial system to promote transparency. Proderecho Consultants for Criminal Reform will continue to assist with the modifications proposed by the Senate.

Proderecho Coordinators met with a number of officials from the three powers of government and from a variety of states to continue technical support toward legislation and implementation of the new justice reforms. Proderecho assisted in the preparation of a document which captured the proposed constitutional reforms from diverse Congressional political parties in order to assist in generating consensus of the Legal Reforms.

The three states moving toward implementation have developed Committees for the Implementation of the Criminal Code of Procedure which include high level officials who focus on monitoring the progress and moving forward the march toward implementation of oral trials in Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California. Zacatecas was particularly active during the months of January and February, with several high level officials of government meeting to further the work of the reforms within the state. Morelos also held several meetings with personnel from the Supreme Court for Justice, and met with the representatives of the British Embassy to find possible training opportunities for state and municipal police.

Durango and Sonora are receiving technical assistance from Proderecho in their efforts to draft the legislative changes for the reform package while Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Coahuila are states which have worked on their comprehensive reform packages and are receiving assistance from Proderecho as well. Other Mexican

states including Nuevo Leon, Puebla, Veracruz, and Estado de Mexico are receiving information and assistance in the new system of justice as they see the progress being made by those states already integrated.

The President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud met with Proderecho Oaxaca Coordinator and other dignitaries who serve as trainers at the Superior Court for Justice in Oaxaca to continue the collaborative networking that exists within the state.

Baja California approved amendments September 30, 2007 but gave itself a more extensive time to work in the drafting of secondary legislation to better prepare for implementation because of the change in administration of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government. The new operators of the state government have moved rapidly in the quarter to prepare the state for implementation.

Zacatecas approved reforms to its code of criminal procedure in mid July, 2007 but has been more conservative in terms of the time to implement the reforms. During the first two quarters Proderecho disseminated and socialized a wider public on the reforms through seminars, general training of key actors, observation tours of public officials to observe Chihuahua's criminal justice system, and discussions with experts on the criminal justice system from Chihuahua and Oaxaca. The state's new Governor has pledged to move forward with the reforms.

The work of Proderecho in supporting the continued movement toward legislation of the justice reforms for Mexico is evident. The support for states like Chihuahua and Oaxaca which are implementing the new system continues with vigor, and support for states like Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California which are committed to move toward implementation make it necessary to prioritize their needs for the upcoming Quarters. As ever, Proderecho continues to provide training and technical support to those states that express an interest, with priority given to those states implementing, legislating, or drafting the reforms.

International and Interstate Events

MSD/Proderecho continues to work collaboratively and build relationships with state governments, universities, non-governmental agencies, international institutions, and international governments. The officials of the 3 state governments who are poised to implement the reforms within the third and fourth quarters have actively participated in establishing collaborations and linkages with implementing states, national and international universities, international governments from Chile, Columbia, the British Embassy, and the U.S. Collaborations with national institutions such as Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indigenas (INALI), and the Red Nacional A Favor de los Juicios Orales Y Debido Proceso Legal (RED) and international institutions such as IACA (International Association of Court Administrators), CWAG (Conference of Western Attorneys General), NAAG (National Association of Attorneys General), SEALS (Southeastern Association of Law Schools), NITA (National Institute for Trial Advocacy), USMBA (United States Mexico Bar Association) are but a few of the associations that MSD/Proderecho has encouraged and groomed.

Agreements with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to provide training for Mexican law enforcement officials through its Robert Presley Institute of Criminal

Investigation Vehicle Theft Investigation Foundation Specialty Course is an example of the collaborations with U.S. law enforcement agencies.

Relative to the media, Proderecho has developed and generated relationships with members of the press to conduct interviews with members of the Red. The Red spoke favorably of oral trials and due process in its interviews. Proderecho supported the media connections with the objective of getting word to the public about the reform through various forms of the media. The objective of holding press conferences was to explain to the citizens, through simple messages, the justice reforms that were approved on March 26 in the Congreso. Present were the following individuals: from the Red were Ernesto Canales, Ana Laura Magaloni, Alejandro Villanueva, and Emilio Rabasa. The following individuals from the Red or the Mexican government participated in the media blitz on the days mentioned. On Monday, February 25, Miguel Sarre met with CNN México and Emilio Rabasa CNN México, NRM Communications. On Tuesday, February 26 Enrique Ochoa met with Radio Fórmula and Patricia González, Attorney General for the state of Chihuahua, spoke with Revista MILENIO and Miguel Sarre with W Radio. On Wednesday, February 27 Ana Laura Magaloni, Radio Centro Ana Laura Magaloni Monitor; Thursday, February 28 Alejandro Villanueva Radio 13 Noticias, Emilio Rabasa, Miguel Sarre, Miguel Carbonell Proyecto 40, and Ana Laura Magaloni Grupo ACIR. Friday, February 29 meetings with the press included Emilio Rabasa, Radio Red Enrique Ochoa, Radio Centro, Emilio Rabasa, Excélsior, IMAGEN, Cadena Tres Alejandro Villanueva, Periódico La Jornada. The press conference was covered by the following entities: Reforma, Sol de Mexico, Cadena Tres, Imagen, Radio Centro, Grupo Acir, Canal 11, CNN.

The states involved in the reform at varying levels of progress also formed collaborative linkages amongst each other. Government officials from Morelos, Zacatecas, Baja California, Jalisco, and Sonora visited the state of Chihuahua to receive training from the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in the areas of police investigations, forensic evidence collection, and procedural skills in the new justice system. Police, prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys from these states toured the forensic laboratory in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua and received training in the use of forensic evidence for use in prosecution of crimes. Members of the Supreme Court of the state of Oaxaca visited Zacatecas to share information regarding judicial advancements. Proderecho Coordinators from Oaxaca traveled to Morelos to lay the foundation for Mediation Centers to practice alternative justice and dispute resolution and the President of the Supreme Court of Oaxaca has shared documents relative to court functions with the state of Zacatecas.

In the area of civil society, the National Network (RED) of civil society organizations and governmental institutions continue to work with Proderecho. The RED works to monitor the reform as well as support Proderecho in its efforts to meet the challenge of reaching national implementation of the new criminal justice system in 8 years where as a nation, Mexico will implement oral trials and due process in their criminal justice system. The call of the RED for the establishment of a Federal Commission to assist the states with implementation and training is in operation in the five states that are leading the way in the reform. The Commissions for Implementation also function at the state level and support the federal commission toward the creation and adoption of a National Due Process Law that will help the homogenization of state legislation without violating their sovereignty; it gives states and the federal government a maximum of eight years to

draft, adopt and begin implementing criminal justice reforms and; it calls for Congress to provide enough resources for a successful implementation.

The sections that follow describe the activities of the quarter from January 1 to March 31, 2008 and address the areas of legislation and justice reform, international and interstate events, juvenile justice, training and education, alternative justice training, civil society, and evaluation and diagnostics of programs and processes, and address specific activities in the more active states. Each of these topics below describes the achievements and efforts in the states that have made successful and concentrated efforts to participate in the USAID/Mexico Rule of Law Program.

Juvenile Justice

The importance of having judges and litigators who specialize in the Juvenile Justice System is critical in the new system of justice, thus USAID/Proderecho committed its resources during the Quarter to assist states to realize the goal through training and technical support.

Proderecho coordinators held meetings with the Secretary of the Government of Morelos to discuss questions related to the trainings on adolescent law for the Public Defenders and Prosecutors. In addition, coordinators worked with the Coordinating Magistrate of Advising to the Secretary of the Government in the review of the organic law of the court of Justice for adolescents..

Meetings also involved a reunion with the State Attorney General of Morelos to discuss the low number of prosecutors involved in the courses for adolescent justice, and the implications of such a low number of trained operators of the system. The Morelos Proderecho Coordinator advised the Magistrate of the profiles most suitable as personnel to assist in the planning of a convocation for judges of the adolescent system; the necessary reforms of the system of laws for adolescent justice; and to postpone the implementation of the new system of adolescent justice, as there are no judges selected to sit for cases involving adolescent justice.

Meetings between Oaxaca Proderecho Coordinators and Judges from the Adolescent system of Justice were held for the purpose of reviewing their functions in the new system of justice for adolescents. The implementation in the State of Oaxaca began in January, 2008.

Juvenile Justice continues to be a priority in the states implementing and planning to implement the justice reforms. Oaxaca and Morelos will be implementing their Adolescent System of Justice in the next quarter. Proderecho will continue provide technical assistance and training in the field of criminal juvenile justice. PRODERECHO recognizes that this is an important task as more and more adolescents are getting involved in gangs, trafficking in persons and criminal activities.

Training and Education

During the Quarter, USAID/Mexico staff presented numerous educational seminars designed to offer a better understanding of the new system of justice from the investigative process to the actual oral trial to the termination methods in a system

based on oral advocacy. Specialized courses were presented by MSD/Proderecho coordinators directed at the operators of the Criminal Justice System through the use of simulations of oral trials with the objective of receiving feedback and subsequently providing practice sessions with judges, district attorneys, and defense attorneys.

Several courses were presented at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration at the Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez, on a continual basis, for agents of the district attorney's office who operate the new system of justice in the Bravos Judicial District. Trainings covered basics on the criminal code of procedure. Courses were held throughout the quarter. The objective of the course was to present public defenders an opportunity to acquire technical skills in litigation, practice preparation for an oral trial, and to familiarize them with the latest reforms of the Criminal Code of Procedures. There were 16 participants. .

During the same time period, training for judges of warranty of civil rights was held for judges of the Bravos Judicial District of Ciudad Juarez. The objective of the course was to assist them in resolving their doubts relative to oral trials and to stress the importance of the work judges of warranty have in order to preserve the rights of the individuals brought to trial.

Consultants continued to provide training to operators of the new system of criminal justice from the Attorney General's Office in Ciudad Juarez. The information in the form of lectures on case files and analysis and preparation of investigative statements were based on 6 actual open cases designated by the Attorney General. The consultants continued to assist operators of the new system to understand all the antecedents of the case, to analyze the judicial proceedings, particularly the investigative procedures carried out by the attorney general's agents, in order to establish the acts and who the responsible parties are. Proderecho Morelos Coordinator supervised training by Magistrate Medina of Chihuahua for aspirants of the system of justice for adolescents.

The Medical Forensic Laboratory of the State of Chihuahua continued to serve as a training facility for prosecutors, public defenders, and law enforcement personnel to familiarize themselves with the line of investigation. The training covered preparation for the work of the investigative team, criminal laboratory evidence findings, analysis of interviews, analysis of individual witnesses involved in the cases, psychological assessment interviews, and a review of the protocols for an autopsy. The Center for Criminal Studies of the Attorney General's Office of Chihuahua sponsored continued training for prosecuting attorneys. The purpose of the training was to present the benefits and results of forensic techniques and share the experience of the expert presenter on skeletal forensics.

Training and education of the operators of the new criminal justice system continues to be the major focus of Proderecho Coordinators providing technical assistance. The pace of training and education is expected to increase during the next quarter as the five states will be in the implementation process.

Alternative Justice Training

An integral and innovative portion of the justice reforms includes the commitment to alternative justice for victims and offenders through mediation and restorative justice. MSD/Mexico Coordinators take a fundamental role in bringing training to the operators of

the new system of justice in these areas. Coordinators consistently present courses on Restorative Justice in a series of Modules. The Modules are designed to serve as a foundation for an Alternative Justice Process for both victims and offenders in a more humane and just method of justice. The First Module “Conflict, Communication and Needs” enables participants to reflect critically on general theories of conflict, practice the application of knowledge in exercises of restorative justice, and engage in conflict transformation. The Second Module entitled “Restorative Justice, Origins, Principles, and Programs” exposes participants to the origins, history and concepts of Restorative Justice and how it differs from other types of justice. The Third Module the “Accusatory Court System” introduces participants to the new transparent system of justice. The Fourth Module in the Restorative Justice course of study entitled “The Offender” keeps its focus on the offender’s needs, interests, and emotions during the restorative process. Module Five of the Restorative Justice course focuses on “Community”, with in-depth attention on the restorative process relative to community needs and the follow-up after restorative conferences.

Workshops on the Restorative Justice Models, Alternative Methods for the Solution of Conflicts, Mediation and Conciliation were held and planned for the implementing states, and those that are working toward implementation.

Training on Alternative Justice continues to be the focus in the states of Oaxaca and Chihuahua. As the reforms are posed to be implemented in three other states within 2008, 2009, more training will be required. The Restorative Justice team is expanding its training regions within the next two quarters to include Zacatecas, Morelos, and Baja California in comprehensive training.

Evaluative and Diagnostic Procedures

The continuing collaborations within states and other countries assist USAID/Mexico as it monitors its move toward a new criminal justice system and provides a system of consistent training and evaluation.

As the work on the reforms of the justice system in Mexico continue in states that are implementing and have passed the criminal code of procedures into law, it is essential that continual and consistent evaluation of the process and of the technical assistance Proderecho is providing take place. In addition, there are diagnostic procedures that Proderecho administers in order to assess the outcomes of the training and the practice of the justice reforms.

Proderecho staff administered a variety of psychometric examinations to personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua who work at the Center for Alternative Justice and the Unit for Early Intervention of the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the evaluations was to assess the knowledge levels of the personnel working with victims of family violence or other crimes, and to determine what kinds of training are necessary to assist them in delivering appropriate services. Proderecho staff also participated in follow-up meetings after the evaluations at the Center for Alternative Justice in Chihuahua. The purpose of the meetings with personnel from the State Attorney General’s Office was to explain the methodology of the evaluations administered and to solicit recommendations for proposed training for the cities of Chihuahua and Juarez.

STATE PROGRESS

AGUASCALIENTES

Within Aguascalientes preparations by the public defense, the Attorney General for Justice, and the Supreme Court for Justice are coordinating their participation for the upcoming course on Restorative Justice.

Trainings during the week of January 21 to 22 included a workshop on Restorative Justice in Aguascalientes with a Coordinator from Oaxaca. From January 23 to 25 a 12 hour course on awareness of Restorative Justice was held in the Institute of Training of the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Aguascalientes in the Palace of Justice. The objective of the course was to provide awareness for the officials relative to the administration of the principals and practices of restorative justice and to discuss the necessities to implement this type of practices within adolescent justice and the adult justice system within the system of criminal justice.

Proderecho Coordinators presented the course to 25 members of the Supreme Court for Justice of the Attorney General, the Public Defense, and the State Commission for Human Rights. Training on January 23-25 on awareness in the use of restorative justice practices was conducted in the Supreme Court for Justice of Aguascalientes with the objective of developing an awareness of participants on the theme of restorative justice. The course was directed at personnel of the Supreme Court of the state, members of the Commission of Human Rights, and the State Office of the Attorney General. There were 26 participants involved in the training.

BAJA CALIFORNIA

Activities in Mexicali, Baja California in which Proderecho participated included the following:

- An intensive course in the new system of criminal procedures for magistrates involved in criminal law and to involve those within the justice system for adolescents. All participants were from the Court for Justice of the state. The principals of the new system were discussed.
- A meeting with the President of the Court to evaluate the activities already realized and to plan future activities for implementation of the new system
- A meeting with Attorney Gilberto Gonzalez, the Deputy Secretary of the government to address the issues of justice and to develop and head a team for the implementation plan
- A meeting with Daniel de la Rosa, Secretary of Public Safety for the state to plan and coordinate the participation of police groups in order to transfer the criminal justice
- Participation in the radio program "Enlace Informativo" (Informed linkages) which includes reporter Exaltación Gonzalez, on Radio Frontera de Mexicali, which has widespread coverage in the state, and is disposed to discuss the advances of the reform.

CHIHUAHUA

Chihuahua City

Proderecho Regional Coordinator continued to meet with various officials of the State to cement relationships and to commit support for the continued efforts of the state in its advancements made in justice reforms. On January 23 the regional coordinator held a meeting with Attorney Cesar Cabello Ramirez, the Director of the Committee for Implementation of the Justice Reforms to discuss the training schedule for the state and to establish a prison prevention program for certain crimes. An agreement was reached to form an independent committee for the purpose of evaluating the process of implementation of the reform, and to avoid issues that affect the credibility of the system. Director Cabello solicited continued assistance from Proderecho to address serious crimes.

A course given on Therapies of Restorative Justice to the Center for Attention and Psychological Prevention (CAPPSI), on January 26 by the Regional Coordinator covered basics of Restorative Justice and peaked the interest of the Director, Ana Julieta Colomo to create a Program for Integral Attention to Victims. There were 20 individuals in attendance.

A series of meetings held January 29 and 30 with the Proderecho Regional coordinator addressed collaborative efforts between Chihuahua Government officials. External evaluator Betty De lo O of the State Congress of Chihuahua met with Proderecho to preserve the history of the reform of the criminal procedures. She requested that USAID and Proderecho participate with members of government institutions to participate in the process. She requested the Vitae of Proderecho personnel, photographs, and similar information from all those who have participated in the project to reform the system of criminal justice for the future. These requests were also made of Patricia González Rodríguez, Attorney General for Justice of the State, Attorney Rodolfo Acosta Muñoz, President of the Supreme Court for Justice as well as Attorney José Reyes Baeza Terrazas, Governor of the State and other government officials. An appointment was made to meet February 7 to turn over the documents that have been generated the past three years and that can serve to support the historical documentation of the process. Another meeting between the Regional Coordinator and the President of the Supreme Court for Justice Rodolfo Acosta Muñoz, Attorney Mauro Carrasco, Comptroller of the Court. This meeting had two objectives: to discuss the selection process and the trainings relative to the implementation of the Criminal Code of Procedures in the rest of the state. The President of the Court requested continued support from Proderecho/USAID and a promise that they continue to help contextualizing and training operators of the new system of justice; as well as the three branches of power. A third important meeting between the Regional Coordinator and the Secretary of the President of the Supreme Court for Justice was held for the purpose of discussing the permanent monitoring and training of the operators of the system. The officials requested that Proderecho/USAID sign an agreement of collaboration with the University of Buenos Aires with the objective of having all operators of the system have an opportunity to work toward a masters in criminal rights, which is one of the largest deficiencies of most operators within the system. The officials offered to share in the financial expenses with Proderecho to assist in completion of the masters. The meeting took place January 30.

Meetings continued into the first week of February between the Regional Coordinator and various administrators of the court, the office of the Attorney General, and public defenders. On February 6-7 meetings with the President of the Supreme Court held for the purpose of organizing training for the judges of oral trials and warranty judges yielded the following agreements:

- Training for the rest of the districts of the state is to be supported by Proderecho/USAID with promises to bring in consultants from districts in Chihuahua who have already progressed and external consultants. The need to continue providing the quality of the training in the rest of the districts was requested, particularly in the mountainous zones where judges tend to take responsibility to make crucial decisions.
- The theme relating to adolescent justice was also discussed. The President of the Supreme Court agreed to respect the list of judges selected for the rest of the districts, and requested assistance to continue training candidates for judges in the Bravos Judicial District. He also agreed to engage the assistance of the judges being trained in the new system

A meeting with the Director of the Center for Criminal Studies and Forensics of the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua was held on February 7 at the offices of the Human Rights and Attention to Victims of Crime. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the training of agents of the prosecutors operating the reform in the twelve districts involved in the state of Chihuahua. The proposal was presented to divide the training zones into six areas to promote a more financially economic and concentrated training in Chihuahua City. The final order of business was to set up a meeting with Chihuahua State Attorney Patricia González and Dr. Rafaela Herrera, Consultant for the Rule of Law Project USAID/México in order to garner their support for the trainings in the rest of the state.

A meeting with the Director of the Public Defense, Jaime Cesar Martinez Campos was held with the objective of promoting the training for public defenders in the rest of the districts of the state.

Officials from 5 states and the Federal District of the Republic conducted visits to Chihuahua on February 12 – 13 to observe the officials of the Chihuahua system as it operates within the new system of justice. The five states included Sonora, Baja California, Durango, Zacatecas, and Jalisco. The visitors came from a variety of institutions including: The Supreme Court for Justice, the Court for Criminal, Civil, and Family Court, the Offices of the Attorneys General, Forensic Laboratory from the Attorney General's Office, and individuals from businesses. The objective of the activity was to visit a variety of institutions in Chihuahua where the advances of the state in the reform process can provide talking points and examples for the status moving toward implementation. Present were Dr. Rafaela Herrera, Director and Consultant for the Rule of Law Project for USAID/Mexico and Coordinators from Proderecho. There were 54 participants in attendance on the observation tour.

A meeting between Regional Coordinator and Magistrate Irma Gama Cahero, Coordinator of the Project for Implementation of the Program for Mediation and Restorative Justice in the Supreme Court for Justice took place on February 15 for the purpose of continuing discussions relative to continued trainings and monitoring of the Center for Mediation by Proderecho/USAID. The Center for Mediation is implementing a pilot program that uses volunteer mediators or mediators paid a minimal fee. One

objective of the meeting was to obtain assistance from the governor's office in order to acquire funds for contracting well qualified mediators. Proderecho/USAID Coordinator committed to conduct training for judges in awareness in mediation and restorative justice practices for use in criminal and familial issues as a way of supporting the project.

A meeting between Regional Coordinator and the Magistrate Specializing in the System of Justice for Adolescent Offenders, Miguel Medina Perea and Secretary to the President of the Court, Héctor Valdéz for the purpose of providing follow-up to preparing the operators of the new system of criminal justice in the 12 judicial districts of the state that take effect in July 2007. As a result of this meeting the officials commented that because of the number of individuals expressing an interest in being trained, the selection process should be a result of interviews and not a written examination which will be evaluated by a committee of judges, and attorneys.

On March 12 the examination for the basic course directed at individuals interested in the position of judges of warranty in the new oral system was given. The objective was to select the individuals most qualified to continue with the training for the third phase of preparation for the new system of criminal justice. The review of the exam took place a half hour after the course to prepare for the exam. The preparation assesses the essentials for understanding the new system. The exam was designed by a committee in which the following individuals participated: Magistrates Miguel Medina Perea, of the Specialized Court for Justice for Adolescents of the Supreme Court; Magistrate. Mario Salvador Garnica Leyva, of the Supreme Court; Magistrate Mauro Carrasco Baylón, General Consultant to the Supreme court for Justice; José Alfredo Fierro Beltrán of the Bar; and Attorney Alejandra De las Casas Muñoz, Coordinadora Regional de Proderecho Chihuahua. The exam took place at the Supreme Court auditorium and was evaluated that same day by Proderecho Regional Coordinator. There were a total of 125 participants taking the exam.

The exam for the basic course for the public defenders was held on March 12 in the salon for Civil, Criminal, and Family Court. The objective of the exam was to select more qualified defense attorneys and clarify which individuals will become the operators of the system based on their comprehension of the new system and the role they assume. The committee for evaluation included Attorney César Martínez Campos, Coordinador of the Office of the Defense; Attorney José Kuchle Gómez, a representative of the Secretary of the State Government; and Noemí Saeñez Lagos, representative of Proderecho Chihuahua. A total of 81 individuals took the exam.

Coordinator for Implementation of the Criminal Reform in Chihuahua held a meeting on March 14 at the request of Attorney César Cabello Ramírez; Attorney Guillermina Rodríguez, Attorney, Karla Jacott, Consultant to the Secretary of Public Security; Attorney Víctor González, Coordinador of the Supreme Court for Justice; and Proderecho Coordinator Violeta Maltos. The objective addressed important points in the implementation of the reform in the 12 judicial districts of the state. The Coordinator of the Implementation Committee requested continued assistance from Proderecho to continue three months of training and provide courses for judges, defense attorneys in the 12 districts. Further requests made were to have Proderecho assist with a system to document and preserve statistics related to the oral trials; and support to train litigant attorneys and journalists in the four major cities from the 12 districts of the state in which the reforms will take effect in July. Dr. Rafaela Herrera, Rule of Law Advisor conducted an assessment on the Center for Alternative Justice relative to its operation

Juarez

Throughout the month of January, Proderecho evaluators accompanied Chilean consultant Juan Pablo Buono-Core in the monitoring of agents of the prosecutor in the Bravos Judicial District during the initiation of the new criminal reform process in Juarez and at the Unit of Specialized Investigation in the Attorney General's Office of the North Zone and in the Criminal Courts of the New Judicial City. The objective of participating in the monitoring during the first two weeks of January was to assess prosecutors and resolve issues relative to themes related to investigation and the processes of oral trials. Thirty-five prosecutors were presented opportunities to assess their strengths and weaknesses for the purpose of improving their work and providing self-reflection.

The second portion of a technical course in practice relative to the Criminal Code of Procedures in the state of Chihuahua was presented at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration of the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, January 14-18. The objective of the course was to provide the prosecutors the tools of the processes necessary for effective practice and to professionalize the processes for oral trials, address issues of sentencing, alternative justice, and pre-trial hearings. Both trainers and participants of the course expressed their impressions of advancement relative to these processes. There were 25 individuals in attendance.

Another course covering investigation of kidnappings and trials of kidnappings was given to the anti-kidnapping unit of the Attorney General's office. The objective was to provide prosecutors with a protocol for investigation based on a manual of anti-kidnapping from ONU and present them with the optimal training to effectively confront the issue in pretrial hearings of the new system. The instructor declared that the prosecutors had the understanding related to the concepts of accusation, justified detention and its prevention, along with review of accusations for the crime of kidnapping. In addition, the instructors noted the positive manner in which the prosecutors conducted the oral trial simulations. The course included 8 individuals in attendance.

The Regional Coordinator of Proderecho attended a meeting with the Attorney Miguel Medina Perea, the Magistrate of the Specialized Court for Justice for Adolescent Offenders on January. The Magistrate requested the assistance of Proderecho/USAID in the continuation of the selection and training of future operators of the system who deal with adolescent offenders in the justice system in Juarez. An agreement was made between the Magistrate and the Regional Coordinator of Proderecho to meet at a later date with the representatives of the three powers of government to address the issues associated with juvenile justice. A decisión was made to respect the previous selection of the judges in the other districts.

The Basic course in the content of the Criminal Code of Procedures was held from January 14 to 18 in Juarez. Attorney Javier Pineda conducted the course which addressed 60 persons with the objective of training personnel of the Attorney General's office in the Code and to identify personnel who can serve as trainers within the new system in Juarez.

Chilean Consultant Juan Pablo Buono-Core continued to conduct a course on investigation of kidnapping and kidnapping trials. The third week of the course for the Anti-kidnapping Unit of the Attorney General's office viewed a video on an oral trial and

analyzed the statement of the accused, the statement of a minor and incorporation of proof, statement of expert and closing plea. There was also an analysis of the weaknesses and strengths and an analysis of an oral trial simulation with the prosecutors of the anti-kidnapping unit in their closing plea, the integration of the victim, and the correct incorporation of other physical evidence. Also analyzed were the interviews of witnesses, the police as a witness, and an expert witness. Finally, the participants observed a homicide trial of a female victim from detention to trial. Eight participants participated.

The continuation of the course on January 22-23 for individuals who have been training for a year with Chilean Juan Pablo Buono-Core covered simulations on abbreviated hearings, hearings of control, formulation, linkages, and preventative measures. The were exercises covering two cases which required each participant to justify detention, formulate the accused, justify preventative measures, and solicit the procedure of abbreviated cases. The objective of the cases was to apply their understandings obtained during the course and the outcomes were very favorable for the prosecutors of the anti-kidnapping.

The continuation of the Basic course relative to the contents of the Criminal Code of Procedures for the State of Chihuahua was held from January 21 to 25. This training was directed toward the operators of the new system of justice for Ciudad Juarez by Attorney Javier Pineda. There were 44 persons trained for the purpose of developing a fundamental understanding of the criminal code of procedures, and to find individuals who can serve as trainers of the code in Juarez. Attorney Pineda also completed the assessment and review of 12 cases pending in the Office of the Attorney General. Of the 12 cases reviewed, 4 were femicides, 2 homicides, and 6 were robberies. The cases were reviewed for issues related to detention and formulation of the arrest. The assessment of the cases was linked to the responsible parties. Coordinators who benefited from the assessment are the units of Attention to Homicides of Women in Juarez; the Specialized Unit of Crimes against Bodily Injury and Life, the Unit Specializing in crimes against Heredity. Attorney Pineda continued the revisions through the last week of January and into February.

Proderecho Coordinators were present in the New Judicial City in Juarez to monitor the oral trial procedures of Judges of Warranty, the participation of prosecutors and defense attorneys during the week of January 28- February 1. The main objective was to resolve concrete problems in the practice of the operators of the new system of criminal justice and to establish clinics to avoid the reproduction of incorrect practices for the future. Forty individuals were part of the monitoring process.

Courses conducted by Proderecho Coordinators during the final week of January and into February addressed skills of oral litigation with the objective of training prosecutors in the new system of oral trials. There were 44 participants receiving the training.

On February 15 the second portion of the training for the Center for Attention to Victims was held in Ciudad Juarez Chihuahua. The session was a follow-up to the course held in December 26-28. The course was held in the New Judicial City and had 18 people in attendance. The presenters were Ryan Stienmetz, Educational Director for Outreach and Administrador from La Casa, Inc. Domestic Violence Shelter of Las Cruces, New Mexico, who presented on the organization and operation of a domestic violence shelter;

Frank Zubia, Director of Victim's Assistance of the District Attorney's Office of El Paso, Texas who presented on collaborative efforts between law enforcement, victim's assistance, and the district attorney's office; and Aaron Settliff, Prosecutor for the El Paso County District Attorney's Office, who discussed the cases which are considered crimes of sexual violence and the procedures followed to process the offender and work with the victim.

On February 14 and 15 in Ciudad Juárez, Rafaela Herrera, Veena Reddy, Tracy Miller y Beatriz Chinchilla from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) visited the installations of the Attorney General and the Supreme Court for Justice. Proderecho Coordinators were present as well. The objective of the activity was to expose USAID personnel to the important work that is being done in Juárez, Chihuahua within the context of the new system of justice by the Office of the Attorney General and the Supreme Court. Installations visited included the Center for Alternative Justice, the Center for Attention to Victims, the Forensic Laboratory, and the New Judicial City which houses the Courtrooms used for oral trials.

DURANGO

USAID/México conducted a meeting with the directors of non-governmental organizations to explore the contents and accomplishments of the constitutional reform that were approved in the Congreso. The meeting consisted of 15 persons and representatives of the Center Pro, the Mexican Commission for Human Rights, and the League for human rights. USAID/México conducted meetings relative to the work of the technical Commission to review the Criminal Code of Procedure for the state of Durango. The Commission represents the executive, legislative, and judicial powers.

JALISCO

On March 4 -5, a meeting with the Director of the Foundation Selva Negra was held in order to explain the principles and propose the changes brought about by the reforms. The work of the foundation is important in that it involves civil society in the process of profound change in the administration of justice. A portion of the video "El Tunel" was presented for the purpose of promoting discussion among the attendees.

A meeting with the officials and Lynn Roche, Officer of Public Relations and Manuel Banuelos, Communications Officer of the Consulate of the United States to the State of Jalisco was held to discuss the advances at the federal level relative to the justice reforms within the state, and in other states as well. The Consular staff informed the meeting participants that they continue contact with authorities of Jalisco and universities continue to show an interest in the criminal reforms.

MORELOS

Proderecho Coordinators conducted a course for operators of the system of justice for adolescents from January 7-11. In addition, there was preparation for a seminar at the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos which took place January 18. The initial meeting for the coordination of the installation of the Commission for Implementation of the justice reform took place in December and is meeting again on the 23 of January.

During the week of January 14-18 Proderecho Coordinators participated in several courses for the operators of the system. A course for the Magistrates of the Supreme Courts for Justice and the Advisors to the Courts was given to prepare them for implementation of the system which begins October, 2008. In addition, the course served to unite the members of the judicial power relative to the reforms.

The 15 of January brought forth the installation of the Unified Court for Justice for adolescents. From the 14-16, Proderecho Coordinators presented a class for operators of the adolescent system which included prosecutors, judges, defense attorneys, court officers, and magistrates. This course resulted in preparing the operators of the system to develop a new structure of thinking relative to the new system of justice, and to consider new skills for litigation. The 18 of January the inauguration of a seminar on Oral Trials and the Accusatory Adversarial system took place at the Universidad Autonoma Estatal de Morelos. The 5 hour seminar addressed 50 litigant attorneys, prosecutors, defense attorneys, congressmen, and students of the university. The purpose of the seminar was to bring awareness of the new system of criminal justice to the judicial community, teach the basics of the new system, and develop skills for litigation.

January 22 to 26, Proderecho Coordinators trained operators of the system for Justice for Adolescents. Participants included 3 prosecutors, 3 judges, 3 defense attorneys, 1 officer of the court, and 1 magistrate. On January 23 a reunion of the Commission for Implementation of the State of Morelos met to finalize the installation of the High Commission, create a Technical Committee to give a panoramic overview of the Commission's functions, and to define the steps for the state to follow in the implementation to follow in the state of Morelos.

Meetings with the President of the Supreme Court for Justice and the Advisors to Judicial Affairs were held in order to discuss the logistics of implementation.

January 28 to February 1 courses for magistrates, prosecutors, and officials of the Supreme Court for Justice covered "Resources" so that operators of the system may understand the new costs contemplated in the Criminal Code of Procedure that goes into effect October 30. Meetings between the Secretary of Public Security and representatives of the British Embassy were held in the final days of January and into the beginning of February to discuss opportunities to for training of state and municipal police through the British Embassy in accordance with the needs of the Reform of the Criminal Justice System.

Monitoring of the trials of the Court for Justice for Adolescents by the Proderecho Morelos Coordinator took place in order to observe the operators of the system of justice for adolescents and to detect possible deficiencies in order to design and deliver appropriate training in the future.

Continual meetings with the Commission for Implementation and Training (of the new justice system) took place during the final weeks of January and in to February for the purpose of determining institutions and other agencies that will support and participate in the process of evaluating the operators of the system. Such sectors as the Secretary of Health and the Faculty for Psychology of the Universidad Autonoma del Estado de Morelos (UAEM) agreed to provide their support. Other meetings focused on the necessary steps toward implementation, dates of initiation, and dates for training, as well as determining the requirements for operators of the system.

Meetings with the President of the Supreme Court for Justice and the Advisors to Judicial Affairs were held in order to discuss the logistics of implementation as the reforms enter into effect in October, 2008. Discussions about different models and steps taken in other countries took place in order to prepare the state of Morelos for the new system of justice according to its needs. There were explanations of the profiles of the new duties of administrative personnel and a session to resolve questions and doubts was conducted. On the 18 of February, a meeting was held with the Deputy Attorney General for Issues against Delinquency to review the Organic Law and how it conforms to the new reforms.

Meetings with Morelos Attorney General for Justice, the President of the Bar and the Deputy Attorney General for Issues of Organized Delinquency took place in order to organize a visit with the Deputy Attorney General of Oaxaca, Maria de la Luz Candelaria Chinas, Oaxaca Minister of the Police Venustiano Altamirano, Oaxaca Public Defender Gabriel Maurilio Lopez Lopez, and Judge of Adolescent Issues of Chihuahua Roberto Valenzuela. The purpose of the meetings was to plan observations within these areas of the system and note the errors and receive recommendations on how to avoid the errors committed.

In order to establish possible contacts with national and international groups that can assist in training personnel in the themes necessary to implement the new criminal justice system in Morelos, particularly in the areas of state and municipal police, meetings with the Coordinator and Consultant to the attorney General, the Administrative Director of the Attorney General's Office, and the Director of the State Police Training facility.

OAXACA

Meetings held from January 7-9 by Proderecho staff included the following: January 7, a meeting to revise the first module for the curriculum for the Restorative Justice; a meeting to compile the exercises for mediation, restorative justice and negotiation; a meeting with Attorney Jorge González Ilescas, who is in charge of the evaluation group that channels cases toward restorative justice within the mediation centers; a meeting with Dr. Elizabeth Hernández Reyes, Secretary for Indigenous Affairs for the purpose of organizing workshops on managing conflicts amongst indigenous women; continued revision of the Restorative Justice seminar; a meeting with Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Superior court for Justice of the state of Oaxaca, for the purpose of organizing the workshops in the Salina Cruz area. The trip with administrators of the court was to specifically discuss the training for the area which will see the new system of justice enter into effect in the Mixteca region within the quarter. Meetings continued on January 9 relative to the revision of the restorative justice curriculum.

January 18 meetings consisted of a meeting with the President of the State Commission for Human Rights, Heriberto Antonio García for the purpose of welcoming the Commission and discussing a plan to work and confirm the participation of a theatre group whose works on Restorative Justice are considered instructive and expository for presenting restorative justice to the public. In addition, in a meeting with the press, the commitment and work between Proderecho and the Human Rights Commission were discussed.

A continuing compilation of information to develop an Anthology of Methods and Alternatives and the preparation of the second Module for the Seminar on Alternative Methods in the Resolution of Conflicts, Conciliation, Mediation and Restorative Justice was worked on by Proderecho Coordinators on January 21-22, 28 – 29. .

A January 23-26 presentation of the second module in the series of the seminar on Alternative Methods in the Resolution of Conflicts, Conciliation, Mediation, and Restorative Justice entitled “Mediation” was given with the objective of explaining the steps in the process of mediation. The training was held in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca to an audience of 24 participants.

On January 29 a meeting with Dr Elizabeth Hernández Reyes, Secretary of Indigenous Affairs and Proderecho was held with the purpose of developing a Project to form a listing of translators for use in the courts. A meeting between Proderecho and Dr. Evencio Nicolás Martínez Ramírez the state Attorney General for Justice was also held to discuss the upcoming trainings in the Mixteca region of the state.

From January 30 – February 1 the third module entitled “Conciliation” was presented as part of the seminar on Alternative Methods in the Resolution of Conflicts, Conciliation, Mediation and Restorative Justice by Proderecho Coordinators for the purpose of exposing the 26 participants to the topic. The training was held in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca.

Meetings in Oaxaca the week of January 31 to February 1 addressed collaborative efforts to further the progress of the reform. A meeting with Proderecho Coordinator and SEPROCI personnel was held with the objective of finishing off the work on the Execution of Sanctions Law of the state of Oaxaca. Also in attendance were other Proderecho Oaxaca staff and a representative of the Open Society. On February 5, a meeting with Dr. Evencio Nicolas Martinez Ramirez, Attorney General for Justice of the State and Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez Reyes, Secretary of Indigenous Affairs met with Proderecho staff for the purpose of training the new operators of the Mixteca Region in the new system of justice.

Trainings held during this last week of January and first week of February addressed a workshop on Restorative Justice that was given in Zacatecas by Oaxacan coordinator. From February 5 to 8, Module #4, “Restorative Justice” of the Seminar on Alternative Methods of Resolution of Conflicts, Conciliation, Mediation, and Restorative Justice was held with the objective of explaining the phases of a restorative process. A portion for application of learned techniques also was provided. The training took place in Salina Cruz, Oaxaca and had 26 persons under the guidance of Proderecho Coordinator and included personnel from the Attorney General's Office as well as the Supreme Court.

On February 6 Proderecho Coordinators attended a public evaluation of the system of justice which focused on a the specialized system for adolescents with the objective of understanding advances as the law comes into effect. Participants included: Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Supreme Court for Justice, Attorney Jaime Aranda Castillo, a Representative of the Grand Commission, Dr. Elizabeth Hernández Reyes, Secretary of Indigenous Affairs, Attorney Jacobo Sánchez López Deputy Director of the Defense of the Indigenous, Attorney Maria De la Luz Candelaria Chiñas, Prosecutor Specializing in Justice for Adolescents, Magistrates from the Supreme Court, Judges of the Adolescent Justice System, the Administrator from the System of Justice

for Adolescents, and Presidents of the Bars and Colleges of Attorneys of the state of Oaxaca. Approximately 600 people were in attendance.

On March 18 and 19 a course on skills and practices for personnel from the Office of the Attorney General of the state of Oaxaca was held for 11 individuals and the course was repeated March 25 and 27 for an additional 11 persons in Juchitan, Oaxaca. On March 24, a meeting between Proderecho and Attorney Maria de la Cruz Candelaria Chiñas, Attorney General Specializing in Adolescent Justice and Attorneys Ramón Hernández, Xóchitl Ávila Gil y Lady Juana Belmontes for the purpose of explaining the functioning of the prosecutor in Oaxaca. There were 19 persons in attendance. On March 27 a meeting with the Interinstitutional Commission met with the objective of planning the upcoming training on the new system of justice for the Mixteca region of Oaxaca. Present were representatives of PRODI, SAI, the Attorney General's Office, and Proderecho.

ZACATECAS

January 2008 brought forth the initiation of new members of the new cabinet of the government of Zacatecas. Secretary General of the Government, Attorney Carlos Pinto Núñez; Director of the Public Defense, Attorney Juan Antonio García Muñoz; Attorney General for Justice of the state, Ambrosio Romero Robles and Attorney Octavio Macias as the Secretary of the Commission for Implementation. During the week of January 14, 2008 Zacatecas the Commission for Implementation developed a document relative to planning the implementation of the new system of justice and struck an accord with the Secretary General of the Government which pledged to support and approve the work of the commission. The Commission approved the document after several meetings with the Public Defender and the Superior Court for Justice in which an agreement was reached to establish times and dates for implementation. The Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator established contact with Attorney Octavio Mayen and the Secretary General of the Government who have pledged to work on a campaign to inform the citizens of Zacatecas about the Criminal Code of Procedure in the justice reforms.

On January 15 the Center for Mediation in the Superior Court for Justice of Zacatecas was inaugurated by the Governor, Amalia Garcia. Proderecho supported the design of the Center for Mediation and the implementation plan as well. Another event saw the inauguration of the courtroom for adolescent justice, whereby a space was set apart to hold oral trials within the new oral adversarial system.

January 18 – 22 brought several collaborative efforts within the state. Panels to work through the analysis with the magistrates of the criminal courts for justice and analyze the contents of the new procedural codes and visualize the goals of the magistrates within the new system of justice were held at the Palace of Justice for the State of Zacatecas for 3 hours each day. In attendance at the 15 hours of work panels were 6 magistrates with assistance of a Proderecho consultant.

The preparation of a simulation of an oral trial was held at the University of Zacatecas on February 21 and 22 for those participating in the actual simulation of an oral trial in practice of the criminal code of procedures. Other meetings held during the same week included the reunion of the Commission to implement the new System of Criminal Justice. The objective of the Commission meeting is to approve the principal directions and strategies to implement the new Criminal Code of Procedure. Participants included

the following officials: Carlos Pinto Nuñez (Secretary General of the Government), Leonor Varela Parga (Chief Magistrate of the Superior Court for Justice), Congressman. Juan Garcia Paez (President of the Comisión of Public Security of the Legislature), Attorney Ambrosio Romero Robles (Attorney General for Justice), Attorney. J Merced Medina Olvera (Director of the Public Defense) Attorney Juan Antonio Garcia Muñoz (Supervisor of the Public Defense), Attorney. Benito Juárez Trejo (President of the Comisión of Human Rights), and Proderecho Coordinators.

During the week other meetings were held with the Proderecho Coordinators and Magistrate Leonor Varela to discuss diverse points related to the implementation of the new system of criminal justice and the work of the magistrates. A visit to the courtroom for adolescent oral trials was conducted and a discussion was held with the Attorney General and technical staff who will continue to address the needs of the Attorney General's Office relative to the reform process.

A joint meeting with the Technical Secretary for the Commission of Implementation of the Justice Reforms was held with Octovio Macias Solis with respect to the general plan for implementation of the new justice system. The meetings included Attorney Miguel de Santiago Reyes, Judicial Coordinator of the Government of the State, Attorney J. Merced Medina Olvera, Director of the Public Defense of Zacatecas, and Attorney Ambrosio Romero Robles, Attorney General for Justice of the state.

Juanjo Junoy, publicity representative from "El Ingenio", discussed the opportunity to launch a campaign to distribute information on the reform in Zacatecas. The proposal was jointly discussed with the Oral Trial Network in Zacatecas.

The week of January 28 to February 1, several meetings were held in support of furthering the justice reforms in the state. Meetings with the Open Society Justice Initiative relative to prison prevention were held to design strategies and actions with respect to the evaluation of risks and preventative methods. The meetings were held with the Attorney General for Justice of the State, Ambrosio Romero Robles, and the following groups of operators of the system:

- Criminal judges, the Director of the School for Social Communication of the Judicial Power
- Members of the Commission for Implementation of the new system of criminal justice who include the Director of the Public Defense, the Supervisor of the Public Defense, the Mayor of the Judicial Power, the Director of the Judicial School, the Sub-secretary for Political Development, and the Secretary of Finance for the Government of the State.
- Members of the Judicial and Legislative Powers, as well as the Attorney General's Office and universities to reach agreements relative to the activities discussed during the month.

The state worked with the The University of Zacatecas on several trainings to promote the justice reforms. The university hosted law students and professors in sessions to prepare them for participation in oral trials from February 25 to 27 and on February 28, with a total of 150 students, professors and attorneys present, simulations of oral trials were held to mark the initiation of the new system of criminal justice.

Proderecho assistance to the state consisted of a practical application workshop to present oral litigation skills for oral trials to litigating lawyers, public defenders, and prosecutors at the House of Judicial Culture of the Supreme Court for Justice to the Nation on February 27-29 to a total of 45 individuals.

The formation of the Superior Court for Justice will change once the new Chief Magistrate takes office. There is a possibility that the Attorney General for Justice of the state will also change.

Ten hour training held the week of February 7 to 8 covered the design and implementation of centers for restorative justice for personnel from the Zacatecas State Attorney General's Office.

A meeting held on February 8 with the Mayor of Zacatecas, Attorney Eduardo Ruiz Fierro was held with the objective of dedicating the Community Mediation Centers for the state. Oaxacan Proderecho Coordinator was there for the launching of the Project.

February 6 a variety of officials attended the public evaluation of the System of Justice Specializing in Adolescents with the objective of creating an understanding of the advances that have been achieved since the Justice for Adolescents Law became effective in the state of Oaxaca. The individuals who attended were: Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud. President of the Honorable Supreme Court; Attorney Jaime Aranda Castillo, a representative of the President of the Grand Commission of Oaxaca; Dr. Elizabeth Hernández Reyes, Secretary of Indigenous Affairs; Attorney Jacobo Sánchez López. Deputy of the Conservation of Indigenous Legal Defense; and Attorney Maria De la Luz Candelaria Chiñas. Prosecutor Specializing in Justice for Adolescents, and several magistrates of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Adolescent System of Justice, Administrator of the System of Justice for Adolescents, and Presidents of the Bar and Colleges of Law in the State of Oaxaca as well as the Proderecho staff from Oaxaca. There were 600 persons in attendance.

A visit on the part of magistrates to the courtrooms by the Chief Justice of the superior court with magistrates was part of the plan to explain the importance of creating a model of implementation and administration for the new justice system. Several agreements were reached as a result of the meeting.

- A meeting was held with administrative personnel to review the statistics and human resources available through the Superior Court
- A visit and observation tour in the criminal court in the capital of Zacatecas was held to determine times, presentation of oral trials, and review of documents
- Interviews with personnel of diverse functions in the Superior Court took place
- A visit and observation tour of the hall of justice for adolescents and interviews with personnel of varying functions took place in order to understand the functions of the court
- A meeting with the Deputy Secretary of Political Development (Technical Secretary of the Commission of Implementation) took place

- Participation in the understanding of the functioning of the Judicial Power of Zacatecas by attending a meeting to see the results of the work done during the previous activities

The conclusions of the meetings were summarized by Leonor Varela who stated the model and steps of the function of the courts of Zacatecas left mixed opinions. She stated the judges could and oral trials, or participate in warranty hearings depending on who was assigned.

During the week of March 10-14, the members of the Commission for Implementation met to convene the model to involve the Agents of the Prosecutor, Judges and Defense Attorneys. Participants Octavio Macias (Deputy Secretary of the Government and Technical Secretary to the Commission for Implementation) conducted the meetings with individuals representing other members of the Commission. A meeting to reach and sign agreements relative to the convocation of the operators of the new criminal justice system was held March 13 with the following participants:

Octavio Macias Solís, Technical Secretary to the Implementation Commission, Magistrate Leonor Varela Parga, Attorney J Merced Medina Olvera, Director of the Public Defense of the State of Zacatecas, Attorney Juan Antonio Garcia Muñoz, Supervisor of the Public Defense of the State, Attorney José Luis de Avila, Director of Legislative Processes of the State Congress, Attorney Clemente Vázquez Congressman of the Commission for Public Security, Attorney Benito Juárez Trejo, President of the Commission on Human Rights, Engineer Ernesto Zires (of the Secretary for Technical Implementation), Attorney Francisco Murillo Ruiseco, Director of Judicial Processes for the Attorney General for Justice of the State, and Attorney Lady Belmontes, member of the Technical Commission of Implementation from the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State.

Agreements reached or advances made were the discusión relative to the convocation of institutions to present the new operators of the criminal justice system. The agreement to meet again to continue work on this issue was agreed upon by the pertinent parties, and an agreement to draft a general plan for implementation and new training programs was agreed upon

During the week of March 17-19 a variety of meetings held between the Office of the Public Defense and Attorney General's Office to collaborate on activities like observation tours for defense attorneys, judges, and prosecutors to Chihuahua and Oaxaca. Other meetings addressed the technical information required for working within the Public Defense.

During the week of March 24 – 28, the Public Defense met in groups to address technical details for working with the reforms. Principals and strategies were defined according to the line of action to develop the public defense in the new criminal justice system. Some themes for discussion and training included: selection of public defenders, the structure and model for official functions, the infrastructure and needs of public defenders, teams in the workplace, the code of ethics, and the written law of the Public Defense, the Commission of Implementation as it relates to the Public Defense, monthly and annual reports and statistics. The coordination of this meeting was taken by the Judiciary of the Government of the State of Zacatecas. The participants included the following: Attorney J Merced Medina Olvera, Director of the Public Defense, Attorney

Juan Antonio García Muñoz, Supervisor of the Public Defense of Zacatecas, Attorney José Pablo Mercado Solís, Coordinador of Judicial Consultants of the Public Defense, Attorney Julieta Nava Garay, Administrador of the Coordination of the Judiciary of the State Government, Attorney Maria Teresa Ramírez Sandoval, and Attorney Álvaro Ávila Fonseca, Public Defense of Zacatecas. Also present were Normando Antillon Orozco, of the Public Defense of Chihuahua and Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator. Gabriela Ortiz, Proderecho

Workshops on the skills and practices of litigating attorneys were held in order to provide litigating attorneys of Zacatecas opportunities to participate in simulations and interrogatories, and arguments practiced in oral trials. Fifteen attorneys participated in the training presented by Normando Antillon Orozco, of the Public Defense of Chihuahua and Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator.

Introductory conference sessions on the new system of criminal justice with litigant attorneys were held in Rio Grande, Zacatecas for the purpose of understanding the principals and stages of the new system of criminal justice in the state. The sessions were held March 27 and 28 for 16 and 21 hours respectively. A total of 41 litigant attorneys, officials of the court, and agents of the attorney general's office, as well as public defense attorneys were present. The training was presented by Normando Antillon Orozco, of the Public Defense of Chihuahua and Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator.

Work sessions with magistrates of the criminal court of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Zacatecas were held on March 24 – 26 for the purpose of providing continual analysis to the criminal code of procedures in Zacatecas. Six magistrates participated for a total of 12 hours. Proderecho technical staff provided feedback.

MEXICO CITY, D.F.

USAID/Mexico held a conference relative to the established changes in the criminal code of procedures in the new constitutional reform approved in December by the Congress of the Union. The scope of work was organized by the Attorney General for Justice of the Federal District. In attendance were approximately 200 persons.

An article relative to the justice reform processes sponsored by USAID/Mexico appeared in the Journal of Law at Southwestern University of Los Angeles, California.

USAID/México Coordinator presented a paper entitled *Redesigning Mexico's criminal procedure: The states' turning point*, in a symposium organized by Southwestern University of Los Angeles. The event was attended by approximately 120 personas including students and professors of the university.

CONCLUSION

The number of events reported above enumerates the work of USAID/Mexico during the Quarter from January 1 to March 31 and demonstrate the successes of the project in moving toward criminal justice reform in Mexico. The many workshops, trainings, seminars, and meetings are examples of the productivity of the staff as they continue to work with those states that have passed the reform package, and as they expand their working area to include states that are close to passing the reforms. The expansion of

USAID/Mexico's influence and support is recognized by states that are interested in the march toward justice reform and respected by the Federal government.

Since there are various levels of the justice reforms taking place, staff must work diligently to respond accordingly. For states that are at the entry level, basic inquiries regarding the reform are addressed with fundamental training. Needs assessments are conducted to assist in allocation of resources and to determine the current level of commitment from states inquiring and seeking initial assistance from USAID/Mexico.

For those states that are reviewing and evaluating reforms and are moving toward legislation of the reform package, USAID/Mexico continues assisting with training and technical support to the maximum extent possible. The assistance to review, revise, promote, and pass the reforms continues. For Chihuahua and Oaxaca, USAID/Mexico continues to provide support with dedication, so that the system now implemented can be implemented successfully and smoothly. For Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California, USAID/Mexico is prioritizing the technical assistance for these states as they move toward implementation in 2008 and 2009.

The difficulty of these mandates is that USAID/Mexico must allocate its resources with efficacy; thus it is unable to respond to all the requests for assistance. It is important then, that USAID/Mexico work to provide a solid foundation for legislative, judicial, law enforcement, civil and social, and academic institutions in Mexico; so that the march toward the new and transparent system of justice will be embraced, supported, and carried out by the operators and bring civil rights and human dignity to the recipients of the system.