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PRODERECHO

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By:

**Nancy García Tafoya, Ed. D.
Deputy Chief of Party, Proderecho
Management Sciences for Development, Inc.**

To:

**Rafaela Herrera, CTO/ROL
USAID//Mexico**

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Executive Summary

During FY2008, Management Sciences for Development (MSD) provided training and technical support through PRODERECHO¹ to those states in Mexico that approved and/or implemented criminal justice reforms. Chihuahua and Oaxaca, the first two states to implement, required continual support at the level of monitoring and shadowing the implementation of the process of the new system of oral trials; while other states at varying levels of the reform process required assistance in the drafting of codes, support in the process of passing the reforms, or initiating the implementation process. The state of Morelos began implementation on October 30, when the law went into effect, and Zacatecas and Baja California requested accelerated assistance for their move toward implementation for 2009. These five states and others participating in justice reforms were provided technical assistance and training in order to support:

1. Reform of the criminal justice system
2. Access to justice for marginalized populations
3. Strengthened civil society participation in criminal justice reforms and access to justice
4. Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions

Background

Constitutional initiatives were introduced to the United Commissions of Justice, Human Rights, Constitutional Issues and Public Safety of the House of Representatives for approval on December 4, 2007. Once approved by the United Commissions, it was approved by an overwhelming majority of representatives (450 in favor and 15 against) on December 11th. The Senate approved the reform in its general terms on December 20th but sent it back to the House of Representatives for minor changes. On February 26, 2008, reforms were approved with 463 votes in favor, six against and one abstention. By March 6th, constitutional reforms were ratified by more than half of the local legislations. President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa signed publicly on June 18th and requested publishing of the Constitutional reforms in the Official Daily Gazette.

In July of 2008, implementation was completed in the 14 judicial district of the State of Chihuahua where Proderecho consultants and Chilean experts monitored the implementation of the reforms. The State of Oaxaca reproduced the mechanics of implementation in its regions of Itsmo and Mixteca. The states of Zacatecas and Morelos have made significant advances in its implementation. Durango and Sonora, have shown

¹ PRODERECHO (*Programa de Apoyo al Estado de Derecho*) is the name that USAID's Rule of Law Project has used since 2004. Throughout its hard work and accomplishments, PRODERECHO has made a name for itself, and is now recognized by all federal and national authorities as an expert in justice reforms. Additionally, it is recognized as an internationally renowned project. Thus, MSD considers it appropriate to continue using the project's name while continuing work in the area of justice reforms in Mexico. In accordance with talks held with USAID's Mexico Mission, it will seek to formally establish the project as an NGO, thus allowing PRODERECHO to receive funding from other national and international donors who have expressed interest.

political will by signing inter-institutional agreements to carry out criminal justice reforms and are looking toward drafting and approving legislation for a criminal reform package within the first semester of 2009. Their goals are to reach the stage of implementation in 2009 or early 2010. Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Coahuila are states which worked on their comprehensive reform packages and are receiving assistance from Proderecho in the process. 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 implementing. Hidalgo and Chiapas are two other states that are requesting training from Proderecho begin in the area of alternative justice, as they move toward incorporating the new criminal justice system.

Overview of Project Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2008, Proderecho supported the significant achievement of the ratification of the constitutional reform. With much of the energy of technical staff focused toward the support of those legislating the reforms, the number of trainings slowed and numbers of justice sector individuals fell below the proposed 20,000 in the area of reform and implementation. The numbers trained reached a number of 17,609. Although this is below the proposed number, the use of technical training staff to assist in reviewing the reforms, assisting in revisions, and discussing the impact of the changes with legislators, assisted in the passing of the constitutional reforms, thus the 2,391 plus individuals who did not receive training, are considered a small price to pay for such a large gain at the national level.. With 23 states accepting the reforms in record time, there remain 8 years to acquire the rest of the 8 states and the Federal District to implement the reforms nationwide and avoid rebuke the ratification of the constitutional reforms. This task may not be as easy to accomplish, as there are significant detractors of the justice reforms at high levels of government, who would see the reforms fail. The work of Proderecho in FY 2009 will include deploying technical staff to continue training justice sector staff throughout the country in the reforms, as well as providing technical assistance to those states that will be supportive and move toward drafting, passing, and implementing the reforms, thus moving closer to the 32 entities necessary to keep the constitutional reform. The states Proderecho will work with in FY 2009 are Zacatecas, Baja California, Durango, Hidalgo, Sonora, Nuevo Leon, and Chiapas.

Alternative justice activities continued to make an impact in the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca, as Chihuahua kept its leadership focus on service delivery to victims. The concept of addressing the needs of victims prior to seeing them as potential witnesses for the prosecution, but rather assisting them toward healing and change, is a unique concept which encompasses the area of alternative justice practices, and works to address aggressors as well. Chihuahua has continued to use its centers for early attention to victims and crime and has served over 34,000 users in both its centers in Chihuahua City and Ciudad Juarez. Many of those users have participated in alternative justice in the guise of mediation, conciliation, and/or restorative justice conferences. The success of the centers is supported by the commitment of the Attorney General's Office to open 3 new centers for Alternative Justice in the state. Oaxaca has achieved notable success with its Mediation Centers of which 46 have been opened throughout the state, serving the indigenous and rural populations of the state, who most often remain isolated and

underserved. Institutionalization of justice reforms through training for justice sector professionals occurred. There were initial efforts to strengthen court administration. Improved quality of justice for marginalized populations was addressed through enhanced services for victims and offenders. The strengthening of preventive and investigative police capacity however did not occur as delineated in the Work Plan as and support of anti-trafficking in person's activities in collaboration with sister project, PROTEJA generated improved quality. Relationships with the RED National (a national network of civil society organizations) continued to increase and supported constituency building for criminal justice reforms, as did regional and international collaborations, including observational study tours and networking on criminal justice reforms on state to state, state to federal, and national and international levels; finally, a focus on border justice increased collaborative relationships with US and Mexican border states.

An area of service which did not see the accomplishment of its goals in FY 2008 is the area of Community Policing. The \$200,000 grant, with equally matching funds of \$200,000 from participating partners was not used in total. Of the \$400,000 appropriated, approximately \$100,000 was used. The upsurge of violence in Ciudad Juarez since January 1, 2008 has seen 900 plus homicides, which totals more deaths due to organized crime violence than deaths which occurred in the Iraqi war within the same time period. Most notably, the violent murder of Pedro Aragonese, the State Director of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, in front of his 15 year old son, and decapitation of murder victims, plus multiple murders totaling 13 in one day, have monopolized the attention of Attorney General Patricia Gonzalez and have prevented her participation in the progress of community policing projects in Ciudad Juarez. Without her leadership and involvement, the community policing project cannot move forward in Ciudad Juarez.

In addition, a spokesperson for the Attorney General's Office expressed an interest in knowing more about the potential for community policing to facilitate crime reduction in Chihuahua State prior to investing full support. He also advised that he was unsure as to whether the Attorney General would prioritize Juarez or Chihuahua City to pilot a community policing model, based on the similar problems in the two cities.

The aforementioned situation has prevented the project site of Ciudad Juarez in achieving the preliminary goals of the of the community policing project. Developing successful community policing programs in places with high rates of violent crime and improving interagency development require the cooperation of local institutions, businesses, and the local population. These entities in Ciudad Juarez have hesitated to commit themselves to uniting and presenting an affront to the violence for the following reasons: The lack of an organized task force to address the issues of crime make it difficult to gain support from the decision makers of the city to develop the community policing project; the composition of the Ciudad Juarez community with more than 20 colonias in the adjacent and surrounding area are "mini" communities, with diverse needs, transient populations, low economic levels, and high crime rate in robberies and assaults, which contribute to mistrust of police.

The recommendation to extend the funding for FY 2009 for the Community Policing Initiative will provide an opportunity to focus on the development of an analysis and investigations unit that will work solely on one or two priority crime problems while the

Police would focus on threat detection, prevention and investigation, as well as on developing relationships in the communities where work is being carried out. The proposed unit would be dedicated to lowering crime around city schools, gang abatement, or other priorities identified by the Office of the Secretary of Public Safety and police agencies. Work in high crime areas would also require support for other activities, such as the anti-graffiti initiative with local police, sports or other programs to build the types of relationships that will yield more information and assist partners in developing other strategies to reduce crime.

Additionally, the training of preventative police officers in investigative policing would be a major part of the Community Policing Initiative. The training of police in the use of formats, such as written short-forms, that would be used to facilitate better information-sharing across units and provide more efficient means by which supervisors might control the work product of police while on the street. These formats would serve to provide better information to criminal investigators, potentially enhancing the quality of cases to be prosecuted, and also provide policy-makers with more information on crime dimensions. Ideally, piloting of these forms would be carried out with a small unit, linked to efforts to reduce public perception of victimization.

It is also critical to vet, select and train personnel for internal affairs at the state level so that investigations of alleged corrupt or illegal activity by any police officer in the state, including municipal police might be carried out with a reasonable degree of professionalism and integrity.

Although there was limited activity in the area of Community Policing, Tijuana, Baja California did participate and experience forward movement in initiating a part of the Community Policing project. In April, Community policing expert , Ron West, conducted a workshop, facilitated by the Attorney General, of Baja California, which was attended by (35) persons representing the Office of Public Safety, Tijuana Police, Tecate Police, and Baja State Police, among others. Local police present included not only command staff but line officers, all with many years of experience working on the street.

During discussions with representatives from the Attorney General's Office, the MSD consultant learned that state and local police and other authorities are accustomed to working together. Meetings were held with the Secretary for Public Safety, which is a key institution that would be responsible for advancing community policing in Baja California, to discuss in take calls received from the public. Additional meetings conducted with state and local authorities, chamber representatives and NGO's highly interested in working with police provided Mr. West with the opportunity to develop strong and integral working relationships with the main stakeholders. Meetings with judges, defense council and prosecutors, as well as the court helped to gain further insights into the police and workings of the criminal justice system in Tijuana.

Other activities within the Community Policing project included trainings of police in the states of Chihuahua, Morelos, and Zacatecas, and an observation/study tour to visit the Los Angeles Police and Orange County Sheriff's Departments in June, 2008. The participants included not only justice sector personnel, but also law enforcement

personnel who began to develop relationships with the Sheriff's Department, and found a comprehensive and complete curriculum with courses which cover car theft, anti-graffiti force, gang activity task force, investigative techniques, interviewing witness and suspect techniques, and organized crime activity, all of which tie in to the Community Policing Initiative. Upon requesting an extension for the Community Policing Initiative, MSD/Proderecho has devised a plan for monthly trainings for investigative police, which will assist the project to fulfill its commitment to achieving its community policing objectives. Those activities appear in the approved Work Plan for 2009.

In summary, MSD/Proderecho experienced some difficulties in achieving with total success some of its objectives and the indicators for training in the area of the reforms and the Community Policing Initiative were not met. The resolve of Proderecho technical staff and administration is to learn from this situation, and assure that neither massive violence, a major push to achieve ratification by all states and the Federal District, nor the change in leadership as Director Lucy Tacher left at the end of the fiscal year, will deter the project from achieving its goals and meeting the indicators set for FY 2009. The intention of MSD/Proderecho is to replicate the successes of FY2008 in its many areas of achievement. Some of the major achievements of 2008 include:

- The ratification of the constitutional reforms by more than half of the local legislations on March 6th, 2008. **(PMP Objective 1 – Reform of the Criminal Justice System)**
- The signing of the constitutional reforms by President Felipe Calderon Hinojosa on June 18th, 2008 was held at a public event in front of the major Bar Associations, representatives of civil society, academics and public officials, and was sent to the Official Gazette Constitutional Reforms for publication. **(PMP Objective 1 – Reform of the Criminal Justice System)**
- The first International Conference on Restorative Justice entitled “Humanizing the Criminal Process” took place in the state of Oaxaca in September of 2008. The conference had an attendance of over 600 registered participants from 14 countries and 22 of Mexico's 31 states. **(PMP Objective 3 – Strengthened Civil Society Participation in Criminal Justice Reforms and Access to Justice)**
- A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) of the United States and Proderecho to provide technical assistance to diverse state governments in Mexico, in October, 2007. **(PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)**
- The United States/Mexico Bar Association Board (USMBA) and Proderecho worked to proceed with the drafting and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of standardizing and centralizing the training for operators of the new criminal justice. **(PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)**

- An observation tour taken by public officials of Baja California to Santiago de Chile from October 10-14 to observe the function of the Chilean system of justice included two former representatives of the PAN and PRI political parties and other functionaries from the Judicial Power, State Attorney General's Office, and State Office of Public Security. **(PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)**
- Proderecho Coordinators served as informal consultants in Morelos during a session of Congress focusing on the adolescent system of justice. The Congress approved the transition into the Criminal Code of Procedure and that the law for adolescents be applied as a supplementary law when the general law initiates October 30, 2008. **(PMP Objective 2 - Access to justice for marginalized populations)**
- Alternative Justice training continued to be the focus in the states of Oaxaca and Chihuahua where its implementation had a significant effect on the reduction of court congestion. In Oaxaca, 2,350 cases were sent to alternative justice practice (1,550 conciliation, 520 mediation and 280 in restorative justice); while Chihuahua had over 30,000 cases opened in approximately the last 22 months, with only 11 cases going to trial, and a majority of the open cases were funneled into alternative justice. With these states as models, Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California are requesting training in alternative justice as they move toward implementation. **(PMP Objective 2 - Access to justice for marginalized populations)**
- Training on court administration and case management began with the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA) conducting a visits to Chihuahua to evaluate the current system for documentation **((PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)**
- Mexico received an unprecedented invitation to send participants to the annual conference of the International Association for Court Administrators (IACA) April 20-24 in Dublin, Ireland to discuss the advances and innovations of its court system. Speakers invited included Patricia Gonzalez, Attorney General for the State of Chihuahua, Norma Angelica Contreras, Chief Court Administrator of the Superior Court of the State of Zacatecas, and Miguel Angel Falcon, Magistrate of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Morelos. documentation **((PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)**
- Collaborations with the Chihuahua State Attorney General and visiting consultants from Washington, DC, McAllen, Texas, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania yielded a diagnostic evaluation of the Center for Attention to Victims in Ciudad Juarez, and resulted in 4 follow-up visits to assist the Attorney General and Center staff to reorganize protocols, processes, and service delivery

models for victims of violence. (**PMP Objective 2 - Access to justice for marginalized populations**).

- Students from the University Cuauhtémoc of Guadalajara, Jalisco specializing in adolescent justice were provided the opportunity to participate in conversation that introduced visitors of community programs to the reforms and to the court specializing in adolescent behavior, as well as looking directly at the adolescent courts. Those in the audience were encouraged to participate on these conversations in order to generate interest, knowledge, and debate relative to the new system of justice (**PMP Objective 3 – Strengthened Civil Society Participation in Criminal Justice Reforms and Access to Justice**)
- A two-day Orientation on the new justice reforms in Mexico for Spanish speaking US judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and law enforcement officials was held in San Diego, California presented by Proderecho coordinators and consultants in the Mexican reform system. The Orientation presented the various aspects of the system in order to educate their US counterparts, and prepare them as more informed instructors for future Mexican trainings. **Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions**)

Report on PMP Indicators

Five mandated USAID/Mexico indicators under the Performance Monitoring Plan were met repeatedly during fiscal year 2008 with a variety of activities. The previous activities listed are but a few of the examples of the work MSD/Proderecho accomplished. The following table summarizes the accomplishments for each of the 5 designated PMP Indicators, with a brief listing of the activities with which the indicators were addressed. More detailed activity reports follow the table according to activity addressed and states that addressed those specific activities. The five indicators documented in this report include:

1. Number of USG assisted Courts with Improved Case Management
2. Number of Justice Sector Personnel that Received USG Training
3. Number of Legal Aid Groups and Law Clinics Assisted by USG
4. Number of Legal Institutions and Associations Supported by USG
5. Number of States Passing Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform

Objective:	2 Governing Justly and Democratically	Program Area:	2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights		
Program Element:	2.1.3 Justice System				
Standard Indicators			2008 Results	2009 Targets	2010 Targets
1. Number of USG-assisted Courts with Improved Case Management			17	9	12
OU Nominated		Deviation Type target FY2008 (4)	Date of Last DQA (MM/YYYY)		
Explanation: Courts assisted, what was done with partner IACA					

Chihuahua				
Met with Federal Courts and conducted briefing on case management in general and procedures for administering the AMPARO law				
MSD provided technical assistance to the Superior Court in Chihuahua. The technical assistance included discussing procedural issues between the AGs office and the Superior Court				
Currently drafting an analysis of the Superior Courts case management system				
Oaxaca				
MSD provided technical assistance to the Special Courts for adolescents in Oaxaca. The technical assistance implementing includes implementing an automated case management system in the juvenile courts.				
Conducted a follow up visit to observe the functioning of the case management system				
Devised action plan with the President of the Supreme Court on conducting site visits in McAllen Texas to observe adolescents justice systems operations and pre-trial and probation case management systems, visit is planned for December.				
2. Number of Justice Sector Personnel that Received USG Training		17,609	20,000	23,000
OU Nominated		Deviation Type Target FY2008 (4830)		Date of Last DQA (MM/YYYY)
Explanation: Different types of training done in different states.				
Training consisted of: Conducted training with Prosecutors, Public Defenders, Oral Judges, pre-trial judges, criminal justice operators on implementing the new criminal code and new criminal code procedures Conducted training on pre-trial procedures Conducted training on oral litigation trial advocacy skills Conducted training on drafting procedures for prosecutors Salidas Alternas (Mediation, Conciliation and Restorative Justice) training Restorative Justice States: Chihuahua, Oaxaca, Morelos, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Baja California, Coahuila, Jalisco Total trained: Male: 9,767; Female 7,842				
3. Number of Legal Aid Groups and Law Clinics Assisted by USG		6	9	12
OU Nominated		Deviation Type Target FY 2008 (40)		Date of Last DQA (MM/YYYY)
MSD decided to forward the activities under this component to FY 2009 so that we could work in tandem with the TIP(PROTEJA) project which MSD will integrate in FY 2009				
Explanation: Legal aid groups and what was done with them				
Centro atención temprana de la procuradora del Estado de Chihuahua (Cds Juárez & Chihuahua) -Reviewed protocols for methodology being used in reporting and documenting crimes; provided recommendations on how to improve triage process with attention to victim needs.				
4. Number of Legal Institutions and Associations Supported by USG		29	35	45
OU Nominated		Deviation Type		Date of Last DQA (MM/YYYY)
Explanation: Legal institutions and associations and what was done with them. **This particular indicator was not tracked numerically during 2008 at Director discretion, but the following institutions and associations were supported.				

Institutions				
Chihuahua Bar State of attorneys				
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Faculty of law Baja California				
Universidad Autónoma de Benito Juárez de Oaxaca Faculty of Law Oaxaca				
Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua (UACH) Faculty of Law Chihuahua				
-Conducted workshops on criminal procedure curricula, oral advocacy curricula, teaching methods and clinical methods				
Associations				
Chihuahua				
Catholic Religious organization				
Provided capacity building training on RJ and conflict resolution in response to high level of domestic violence cases				
UACH				
Assisted in developing a legal clinic to address salidas alternas with a focus on restorative justice				
Zacatecas				
Provided technical to the Women' s Bar Association conducted course on litigation techniques, oral trials				
Custom Indicators				
1. Number of States Passing Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform		3	2	2
OU Nominated		Deviation Type Target FY 2008 (3)	The original target was 3 States, the third State was suppose to be Durango which has drafted the code and presented the code in September 2008 and they are still waiting for approval	Date of Last DQA (MM/YYYY)
Explanation: Dates and timing of work with institutions				
Baja California December 2007				
Morelos November 2007				
The original target was 3 States; the third State was supposed to be Durango which has drafted the code and presented the code in September 2008. They are still waiting for approval.				

Report on Proderecho Activities

The sections that follow describe in specific details the activities of the project in 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. 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.

Narratives of Proderecho Activities

Legislation and Justice Reform

(PMP Objective 1 – Reform of the Criminal Justice System)

The passing of the Constitutional Reforms at the Federal level on December 13, 2007 was the most significant event relative to the reforms of the criminal justice system. Proderecho consultants Dr. Carlos Rios and Dr. Daniel Gonzalez and Director Lucy

Tacher were instrumental in supporting legislators with technical assistance during the debates.

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. Following are some of the significant meetings with outcomes which exemplify Proderecho's efforts toward supporting states and individuals who are committed to the new justice reform package. Proderecho assisted in the preparation of a document which captured the basics of the constitutional reforms from diverse Congressional political parties in order to assist in generating consensus of the Legal Reforms.

Attorney Rafael Vazquez, Secretary of the Agenda for the Government reviewed the work Proderecho was doing relative to the new system of criminal justice reform in **Mexico City**. An outcome of this work was to schedule a future meeting with high government officials such as the Secretary of the Government and the State Attorney General in December.

Committees for the Implementation of the Criminal Code of Procedure included high level officials whose focus was on monitoring progress and moving toward implementation of oral trials in **Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California**. Zacatecas was particularly active during the months of January and February, 2008 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 as are **Tamaulipas, Jalisco, Aguascalientes, and Coahuila**. 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.

On October 12, representatives from the three areas of power for the state of **Sonora** signed an inter-institutional agreement to solidify state support for the criminal reform process. The agreement documented the grand quantity of forums, events, and courses which have previously been presented with the objective of sensitizing and socializing the society of Sonora relative to the justice reforms. Proderecho was acknowledged as an organization which participated in the forums providing support for the conferences and trainings of the new system of justice.

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.

On November 21, the Congress of the State of **Chihuahua** participated in a course to sensitize representatives and consultants on the new legislative principles and theories of

the new system of criminal justice. The course was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators who addressed the pending themes to adequately implement the reform. At the end of the course, the representatives who participated expressed a positive reaction to the informative course, and pledged to work to support an efficient implementation of the reform throughout the state. There were 25 participants.

On the same date, the Secretary General of the Government held a meeting of the Board of Implementation of the Reform of the Code of Criminal Procedure in **Chihuahua**. The participation of the President of the Supreme Court for Justice and representatives of the new Legislature determined the following principles:

As a Congressional representation of pending issues in the state of Chihuahua, the board designated the judges for justice for adolescents in Chihuahua and throughout the state.

The Secretary General of the Government requested Proderecho continue providing support to the state government through training and monitoring the Justice Reform process in order to disperse the criticism posed by some operators of the system, particularly judges who protect civil liberties.

A reunion was held 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. On December 13, the Magistrate of the Court of the Adolescent Unit for Justice, the Secretary of the Government, and two state representatives, met to review the results of their observation visit to Oaxaca. 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.

Proderecho Coordinators were present during a session of Congress in **Morelos** to serve as informational consultants to the Congress about the adolescent system of justice. The Congress approved the transition into the Criminal Code of Procedure take place prior to October 30, 2008 and that the law for adolescents be applied as a supplementary law.

On December 3, a meeting was held with the Secretary General of the State Government of **Morelos**. In attendance were two congressional representatives, the Chief Magistrate of the United Tribunal for Justice for Adolescents, the Director of the Defense, the Coordinator of Advisors of the Secretary of the Government, and individuals from the Open Society at the Palace of the Governor. The meeting was held to establish collaboration between government agencies and with the Open Society, and to ensure the assistance of each agency in the training and technical assistance to be given the following year. An additional meeting with the Attorney General of the state of Morelos was held to discuss the same issues. A similar meeting was held on December 4 with the President of the Superior Court for Justice.

Zacatecas approved reforms to its code of criminal procedure in mid July but has been more conservative in terms of the time to implement the reforms. During the first two quarters of the fiscal year, Proderecho informed 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 work of Proderecho in supporting the continued movement toward legislation of the justice reforms for Mexico is evident. The supports 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, are priorities in the upcoming year. As ever, Proderecho continues to provide training and technical support to those states that express an interest in its services, with priority given to those states implementing, legislating, or drafting the reforms.

The legislative events described above are examples of the achievements by the USAID/Mexico ROL project at the legislative level.

International and Interstate Events

(PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)

The effort to establish international and interstate linkages and make the best use of resources while sustaining progress toward justice reform is a necessary and key focus of USAID/Mexico. The following international and interstate events occurred during the fiscal year and are examples of the collaborative efforts that result from justice reforms.

MSD/Proderecho continues to work collaboratively and build relationships with state governments, universities, non-governmental agencies, international institutions, and international governments. Government officials from Morelos, Zacatecas, and Baja California are poised to implement the reforms and have actively participated in establishing collaborations and linkages with currently implementing states, national and international universities, and international governments (including Chile, Columbia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Through collaborations, MSD/Proderecho has encouraged and groomed national institutions such as the Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indigenas (INALI), and the Red Nacional A Favor de los Juicios Orales Y Debido Proceso Legal (RED), as well as 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), and USMBA (United States Mexico Bar Association).

Collaborations with U.S. law enforcement agencies include an agreement 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.

In the area of civil society, the National Network (RED) of civil society organizations and governmental institutions continue to work with Proderecho, monitoring the reform and supporting Proderecho in its efforts to reach national implementation of the new criminal justice system in 8 years. The goal for that point is for Mexico, as a nation, to implement oral trials and due process in their criminal justice system. The RED has called for the establishment of a Federal Commission to assist states with implementation, and training is underway in the five states that are leading the way in terms of reform. Commissions for Implementation function at the state level and support the Federal Commission toward the creation and adoption of a National Due Process Law. Such a law will encourage 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 requires Congress to provide enough resources for a successful implementation.

Proderecho supported media connections with the objective of getting word to the public about reform through various forms of the media. For example, Proderecho developed relationships with members of the press to conduct interviews with members of the Red, who used these opportunities to speak favorably of oral trials and due process. The following press conferences by members of the RED were held to explain to citizens, through simple messages, about the justice reforms approved by Congress on March 26. A media blitz between the dates of Monday, February 25 to Friday, February 29 included meetings between individuals from the Red or the Mexican government. On Monday, February 25, Miguel Sarre and Emilio Rabasa met with CNN México and NRM Communications. On Tuesday, February 26 Enrique Ochoa met with Radio Fórmula; Patricia Gonzalez, Attorney General for the state of Chihuahua, spoke with Revista MILENIO; and Miguel Sarre spoke on W Radio. On Wednesday, February 27, Ana Laura Magaloni met with Radio Centro and Monitor. On Thursday, February 28, Alejandro Villanueva spoke with Radio 13 Noticias; Emilio Rabasa, Miguel Sarre, and Miguel Carbonell spoke with Proyecto 40; and Ana Laura Magaloni spoke with Grupo ACIR. On Friday, February 29 meetings with the press included Emilio Rabasa, who spoke with Radio Red; Enrique Ochoa with Radio Centro; Emilio Rabasa with Excélsior, IMAGEN, and Cadena Tres; and Alejandro Villanueva with 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, and CNN.

States at varying levels of progress in their reforms also formed collaborative links with one another. Government officials from **Morelos, Zacatecas, Baja California, Jalisco, and Sonora** visited the state of Chihuahua, where they received 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 Juarez**, and were trained on the use of forensic evidence in the 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.

USAID/Mexico monitors its move toward a new criminal justice system, and collaborations within states and other countries allow for consistent training and evaluation towards this end. During the fiscal year, international collaborations with associations that contribute to quality training increased; linkages with these associations enrich the quality of the operators of the new system of justice in the states implementing the criminal code of procedure and provide quality training for those states that are moving toward implementation.

Meetings were held with a representative of CEJA-Chile on the Position and Strategies of Implementation of the Criminal Reform Process. The principal issue addressed was the importance of managing the new system well. Dr. Mauricio Duce, the Academic Director of CEJA addressed the doubts and questions of Baja California visitors relative to the implementation of the new system of justice, and outlined the immediate steps necessary to continue supporting the new code as it has been approved. The meeting placed emphasis on the planning of training and arranging for a reasonable number of operators necessary to carry on the work; additionally, it provided a commentary on the importance of political support to successfully carry forth reform while coping with oppositional factions.

A meeting with Cesar Moya addressed the errors committed during the first stages of the reform in distinct regions of Chile. Both technical and professional issues were addressed, as were the paths that need to be taken for short, mid- and long-term success. This meeting was of particular importance because it addressed the difficulties that can sink the reform process during the training and planning stages, and can assist in avoiding the experiences shared by the Chileans.

On October 11 the Mexican delegation observed interviews at the Criminal Justice in the Center for Justice in Santiago. Administrators gave a presentation on the management of the system, demonstrating how they designate the division of work for judges; how they organize and assign hearings; how records of preliminary hearings are kept; and how notification of the parties are handled. They also presented judges' before and after opinions relative to the Reform; this revealed that, in the beginning, there was some opposition from judges, but that currently there are no judges who would prefer the previous system of justice.

A meeting with the Minister of Justice for Chile, Carlos Maldonado Corti, and the United Justice Reforms group was held on the same day (October 11). The meeting was valuable as there was a discussion of the principal arguments for the Reform – e.g., the previous system of justice was obsolete, slow, and closed, and the principal reason was that there was little satisfaction from the citizenry. Emphasis was placed on the necessity of defending the Reform project even despite opposition, and difficulties in the implementation process were discussed. The speakers also emphasized that not one circumstance of the new system of justice could be worse than Chile's previous inquisitive system. Minister Maldonado Corti clarified the rationale and advantages of gradual implementation by region, and explained the new system through the lens of social reasoning.

A Study Tour for executive government officials from the states of **Baja California Norte** and **Morelos** was conducted from October 25 to 26 with 34 participants that represented the Congress of the State of Morelos; the Government of the State of Baja California Norte; and the Office of the Attorney General and the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua. Visits were made to the Offices of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General for Human Rights and Attention to Victims of Crime, the Center for Alternative Justice, the Unit for Early Attention to Victims of Crime, the Unit for Specialized Investigation of Auto Theft, and the Unit for Sex Crimes and Violence against Families. In addition, a tour to the Forensic Laboratory was conducted.

Continuing collaborations between Attorneys General from the states of **New Mexico**, USA and **Chihuahua**, Mexico support international exchanges. These involve training in forensic science investigation, training for judges, prosecutors, public defenders, law enforcement personnel, and civil organizations in oral trials. In addition, law enforcement agencies in these two states are sharing information on criminal investigations and captured offenders. Proderecho's Director and Consulting Staff worked on preparations for a Memorandum of Understanding relative to Trafficking in Persons, which will be signed in early 2008 in Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, Bruce King, Attorney General for Justice of New Mexico, and Patricia Gonzalez, Attorney General for Justice of Chihuahua.

Furthermore, Proderecho continues to promote the signing and enforcement of Memoranda of Understanding between Mexican and U.S. law enforcement agencies. The organization is currently pursuing an exchange with the Homer Garrison Jr. Memorial Law Enforcement Training Academy of the **Texas** Department of Public Safety to open training spaces for Mexican law enforcement officials.

Proderecho continues to seek to collaborate with the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). IACA offers best practices on court administration across the globe, and provides access to other law enforcement agencies throughout the world. Proderecho has invited and hosted IACA members to make an assessment of justice reforms in **Chihuahua**, **Oaxaca** and at the **Federal** level.

Jeffrey Apperson, Executive Vice-President of (IACA) visited the cities of **Chihuahua** and **Juarez** on November 5 and 6 to attend and observe Chihuahua's third oral trial under the new System of Criminal Justice. His visit was sponsored by USAID/Proderecho. Mr. Apperson was accompanied by **Canadian** Judge Robert Hyslop and Judge Kenneth Fields of the **United States**; as well as court administrators Catherine Hiuseu from Canada and Ray Billote of the United States. Vice-President Apperson visited the Center for Alternative Justice in Chihuahua and the Forensic Laboratory which counts on the technical assistance from the laboratory in Ciudad Juarez. He also met with the President of the State Supreme Court for Justice, Rodolfo Acosta, and the Attorney General of the State, Patricia Gonzalez. Based on his extensive experience as a court administrator for IACA, Mr. Apperson found the reform of the system of criminal justice in the state of Chihuahua to be one of the most important projects in states' rights, not only in North America, but also throughout the world. "This reform can serve as an example for other states in Mexico, and can serve as a model for the federal system," he stated.

Training for experts from the states of **Chihuahua** and **Oaxaca** continues at the Forensic Laboratory in the state of Chihuahua, as well as at the Specialized Unit of Investigation of the Deputy Attorney General's Office. A group of Mexican law enforcement officers, crime scene investigators, and medical examiners attended forensic training in **Las Cruces, New Mexico** in November. The program is evidence of how USAID/Mexico is providing assistance through funding and fundamental training for Mexicans to become the trainers and operators of the new system of justice.

In the last week of October, Pepe Díaz Briseño, the agent for the reform in **Washington, D.C.**, sent information relative to the first oral trial held in Initiative Mérida before Plan Mexico was undertaken. The House Subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere presented Mexico with a proposal to include assistance for the National Network of Oral Trials in the anti-drug "package." The proposal was supported by Joy Olson, Director of WOLA, and supports the idea that Initiative Mérida is not sufficient to control drug trafficking without adequate criminal reform and administration of criminal justice in México. This proposal stands to gain support from the United States.

On November 12, with the support of INACIPE and the **British Embassy**, the Bi-national People's Symposium met to evaluate the British Embassy's support for **Mexico's** justice reforms. Among the 107 participants were Eduardo Medina Mora, Attorney General of the Republic of Mexico and the Mexican Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and the State Attorney General of Chihuahua, Patricia Gonzalez. The following day, INACIPE presented a workshop on Restorative Justice, given by Mike Ledwidge and Proderecho staff. The workshop's objective was to evaluate the British Embassy's assistance to Mexico thus far, and to explore further ways in which the British Embassy can continue its support. The 25 workshop participants were also informed about how the public can support Restorative Justice.

On December 4, dignitaries from USAID visited the state of **Oaxaca** for to learn about the work and activities of the Center for Alternative Justice in the Office of the Attorney General for Justice. Visitors from USAID included Steve Hendrix, Representative of USAID/Mexico in Washington; Jeffery Bell, Adjunct Director, USAID/Mexico; Andrew Luck, USAID Administration; Rafaela Herrera, Rule of Law Advisor – USAID/Mexico; and Cristina Prado, Specialist in Public Relations for USAID/Mexico. The group also met with Dr. Evencio Nicolas Martinez Ramirez, Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, to learn more about the state's Criminal Procedural Reforms and to evaluate and support their continuation. Additional meetings were held with the State Commission for Human Rights to discuss the work done relative to Domestic Violence and its eradication, and with Ms. Salinas de Ruiz, who is in charge of the advances for the Project on the Law for trafficking in persons. Final meetings focused on learning more relative to the work of the Criminal Procedural Reform that has been realized in Oaxaca and evaluating its programs. These meetings involved the Sub-secretary for Political Development of the Secretary of the Governor's office, the Secretary for Indigenous Issues, and the Attorney General for the Defense of the Indigenous. A meeting with Magistrate Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca was held for the purpose of reviewing the Criminal Reform Procedures which have been realized

in Oaxaca, and to evaluate the programs. Finally, a discussion of the oral trial to be held in the **Isthmus of Tehuantepec** region was held.

A course was presented by Proderecho **Morelos** Coordinator and Attorney Jose Luis Jaime Olmos of the National Institute of Trial Attorneys (NITA) to prosecutors and defense attorneys. These attorneys are participating in the training for the system of criminal justice for adolescents which will take effect in January 2008. The 12 hour course was held from December 3-5 for a total of 15 prosecutors and 17 defense attorneys.

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. During this fiscal year, the international collaborations with associations that contribute to quality training increased, and the linkages with these associations enriched the quality of the operators of the new system of justice in the states implementing the criminal code of procedure, as well as providing quality training for those states that are moving toward implementation.

Juvenile Justice

(PMP Objective 2 - Access to justice for marginalized populations)

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 to assist states to realize the goal through training and technical support.

PRODERECHO Zacatecas/Aguascalientes Coordinator held a meeting with Magistrate Leonor Varela of Zacatecas whereby the Magistrate spoke of her intent to make changes in the Law for Adolescents and made recommendations to the Deputy Attorney General Maria de los Angeles Chinas of Oaxaca, who also pledged to begin the construction of courtrooms and to address the infrastructure of the courts and the Reform for Adults.

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. The President of the Bar for Attorney's met with Proderecho coordinators to prepare an agenda on themes and potential presenters for a celebration to be held the second or third week of November.

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. Another meeting took place on December 13 with the Magistrate of the Court of the Adolescent Unit for Justice, the Secretary of the Government, and two state representatives, to review the results of their visit to Oaxaca. 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.

This meeting led to the December 10 planning of a meeting with the Chief Magistrate of the Unified Court for Justice for Adolescents of Oaxaca to come to **Morelos**. The visit enabled the Oaxacan Magistrate to observe and establish a structure of organization for the Adolescent Court. In addition, the suggestions for required personnel, necessary trainings, and alternative methods of justice were discussed by the Oaxacan magistrate.

Proderecho Coordinators were present during a session of Congress in **Morelos** to serve as informational consultants to the Congress about the adolescent system of justice. The Congress approved the transition into the Criminal Code of Procedure take place prior to October 30, 2008 and that the law for adolescents be applied as a supplementary law.

Meetings between **Oaxaca** Proderecho Coordinators and Judges from the Adolescent system of Justice were held on December 11 for the purpose of reviewing their functions in the new system of justice for adolescents. The implementation in the State of Oaxaca is taking place in January, 2008. In attendance were oral trial judges, judges of warranty, and judges who address adolescent justice. Also present was the Chief Magistrate of the first Criminal Court for the State of Oaxaca.

On December 12, **Oaxaca** Proderecho Coordinators met with 70 public defenders that specialize in Adolescent Justice for the purpose of reviewing the defense attorney's role in the new system of adolescent justice.

Juvenile Justice continues to be a priority in the states implementing and planning to implement the justice reforms. 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

(PMP Objective 4 – Strengthened justice through national and international cooperation through justice sector and academic institutions)

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.

Classes and trainings on the simulation of Oral Trials were held at the Law School of the University of Durango, **Zacatecas** Campus on November 5-8 for a total of 20 hours. The classes were facilitated by Proderecho and attended by law students who covered the topic of "The Constitutional reform in criminal matters". Seventy-five participants from

the Cultural Judicial Supreme Court for Justice of the Nation and Superior court of Justice for the State were in attendance.

An introductory course for Public Defenders in the state of **Zacatecas** was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators for the purpose of exposing them to the principals, ethics, and format of the new criminal justice system. The course was held on November 23- 24 and was attended by 30 public defenders.

Proderecho staff presented the Family Mediation course was held November 6-8 at the Supreme Court for Justice of the state of **Tamaulipas** directed at the personnel of DIF (Department of Family Services), the Supreme Court for Justice, and the Attorney General for Justice of the State with the objective of training mediators to facilitate family mediation. There were 43 persons in attendance.

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, with the last group from the Bravos Judicial District. November 13-15 a companion course for Public Defenders who operate under the new system of justice was presented in the Judicial District Bravos, by Proderecho Coordinator and Public Defender Hugo Aguirre who operates under the new system of criminal justice in Judicial District Morelos. 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.

From the 12-16 of November, Proderecho conducted a course for prosecutors from the State Attorney General's Office at the New Judicial city of the Attorney General in Juarez. The course entitled "The role of investigative police in the new criminal justice system". The objective of the course was to determine which of the police from the Bravos Judicial District perform with an understanding of the new system of criminal justice, and whether they reinforce the need to intervene in the investigative process at some point with the assistance and coordination of the prosecutor; placing emphasis most importantly on the way new information is obtained. Also stressed was the issue that the police are involved in finding investigative results, and not involved in judicial proceedings. The outcome of the training lead Proderecho staff to conclude additional course hours are needed to address more specifically the size of the group. There were 273 police agents in attendance, notably 19 women and 254 men. On November 12-16 training for Judges who protect civil rights under the new system of justice for the Bravos Judicial District was held at the New Judicial City in Juarez. The objective of the training was to discuss the doubts that the judges see relative to safeguarding rights under the new system, specifically with respect to the stages of investigation. The training resulted in expressed satisfaction by the judges, with their discussion of the possibilities of panoramic solutions relative to the filing of a summons. The presenters were Alonso Arancibia from Chile and Alejandra Ramos Duran a judge of civil rights from Chihuahua. On November 20-23 a course for public defenders who operate within the new system of criminal justice in the Bravos Judicial District were presented a course by

Proderecho Coordinators on the details of litigation in order to practice the preparation for an oral trial. In addition, 20 prosecutors who were discharged from training were selected for an intensive training session based on the principles of a systematic interpretation of legal precepts. They discussed judicial resolutions during the investigative stage of the process, and they were exposed to the technical elements which define good praxis. The purpose of the course was to review intermediary investigation and provide a panorama of an oral trial. Other trainings conducted in the Bravos Judicial District were from December 3-7 a 6 hour course was held for defense attorneys of the new criminal justice system in the Bravos Judicial District. The course, held at the new Judicial City in Ciudad Juarez was given by Proderecho Coordinators and Public Defender Dulce Guibeth Galaz Portillo of the Morelos District. The course objective was to continue presenting litigation skills and to provide practice in the preparation and development of an oral trial. Sixteen individuals were in attendance.

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. There were 12 judges participating in the training presented by Proderecho staff.

Consultants continued to provide training to operators of the new system of criminal justice from the Attorney General's Office throughout the week of December 3-7 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. These activities were carried out at the request of the Attorney General's Office, who received technical assistance and recommendations from the consultants. In addition, meetings were held with the forensic anthropologist who evaluated cases of missing and murdered women, for the purpose of understanding fundamentals in the order of scientific evidence gathering. Finally, meetings with the mothers of the victims were held with the objective of learning about the investigative interviews, the advances that have or have not been made relative to the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, and the activities that occurred after the discovery of the body in a specific case which occurred March 10, 2003. The meeting with the mother of the victim allowed the consultants to learn about the details of the case and the investigations from her perspective, and provided them with diagnostic information which will help in the continuous investigations. One outcome of these meetings is that the consultants developed a class to train Prosecutors and police agents from the Special Investigations Group on specific methodologies in investigation of cases that violate human rights. This course was given on December 6 for the Special Investigations Group from the State Attorney General's Office in order to provide them with better elements for investigation of cases that violate the human rights of women in general.

A course on Alternative Sentencing with the focus on the system of Justice for Adolescents was held on December 6-7 in **Morelos** to train operators of the system. The purpose of the course was to prepare them for the January implementation of the Law for Adolescent Justice. The 8 hour course addressed 30 participants.

On December 10-11 Proderecho **Morelos** Coordinator presented a course in CIJ for aspiring operators of the new system of justice for adolescents. The 8 hour training addressed 35 attorneys for both the defense and prosecution. On December 12-13, Proderecho Morelos Coordinator supervised training by Magistrate Medina of Chihuahua for aspirants of the system of justice for adolescents.

Training also occurred during the 24-28 of December. The purpose of the courses was to ensure those in attendance mastered the concepts, theories, skills, and techniques of litigation in order to operate in the new system of criminal justice in the **Cd. Juárez** area. Also during this week training continued for public defenders of the new system of justice in the Bravos Judicial District. The objective of the training was to provide defense attorneys with the administrative structure they will encounter in the new system of justice. Training for personnel from the Center for Attention for Victims in the Specialized Unit of Sexual Crimes against Families of the Attorney General's Office was presented December 26-28 by Coordinators from Proderecho, Director of Proteja, Gabriela Saavedra, and USAID Rule of Law Advisor Rafaela Herrera. The purpose of the training was to provide technical assistance to the operators of the Center for Attention to Victims relative to sex crimes, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, and to explain the new criminal procedural process to operators of the new system of justice including prosecutors, litigators, and social workers.

A qualifying course for agents of the prosecutors who operate within the new system of criminal justice in the Bravos Judicial District was held at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration at Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juarez from November 20 -23. The 32 participants had not yet received training to master the technical concepts of the new criminal procedures. Proderecho Coordinators evaluated the outcome of the course as successful, whereby the participants were able to master technical concepts at a rate of 70%.

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, and 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.

A course entitled "Introduction to Criminal Investigative Methodology and the Corresponding Role of Investigators" designed to train agents of CIPOL in investigative methodology is part of the training provided by agents trained through the cooperative

exchanges with US agencies. The course addresses the importance of investigative methodology in the reform of the system of criminal justice, and the role that investigators will assume in the new system. The training began in August and will continue into October and December, 2007. Other courses covering methodology of investigation include a review of the new criminal processes, the investigative interview, and typology techniques.

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 year as the five states will be in the implementation process.

Alternative Justice Training
(PMP Objective 2 - Access to justice for marginalized populations)

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.

A workshop on Restorative Justice, Module 8: Practices, was held at the Salon for Multiple uses at the Library of the Superior Court for Justice in **Oaxaca** during the week of October 22-26. The 12 hour workshop was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators and staff for the 24 participants from the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Oaxaca. The Module entitled: “The Model for Restorative Conferences and Skills” presented practical application skills and simulations in order to prepare operators of the new system of justice in restorative justice applications. Twenty-four participants continued their training in Restorative Justice.

The seminar on Alternative Methods for the Solution of Conflicts, Mediation, and Conciliation was conducted by Proderecho Coordinators and staff for 10 hours during the week of October 22 – 26 at the Salon for Multiple uses at the Library of the Superior Court for Justice in **Oaxaca**.

The Seminar on Alternative Methods, Conciliation and Mediation was held on November 22 for personnel from the Office of the Attorney General for Justice at the State of **Oaxaca**. The purpose of the seminar was to train participants in the process of conciliation and provide them practical application to improve their comprehension and facilitation of conciliation.

The second session of the workshop on Restorative Justice was held at the Academy of Professional Education of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of **Oaxaca** on November 8. The 52 participants at the workshop were evaluated and results were presented to the Attorney General.

The University Lasalle of Saltillo, **Coahuila** hosted the Restorative Justice Workshop for the general public on November 20-21. The objective of the training was to provide a model of Restorative Justice as an alternative to resolve criminal conflicts. Twenty-five individuals attended.

On December 3-7 the Second Module of the Seminar on Alternative Methods of Solution to Conflict, Negotiation, Mediation and Restorative Justice was presented to share information on alternative methods to solution of conflicts. The workshop was presented in the context of applied knowledge of differences among the topics and was directed at assessing the individuals interested in participating as part of the team for the Center for Alternative Justice of Ciudad Juarez. The training was held at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad **Juarez**.

The Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez Institute of Social Sciences and Administration was the location for the presentation of the second module of the Seminar on Alternative Methods of Solution of Conflicts. The training was directed at the individuals aspiring to participate as operators of the Center for Alternative Justice in **Juarez**. The Module, entitled “Mediation” was presented to 24 persons for a total of 12 hours and focused on presenting the process of mediation and provided exercises to assist the participants in mastering the tools necessary to practice the mediation process and to receive feedback on their skills as mediators.

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 to include **Zacatecas, Morelos, Baja California, Durango, Hidalgo, Estado de Mexico, and Chiapas** in comprehensive training.

Evaluative and Diagnostic Procedures **(PMP Objective 1 – Reform of the Criminal Justice System)**

As the work on the reforms of the justice system in Mexico continues 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.

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Meetings were held with the Deputy Attorney General and the District Attorney in Chihuahua City to analyze and evaluate the investigative work conducted in various cases during the week of October 22-26 at the State Offices of the Attorney General.

Two meetings were held during the week of November 5-9 with magistrates and Federal Judges of the Circuit of **Zacatecas** to discuss the system of criminal justice in the state and the incidence within the federal courts. Magistrates and judges showed much interest in the theme and the necessity for training.

Meetings held in **Oaxaca** on November 8 -9 addressed issues of concern to Administrators from the Attorney General's Office and personnel from the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). The IACA conducted an evaluation relative to performance of judges in Oaxaca. In a telephonic interview with Judges Jeff Apperson and Robert Hyslop, of the International Administration of Courts from America (IACA), a discussion focused on the experiences of Chihuahua and Oaxaca in the new system of criminal justice and restorative justice to investigate the possibilities for new interchanges between the United States, Canada, and Proderecho.

During the week of December 10-14, Proderecho consultants met with the mothers of recently murdered women. The meetings, which took place at the homes of the families of the murdered women, were held to prepare the families for future meetings with the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General in **Chihuahua**. The purpose of the meetings was to have the consultants familiarize themselves with the investigation of specific cases on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. As a result of the meetings, 21 family members of recent victims were able to transmit to the Attorney General their apprehensions and aspirations relative to the results of forthcoming cases. Unlike the victim's families of the past, the families of more recent victims were able to learn about the diligence in the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, the advances of the investigation in their cases, and about pending issues in the case investigations. Similarly, the Attorney General learned directly about the apprehensions of the families with respect to the investigation, and what their demands for justice are. In some cases, she was able to coordinate assistance for the families through the office of Attention to Victims.

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 Events

Aguascalientes

Meetings with the Attorney General for Justice and the Chief Magistrate of the Supreme Court for Justice of the State were held on November 16 for the purpose of meeting with the operators of the new accusatory adversarial system of the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca and their Proderecho coordinators.

On November 21 the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Aguascalientes sponsored a round table discussion for the purpose of promoting discussion of the integral criminal justice reform. The 28 participants representing prosecutors and agents of the Attorney General's office discussed the experiences from Chihuahua and Oaxaca with the new Criminal Code of Procedure. Later that afternoon the Attorney General expressed an interest in the necessity to work the following year to consolidate the Reform in Aguascalientes. A conference held during the afternoon focused on the implementation of the new system of Criminal Justice in Chihuahua and Oaxaca. In attendance were 42 agents of the Attorney General, judges, magistrates, public defenders, and operators of the system of prosecutors.

Proderecho staff moderated a panel on the procedural criminal process in a forum regarding Public Security which was organized for elected representatives from the PAN party in Aguascalientes. The panel invited participants to analyze the importance of the procedural reforms and the different models of reform that are in place in the State of Mexico, Nuevo Leon, Chihuahua and Oaxaca. The Attorney General for the State of Aguascalientes, the President of the Commission of Human Rights for the State of Aguascalientes, elected Representatives of the PAN Party and the Technical Secretary of the Commission of human Rights from the state of Jalisco.

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 Training Institute 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.

A discussion relative to the system of justice for adolescents was held where the principles and characteristics of Article 18 of the Constitution. The discussion was organized by the state legislature and former members of the law faculty of the law school at UNAM for the purpose of discussing the new system of justice, its development in state systems, and the structural and legislative reforms

Baja California

Baja California has designated its Secretary of the Government in charge of the implementation of the new Criminal Code of Procedure as Gilberto Gonzalez Solis, who has served as the principal promoter of the Code. He has a designated team to assist with the implementations which include an administrator, a systems engineer, and other attorneys. Mr. Gonzalez and his team are responsible for implementation of the new system along with the assistance of Proderecho, which will serve the Inter-institutional Commission in a technical capacity. In addition, Governor Osuna Millan named Attorney Daniel de la Rosa, former head of criminal investigations, as Secretary of Public Security. Mr. de la Rosa was a member of the Review Committee of the new Code of Criminal Procedure and will play an important part in assisting in the implementation in his new post.

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 transform 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.

May 1-3 Consultant Ron West facilitated a workshop for a group of (35) persons representing the Office of Public Safety, Tijuana Police, Tecate Police, and Baja State Police, among others present. The presentation, plenary discussions and exercises focused on the sale and use of illegal narcotics which was identified as the top priority problem.

Tijuana local police were present and included not only command staff but line officers, all with many years of experience working on the street. Additionally, in discussions with representatives from the Attorney General's Office, state and local police and other authorities are accustomed to working together.

In the early evening a local police to tour several communities with high rates of crime and violence, including 10 de mayo, Zona Norte, El Florido I y II, Valle Verde, and Mariano Matamoros. Dr. Alavez, Gilberto D. Gonzalez Solis and staff were conducted.

In a meeting with Secretary for Implementation of the Reforms, Gilberto Gonzalez and staff discussed priorities for crime prevention and reduction in Baja California.

On May 2, a presentation on efforts to date by the Secretary of Public Safety that incorporated many of the most important ingredients for advancing community policing in Baja California was made. Additionally, there were visits to a joint command and operations center, where representatives from all police agencies operating in Tijuana and the military, as well as a psychologist, firefighter, doctor and center command staff, attempt to respond in a coordinated matter to calls from assistance from the public.

Meetings with the Tijuana's Director of Public Safety and staff were held to discuss local crime control efforts in Tijuana. While the civilian side of the facility appeared to be relatively well maintained, the adjoining police station, which is headquarters for local police appeared more dilapidated and in need of some refurbishing.

An afternoon meeting was arranged with the president and representatives of the Tijuana Chamber of Commerce, as well as representatives from several NGOs to discuss possible first steps in forming relationships with state and local authorities for the purpose of crime prevention and reduction. Chamber representatives and one NGO appeared highly interested in working with police to address a number of pressing crime problems, including extortion and kidnapping. One representative offered spaces for at-risk youth, who are identified by police, to attend a training center supported by the company for the purpose of increasing its labor force. The broader opportunity to develop a strong working relationship with the Chamber should be exploited in the near-term.

The last two meetings with judges, defense council and prosecutors, as well as court personnel were held to present what roles might be effectively played by each as part of a community policing program. In addition, discussions about the use of court injunctions for abatement of certain types of activities, specifically gang or other low-level organized criminal activity was mentioned. The last meeting was held separately with defense attorneys to gain further insights into the police and workings of the criminal justice system in Tijuana.

Chihuahua

Chihuahua City

The City of Chihuahua hosted officials and administrators from the states of **Morelos**, **Aguascalientes**, and **Jalisco** for the purpose of observing and learning about the Accusatory System as it functions in Chihuahua. From October 31 to November 1, the visitors toured the Offices of the State Attorney General for Justice of the State of Chihuahua, the Court of Warranty, the Forensic Laboratory, and the Deputy Attorney General's Central Offices. The visitors saw how the Oral Adversarial System functions in Chihuahua and were able to take with them a panorama of information which may permit them to implement the reform in a similar manner which is adequate for their respective states. The officials left satisfied and convinced of the positives of the system and some of them demonstrated their interests in returning to their states to see how close they are and how much more time they need to replicate the new system and make it operative in their respective states.

Proderecho was invited by Chihuahua State Attorney General, Patricia Gonzalez Rodriguez to provide technical assistance in a case of "Femicide" which occurred in the month of March. The Coordinator from Proderecho is offering support in the preparation to the prosecutors in the oral trial. The prosecution was able to obtain a DNA sample from the accused (an oral sample) which was pending presentation in the oral trial. Proderecho provided assistance in the preparation of a plea bargain, questions for interrogation, and cross-interrogation of witnesses and expert witnesses, as well as basing the distinct petitions that are made by the prosecutor in an Oral Trial. This activity was held in the new offices of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua on October 28.

The second simulation of an oral trial was held in Chihuahua during the week of October 15-19 in Courtroom 1 of the Civil Court. Proderecho Coordinators and staff assisted in support of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Chihuahua and the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua. Approximately 172 participants registered to attend throughout the week, including administrative personnel from the Courts, judges, and police.

During the week of October 22-26 the Deputy Attorney General of Chihuahua City conducted interviews with family members of individuals whose cases are to undergo investigation. The interviews assisted family members in their understanding of the investigative procedures, and supported them in their process to give testimony.

A meeting held by the Regional Coordinator of Proderecho with the new Chief Magistrate of the Supreme Court for Justice and the Coordinator for Implementation of the Integral Reform of the Criminal Justice System. The meeting was held at the Office of the Chief Magistrate in Chihuahua on October 18. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress of the Court within the new system of reform and to discuss the most effective ways Proderecho can continue to provide assistance.

During the period from November 2-8, consultants for Proderecho conducted a number of activities including lectures to prosecutors and investigators on the expedition of

investigations on specific cases. Meetings with prosecutors and investigators were also held to analyze the preparation of the case, the state of their investigative procedures and arguments as an ongoing process since August of 2007. Meetings with the family of the victim were held to establish a trusting relationship with the new investigators and to delineate the work that lies ahead as the investigation continues. Prosecutors and investigators visited the crime scene in the effort to experience the crime scenes in depth and to recover possible elements of the case in order to elaborate on their investigation. Evaluations of their investigative activities according to international standards were conducted and recommendations were presented. The end result of these activities was to enable the Attorney General's Office to reorient the investigators, to establish procedures, and determine who the responsible parties are for each case investigation undertaken.

During the week of December 10-14, Proderecho consultants met with the mothers of recently murdered women. The meetings, which took place at the homes of the families of the murdered women, were held to prepare the families for future meetings with the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General in Chihuahua. The purpose of the meetings was to have the consultants familiarize themselves with the investigation of specific cases on behalf of the Attorney General's Office. As a result of the meetings, 21 family members of recent victims were able to transmit to the Attorney General their apprehensions and aspirations relative to the results of forthcoming cases. Unlike the victim's families of the past, the families of more recent victims were able to learn about the diligence in the investigations conducted by the Attorney General's office, the advances of the investigation in their cases, and about pending issues in the case investigations. Similarly, the Attorney General learned directly about the apprehensions of the families with respect to the investigation, and what their demands for justice are. In some cases, she was able to coordinate assistance for the families through the office of Attention to Victims.

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 Gonzalez 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 Gonzalez 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 roles 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 Nohemí Séañez 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 Gonzalez, Coordinador of the Supreme Court for Justice; and Proderecho Coordinator Violeta Maltos. The objective addressed important points in the implementation of the reform in 12 the 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 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.

During the week of March 31 to April 4, the first portion of inter-institutional instruction and selection for judges and defense attorneys of the 12 judicial districts of the State of Chihuahua was held. The purpose of the institute was to select the personnel who will initiate the criminal reform processes on July 1, 2008. Simulations of oral trials and cases from detention until the case is closed were held to evaluate the practice of those aspiring judges and defense attorneys. Evaluators from PRODERECHO and the Warranty Judge from the Morelos District of Chihuahua evaluated both the candidates for judge and public defenders. A total of 26 women and 34 men were evaluated. The inter-institutional course continued for the selection of judges and public defenders for those 12 judicial districts in Chihuahua during the week of April 7-11 with 22 women and 31 men.

During the week of March 31 to April 4, the first portion of inter-institutional instruction on oral trials was held for judges and public defenders of the two judicial districts where the reform begins to take effect on July 1, 2008. There were 15 women in attendance and 20 men in attendance.

During the week of April 28 to May 02, the study/observation tour of the State Police of Morelos continued in Chihuahua for the purpose of training on investigative techniques for use within the new system of justice.

April 28-30 was the continuation of the course on assessment of cases as requested by the Attorney General and which focused on investigation of cases especially selected in order to monitor the selected Unit of Specialized Crimes.

PRODERECHO Coordinator meetings with the Coordinator of Politics and Government of the State of Chihuahua, the Secretary General of the Government, and Coordinator of Implementation of the Reform of the Criminal Process were held for the purpose of solidifying the collaborative working relationships between the government entities of the State of Chihuahua and PRODERECHO/USAID. The collaboration serves the purpose of supporting the state during the implementation of the reform at the federal level. A solicitation of a meeting with Rule of Law Advisor, Rafaela Herrera and the persons designated by the group to address diverse themes such as evaluation of the reform, what kinds of support does Chihuahua need, Chihuahua as a supporter of states who need training, states which can collaborate and formalize study tours in Chihuahua.

On May 5-6, the continuation of inter-institutional instruction had PRODERECHO Coordinator meeting with a group of agents from the prosecutor's office to participate in the training that evaluates those who aspire to be judges and public defenders. The objective was to review the records of investigation used to explain to the agents the dynamics of group collaboration in investigating a case. On May 6 and 9, the classes continued, covering the topic of oral trials, in order to evaluate the aspiring judges and defenders and not stay to interview them at length.

May 5-9 provided for a continuation of the study/observation tour conducted by the state of Morelos. The group from Morelos was there to study the theme of investigation under the new system of criminal justice. The technical work was presented in order to apply the theoretical principals of investigation. The group visited the forensic laboratory as part of the tour.

The reinstatement of the Conversatorio or seminar-like chat was reinstated on May 9 in Chihuahua and was an occasion to permit scholars to present their viewpoint on the specific theme. The theme chosen for this particular discussion was Reparation As Agreed Upon by opposing parties.

The third section of the inter-institutional instruction and selection for judges and defense attorneys took place on May 12-15 with the objective of evaluation of those aspiring to become operators of the system, when the reform begins implementation on July 1, 2008 in the remaining districts of Chihuahua.

On Friday, May 16 the evaluation and review of the aspiring judges of the 12 districts of the state of Chihuahua were reviewed for their knowledge and abilities to begin working to implement the reforms which go statewide on July 1, 2008. The evaluation lasted 8 hours including the exam.

May 15 -16 provided further inter-institutional works in a special session where participants were informed who was selected based on their written exam and evaluations during the practical part of the training.

Ciudad Juarez

Proderecho Coordinators conducted a course on “The Stages of Investigation” for prosecuting attorneys in Juarez from October 15 to 19 at the New Judicial City Complex. Thirty-one individuals from the Chihuahua State Attorney General’s Office in Juarez attended the training from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

From October 15 to October 17 Proderecho Coordinators were in Juarez to conduct psychometric assessments and interviews on behalf of the Chihuahua State Attorney General. A total of 149 individuals were assessed by four coordinators to develop a pool of individuals with the appropriate profile for selection as potential operators of the Center for Alternative Justice in Ciudad Juarez. The assessments were held at the Judicial City Complex in Juarez. The Attorney General’s Office will determine the individuals who will proceed with a three week training based on the results of the psychometric assessments and interviews. The selected individuals will undergo three weeks of training in alternative justice, after which a written and practical evaluation administered will determine if they qualify to work in the Center.

On October 29 the Administrative offices of the Judiciary hosted training on “Substantive Criminal Rights” in Juarez. The training was held for Trial Judges, Judges of Warrant, and Defense and Prosecuting attorneys who operate within the new justice system. There were 93 participants in attendance, with almost equal participation of 45 males and 48 females. The themes presented addressed theories of crime surrounding the construction of a case. The course lasted 12 hours over 3 days, during which time the participants learned about elements necessary to build their cases. There was also a review of the constitutional reforms relative to the criminal matters which serve to reinvest the participation and interest of the Commission of Justice and the House of Representatives in drawing up legal opinions.

Consultants held a meeting with an expert Forensic Argentinean Anthropologist on November 14 for the purpose of familiarizing themselves with the fundamental scientific details which the forensic anthropologist uses to determine the precise cause and details of the deaths of victims which the Attorney General’s office has investigated.

On November 15 a meeting was held between the Proderecho consultants and Brenda Grijalva Maldonado, in charge of the Unit of Absent or Missing Persons from the Office of the Attorney General. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the second phase of functioning of this unit, its personnel, and the methodology used to investigate, the technology used in investigations, and the links between investigations and new cases that have emerged. The Unit recognized that they could formulate some recommendations to function more effectively.

USAID/Mexico has established a collaborative relationship with the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez College of Human Rights and during the Quarter held courses at the Institute of Social Sciences and Administration for judges, prosecutors, and public defenders. Other courses include Special Case Proceedings: The Abridged Proceeding. A course on the Techniques of Interrogation presented for police personnel was held with the participation of the Chihuahua State Attorney General's Office in Juárez. In addition to the courses, general reviews were held to approach the themes of abbreviated proceedings and the system of justice for adolescents. The reviews entitled "A Review of the Criminal Code of Procedure" were didactic in their presentation of theory with a portion of the workshop focused on simulation and practice of oral trials. These reviews were held throughout the Quarter.

Inter-institutional practice exercises in the simulations of oral trials for Judges, Prosecutors, and Defense Attorneys have been held throughout the Quarter with participating institutions which included the Supreme Court for Justice of the State of Chihuahua, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Chihuahua, and the Public Defense of the State of Chihuahua. The trainings were all held at the Administrative Building of the City of Justice of Ciudad Juárez.

Throughout the month of January, Proderecho evaluators accompanied Chilean consultant Juan Pablo Bueno-Core in the monitoring of agents of the prosecutor in the Bravos Judicial District during the initiation of the new criminal reform process in Juárez 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 Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez, 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 decision 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 in a year-long training. Chilean Juan Pablo Buono-Core covered simulations on abbreviated hearings, hearings of control, formulation, linkages, and preventative measures. Exercises covered two cases which required each participant to justify detention, formulate the accused, justify preventative measures, and solicit the procedure of abbreviated cases. The objective was to apply 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, 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 Administrator 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 Juarez, 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.

During that same week, a course entitled "The Procedures of Criminal Investigation and Oral Litigation" was conducted by a PRODERECHO Coordinator for agents of the prosecutor of the Deputy District Attorney of the Zona Norte of Ciudad Juarez. The objective was to present training for trial litigation for the control of detention or termination discretion of cases from the attorney general. The 6 hour training addressed 35 women and 36 men. In addition, PRODERECHO Coordinators conducted an assessment of Agents of the Prosecutor's Office and followed up on specific cases of the Specialized Unit of Investigation for the purpose of following up on actual cases of the agents to solve problems that have presented themselves, and to assure that the cases are being handled correctly. Of the 17 individuals who were assessed, 15 are women. The course for "The Procedures of Criminal Investigation and Oral Litigation" continued from April 7-11 with 35 women and 36 men, and the continued follow-up with actual cases to solve problems which had presented themselves during the investigation of the specialized unit for investigations found 6 men and 5 women in attendance.

From the 28-30 of April an overview course on the Law for Justice Specialized in Adolescent Offenders was held in Ciudad Juarez for future operators of the adolescent system. April 28 was the day the course concluded for agents of the prosecution assigned to the criminal courts of the system of justice prior to the reforms.

Also on April 28 – 30, a course presented in Cd. Juarez addressed “Community Policing” directed at key personnel of the Attorney General’s office. Outside Consultant Ronald West established a dialogue to explore the possibilities of developing a community policing project.

April 28-30 the course “Procedures of Investigation based on Criminal oral Litigation” for the purpose of responding to questions, provide feedback relative to the practices of methods for investigation, provide opportunities to practice what has been learned regarding control of detention, litigation to an audience, and experiences with detained prisoners. Participants received feedback on their practice and application of principles.

On May 6-9 a course in Restorative Justice for the Municipal transit system operators and facilitators of the Centro de Atencion a Victims of Cd. Juarez helped to expose these individuals to the basics of restorative justice.

On May 9 a course on organization and function of specialized units and the training was geared toward future operators of the system of specialized justice, particularly for those working with adolescents breaking the law.

A class on resources available was directed at the magistrates and secretaries of the regional courts of the Superior Court for Justice was held on May 6. A continuation of the course on restorative justice directed at personnel of the department was provided. An additional class on the 6th was presented to the theme of restorative justice as well in order to provide skills and support in managing technical conflicts with the mechanisms of restorative justice.

The continuation and conclusion of the course “Organization and Function of Specialized Justice” took place in Cd. Juarez and formed part of the program of training directed at future operators of the system of justice specializing in adolescents committing crimes. The goal was to create an understanding of skills and abilities when working with adolescents that will help in working their cases in court.

Sierra Tarahumara

On November 13 Proderecho Coordinators met with Jose Luis Garcia Naranjo, the Head of Coordination of Training of the Tarahumara. The meeting objective was to coordinate the support to sensitize and certify indigenous interpreters for the new system of criminal justice for the Sierra Tarahumara. The following accords were reached:

Proderecho is to sponsor and support the revision of a manual on the new system of criminal justice. Technical support provided by Proderecho will work to make the new criminal code of procedures understandable and accessible to the Tarahumara.

State and Federal institutions (INALI, the state of Chihuahua) and Proderecho will organize a project to certify interpreters for the indigenous population of the Sierra Tarahumara.

Weekly meetings will be held with Tarahumara leaders for the purpose of continuing the accords above.

A meeting between the Chihuahua Proderecho Coordinator and Jose Luis Garcia Naranjo, Head of Training in the Coordination of the Tarahumara was held on November 20, in order to continue realizing the objectives of certifying indigenous interpreters to serve in the new system of criminal justice. The certification of the indigenous interpreters is supported by the Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indigenas (INALI) and the Secretary of Education and Culture. The projected time frame for the interpreters course is 6 months according to the official for Coordination of the Tarahumara. A plan to conduct a sensitization of basic terminology so that interpreters can understand the criminal reform process will be presented by Proderecho Chihuahua staff working in conjunction with INALI. An accord was reached to submit a work plan within a month that contains comprehensive material for the 4 indigenous ethnic tribes within the state. The Director of Education mentioned that there already exists an Association of Indigenous Interpreters who have received training and seek support of the Governor of the state to continue training as part of this accord. Inclusion of these interpreters will allow the state to take advantage of existing resources.

A number of meetings with the Coordinator of the State of the Tarahumara and Proderecho Chihuahua state Coordinator were held during the week of December 3-7, and included representatives of the indigenous ethnic groups of the state. The purpose of the meetings was to support the desire of the indigenous community to form a civil association in order to receive certification for indigenous interpreters. In addition, a discussion was held to address the issues of the requirements to achieve the certification, receive government assistance for paid honoraria when they interpret, and count on assistance to receive books related to human rights and agricultural rights

On December 13-14 the Proderecho Regional Coordinator of Zacatecas met with indigenous interpreters who work in the Sierra Tarahumara and representatives of diverse indigenous groups from Chihuahua. These meetings were held at the Center for Social Integration 22, located in Guachochi, Chihuahua. The objective of the meeting was to address the basic concepts of the new system of criminal justice and define what the functions and profiles of the interpreters will be within that system. In addition, an analysis was made of the forms of imparting indigenous justice in the new state justice system. There were 20 participants, 14 women and 6 men including the leader of the interpreters, Mauricio Garcia Macharichi.

Durango

The Attorney General of the State of Durango, Jesus Gutierrez Vargas, and two of his advisors met with Proderecho staff on October 17. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the work of Proderecho to the Attorney General, and to establish a working

relationship so that Proderecho can support the state in the reform process. During the meeting, the Attorney General stated that the Governor of Durango gave instructions that all representatives of government related institutions involved in the justice system are to begin working in favor of the criminal reform process, similar to the work that was done in Chihuahua.

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 Congress. 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.

Meetings held the week of May 24 with the Secretary General of the Government of Durango, the State Attorney General, the President of the Court, the congressperson and president of the Grand Commission, and a coordinator for the governor resulted in a general plan for implementation for the new system of criminal justice for the state of Durango.

The Governor expressed his desire that the reform toward the new criminal code of procedure in Durango would be a model, and for that reason, he wanted to create an institute which would monitor the implementation process as the state moves toward implementation in March of 2009. The invitation to PRODERECHO staff to be present during the organizational meeting where they discussed the rules for their “institute” of implementation required PRODERECHO coordinators to explain the process to move toward implementation, and this the state was not aware of some of those issues. The Secretary General vowed to speak to the press and may or may not be ready to promote the reforms in the appropriate steps or pace.

Jalisco

USAID representatives from the International Republican Institute (IRI) met with diverse groups from Jalisco on December 12 for the purpose of exploring the opportunities of instituting an interlocutory program and creating consensus for the Criminal Code of Procedure. The IRI expressed an interest in working to build support from the business and political community as well as civil associations for the reform of the justice system.

A breakfast meeting with Attorney Cesar Eduardo Trujillo, Director of the Center for Mediation of Guadalajara and Congressman Juan Carlos Marquez Rosas Representative and Chair of the Commission for Justice of the Congress of the State of Jalisco was held to discuss IRI interests in working in Jalisco alongside Proderecho in the Justice Reform Process. A meeting was also held with the Board working on Oral trials for the grand alliance of Jalisco. Present were Magistrate Antonio Fierros, Professor Francisco Jiménez Reynoso, Coordinador of the Law School Program from the University of Guadalajara, Attorney Einsten Aviles Ibarra President of the Bar of Mexican Atronéis (Jalisco Chapter); and a Representative de Coparmex and litigating attorneys of Jalisco.

A dinner meeting between IRI representatives and the Director of the Center for Attention to Victims of Sexual Violence was held for the purpose of discussing the interest of IRI in working with Jalisco on programs for victims of sexual violence and human trafficking.

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 Túnel” 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 Consul staff informed the meeting participants that they continue contact with authorities in Jalisco and universities continue to show an interest in the criminal reforms.

Students were given a look at the master of criminal science from the University Cuauhtémoc of Guadalajara, Jalisco specializing in adolescent justice. The objective is to draw individuals both young and old into a discussion regarding the reform process. On May 8 a conversation that introduced visitors of other programs to the reform took place. Students in the area of justice were invited to participate in a discussion of introduction to the reforms. A second meeting, based on the court specializing in adolescent behavior was scheduled that same day and the talk was directed at visitors, and finally a third meeting that looked directly at the courts and adolescents was designed to encourage those in the audience to participate on these conversations in order to generate interest, knowledge, and debate relative to the new system of justice.

Mexico D.F.

Activities in Mexico City for the week of November 5-9 included the participation of Proderecho staff member in an interview with Channel 22 to discuss one his experience of his detainment for a crime he did not commit. His experience shed light on the creation of a judge for execution orders for crimes.

A second activity held on November 7, involved a radio interview with ITAM Professor Miguel Sarre to discuss the viability of Oral Trials in Mexico as they have been experienced in the states of Chihuahua and Oaxaca.

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.

On November 11 a course about the federal constitutional reforms was presented to judges and magistrates of the Federal Judicial Power.

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.

Morelos

Proderecho Morelos Coordinator monitored the approval of the theme of Trafficking in Persons within the Reforms. This took place in collaboration with the Attorney General for the Defense of Minors and Families within DIF. In addition, there was a monitoring of the Trafficking theme with the Coordination of Consultants of the Governor, with the plan of presenting a final version to Congress for the purpose of approval the following month of February, at the latest. A future meeting with the Director of PROTEJA, USAID Rule of Law Advisor Rafaela Herrera, Maestra Mayela, Director of DIF for Morelos and the wife of the Governor, and the Director of the Center for Social Coexistence and Assistance for minors from birth to 12, has been planned for early in 2008.

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 Autónoma 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 Autónoma 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 Autónoma 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.

PRODERECHO staff was present at meetings held on April 24 and 25 in Morelos to set up the plan for the implementation of the Center for Alternative Justice to support the personnel of the Office of the Attorney General.

A course on skills for oral litigation was given on April 7-11 in Cuernavaca, Morelos supported by the Attorney General for Justice within the state of Morelos, with the objective of developing in the participants the skills of oral litigation required in an oral trial.

On April 7 a meeting with Magistrate Miguel Angel Falcon was held for the purpose of supporting the magistrate to acquire his visa to attend the Dublin Conference. Another meeting held on April 11 to attend the academic program which trains in the substantive law and the Criminal Law. The results were psychometric and toxicology tests.

On April 7-11 a course on litigation skills for attorneys was held for 40 lawyers, members of the bar, and prosecutors in order to understand the skills of litigation so they will be prepared when the state of Morelos initiates implementation of the reform approximately the 30th of October.

A series of meetings held in Morelos with the PRODERECHO Coordinator addressed a variety of issues such as the April 1 meeting addressing justice for adolescents, where a course was coordinated to present Restorative Justice in order to sensitize operators of the system working with adolescents. Another meeting on April 1 with the Director of Assistance for Victims of Crime in the Attorney General's Office was held to discuss the installations and utilization of the Center for Restorative Justice and conduct an evaluation as well as engage in the process of restorative justice. Another meeting on April 1 was held at the Palace of the Governor and was held for the purpose of signing the accords agreed upon by various operators of the system. Meetings on the second of April were held to address the Solicitation of a long course which covers oral trials and provides assistance in changing the curricula and materials; other meetings with the Courts and personnel from the Attorney General's and the other functionaries was held to assist in planning for attendance to group observation or study tours to Washington, D.C. or Kentucky. On April 4 meetings were held to analyze the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court and of the Nation with operators of the system.

Nuevo Leon

On April 10-11, the First Congress for Mediation of Copamex was held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and a PRODERECHO Coordinator participated as presenter and spoke about Restorative Justice. The coordinator spoke for 40 minutes, the conducted practica for the attendees so they better understood restorative justice. There were approximately 350 participants (210 men and 140 women) from businesses, political functions, and students. The importance of understanding Restorative Justice in the oral adversarial system of law only helped to present the principals and models of restorative justice, as well as the differences with mediation. The training was so successful that the director of the judicial government of the State of Nuevo Leon, Attorney Jesus Humberto Garza Guerrero requested more assistance in restorative justice as he noted the importance of restorative justice and in order to achieve peace. He urged businesses to reflect on the advantages of restorative justice and asked that they encourage more active participation along with the organizers of the event. The organizers were invited to participate in a national event on restorative justice to be held in September, 2008 so they might focus on the theme of Restorative Justice and be able to express their knowledge to the business leaders of the community.

On May 12-15, the visits of police from the state of Morelos to the state of Chihuahua concluded and this exchange generated information on the investigations as they are to be conducted under the new system of criminal justice for police from Morelos.

Oaxaca

Meetings held in Oaxaca on November 8 -9 addressed issues of concern to Administrators from the Attorney General's Office and personnel from the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA). The IACA conducted an evaluation relative to performance of judges in Oaxaca.

On November 8, the State Bar of Attorneys and law clerks of the Independent Rights, A.C. from Tlaxiaco district lead by Angel Maldonado Jr. held its first cycle of conferences entitled "A new way of doing justice". The conference was presented for the purpose of broadening the understanding of the Law of Justice for Adolescents in the new accusatory adversarial system of justice. In attendance were lawyers, journalists, public official, agents from the Attorney General's Office, and municipal authorities and constituents from the future cabinet posts. In light of this conference, and the attendance of members of the International Association of Court Administrators (IACA), Oaxaca was recognized by local newspapers and journalists of the Imparcial and Diario Marca as the state which maintains leadership in the criminal reform in Mexico. The Imparcial quotes an IACA official who stated "...[this] is a system of justice that is not in the service of attorneys, moreover to attend the citizens..." . The Executive Vice President of IACA, Jeffery Apperson, a court administrator from the District Court of Kentucky, USA, assured the attendants that the advances made in Oaxaca permit the development of a better administration of justice whenever efforts to learn about the reforms are sought.

Practice sessions on Basic Techniques of Litigation for Oral Trials were conducted by Proderecho Coordinators for 20 participants at the Universidad Autónoma Benito Juárez

de Oaxaca (UABJO). The 19 hour session engaged participants in actual practice of oral trial procedures.

The President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca, Magistrate Héctor Anuar Mafud Mafud met with Proderecho 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. Other judges present included magistrates Cresencio Martinez Geminiano, Gerardo Carmona Castillo, Alejandro Enrique Figueroa, and Juan de J. Vásquez Urdiales, and attorneys Juana Rosa Corte Silva, Hugo Villegas Aquino, Violeta Margarita Sarmiento, Fanny Gómez Mercado, and Ana Aguilar. The 3 hour meeting was a positive reunion keeping all parties updated on the progress of the justice reforms.

Proderecho Oaxaca Coordinator participated in the Third Annual Information Activity, 2007 presented by Magistrate Hector Anuar Mafud Mafud, President of the Superior Court for Justice of the State of Oaxaca with the purpose clarifying the advances made by the Court during their work on the Reform of the Criminal Code of Procedure for the state. Present were Ulises Ruiz Ortiz, Constitutional Governor of the State of Oaxaca and Congressman Herminio Cuevas Chavez, President of the Local Congress.

The University of the Gulf of Mexico, Oaxaca Campus was the sight of a conference entitled “Dating Violence” on November 14. The conference was directed at students of the Psychology department with the purpose of sensitizing the participants on the theme of violence during dating, its consequences and possible alternative solutions. There were 70 persons in attendance.

The city of Tlaxiaco, Oaxaca is preparing to embrace the new accusatory system of justice for Adolescents in the Mixteca region in 2008. The bar of attorneys and legal clerks of the City of Tlaxiaco participated in a series of conferences presented by personnel of the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca on October 31. The series of conferences began with a presentation on the new system of justice for adolescents by Attorney General for Justice, Evencio Nicolás Martínez Ramírez, and continued with presentations on Adolescent Law with attorney María de la Luz Candelaria Chiñas, Special Prosecutor in Adolescent Justice. Following were presentations on Central Governing Principals of the Accusatory System given by José de Jesús Silva Pineda; Criteria of Opportunity and Alternative Sentencing presented by Attorney Fernando Santiago Hernández, Director of the Professional Education Academy. One session included basics on trial, debate, and resources within the new system, given by Dr. Rubén Vasconcelos Méndez, deputy Attorney General of Internal Matters. Execution of Sentences was presented by Heriberto Antonio García from the Human Rights section of the Attorney General’s Office. Also presenting were Victor Manuel Aguilar Avila, Chair of the Attorney’s Bar of Tlaxiaco, who spoke on the new system of justice for adolescents and how the accusatory system will function in the Mexteca region in 2008 within the system of Oral Trials. Chairman Aguilar Avila stated that the Mixteca community should prepare for the administration of the new system of justice where oral trials will be held after investigations with the presence of a judge and all the parties involved so that the citizens as the recipients of the system of justice can participate.

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 Gonzalez 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.

“The Monitoring and practice of Mediation” course was held for mediators, and facilitators of conciliation and restorative justice at the Center for Restorative Justice in Oaxaca for the purpose of evaluating the carrying out of these processes by personnel. The course was held for the duration of 30 hours from April 7 to 11. On April 8, Professor Rodrigo Cerda and the judges and defense attorneys of the Adolescent system of Justice held a conference for the purposes of discussing the advances that have occurred in Oaxaca relative to the Criminal Reform Process. A meeting with the personnel of the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Baja California and the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca was held in

order to further the discussions relative to the implementation of the Criminal Procedural Reforms. In addition, the members of the Superior Court for Justice along with the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of the State of Oaxaca assisted the personnel from the Office of the Attorney General for Justice of Baja California in seeing the functioning of their offices within the reform process. Finally, on April 10, a meeting to evaluate the work done relative to the justice reforms was held in Oaxaca.

With the entrance of oral trials in the Mixteca region coming up in September, 2008, the Oaxaca Bar of Attorneys support and sponsor the trainings leading up to the effectiveness of the new process for justice according to Francisco Angel Maldonado, the president of the organization. He declared that members of the association support the establishment of the oral trials in the entire state, following their initiation in the Istmo de Tehuantepec and sees it as a challenge for independent litigators, but notes that the citizens will have access to justice in a speedy and fair manner.

The Deputy Attorney General for Justice for Adolescents, Maria de la Luz Candelaria Chinas was charged with providing a series of training to public servants in the different municipal entities. The training included agents of the public ministry, the commander of the Prosecuting Attorneys who specialize in justice for adolescents, and other functionaries of the municipalities of Zaachila, San Bartolo, Coyotepec, Santa Cruz Xoxocotlan, Santa Maria Azompa, Santa Lucia del Camino and San Agustin Yatareni.

The Superior Court for Justice in the State of Oaxaca offered a major conference in the System of Justice Specialized for Adolescents and the Accusatorial Adversarial System of law. Magistrate Juan de Jesus Vasques Uridales, representing Criminal Court 1 proposed that Oaxacan youth can count on a system of justice.

A meeting was held on April 21 to set up the training for the Mixteca region between a PRODERECHO Coordinator and Attorney Jacobo Sanchez Lopez. April 22, 24 through 25 were dates for PRODERECHO staff to hold meetings with attorneys who wanted to discuss the course on criminal rights imparted by the defense attorneys of the Mexteca region. On the 24-25 there were 15 men and 10 women present as the public defenders worked to hone their litigation skills.

April 28 and 29 PRODERECHO staff monitored and evaluated the practices on Restorative Justice with a group that had participated in the training. On April 30, a conference entitled "Actual Tendencies of Juvenile Justice in Latin America", which was presented by Dr. Mary Beloff. Topics discussed relative to taking on Criminal Justice for Adolescents in all of Latin America. On May 2, a meeting with the facilitators of the Center for Alternative Justice of the state of Oaxaca was held for the purpose of constructing a model that permits the management of criminal material.

May 6 there was a presentation of a book "Vision of the New System of Criminal Execution". On May 8 there was a reunion with PRODERECHO staff and an attorney who inquired as to the object of defining the last details needed to initiate the Mediation center, and hopefully emulate them. Finally, the third and last reunion, was held from May 6-9, as a course in Restorative Justice for the Municipal transit system operators and facilitators of the Centro de Atencion a Victims of Cd. Juarez.

On May 16 the first University Seminar of the New Criminal Procedural Code of Oaxaca was presented under the theme “Specialized Cases”, and it was presented by Professor Carlos Rios, directed at litigating lawyers and law students with the purpose of explaining a case and the procedures it undergoes, minus the private actions that took place.

On May 20 – 23 a workshop on Mediation was given for Graduates of the Law School Faculty of the University of Mesoamerica with the purpose of introducing the theme of mediation and creating exercises for the groups in which to participate.

On May 20, the PRODERECHO Oaxaca Coordinator and Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez Reyes, the Director and Secretary for Indigenous Affairs met in order to discuss a Project to Create the Institute of Public Defense for the state of Oaxaca.

On May 23 the application examinations for the Prosecutors for La Region de la Cuenca and the Mixteca were completed for the purpose of selecting personnel to train for the operation of the new system of criminal justice in their respective regions.

During the week of June 16 -20 PRODERECHO Coordinators presented a course to agents of the Prosecutor on the new system of criminal justice in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. The course focused on oral litigation skills. Training was held for 3 agents of the Attorney General and 6 ministerial police who specialize in Adolescents and who were pre-selected for the new system of criminal justice. These individuals went on an observation and study tour to Oaxaca in order to learn how to work strategically and realize the intricacies of the system of justice for adolescents and bring back information to the state of Zacatecas.

Tamaulipas

Proderecho staff presented the Family Mediation course was held November 6-8 at the Supreme Court for Justice of the state of Tamaulipas directed at the personnel of DIF (Department of Family Services), the Supreme Court for Justice, and the Attorney General for Justice of the State with the objective of training mediators to facilitate family mediation. There were 43 persons in attendance.

Zacatecas

Classes and trainings on the simulation of Oral Trials were held at the Law School of the University of Durango, Zacatecas Campus on November 5-8 for a total of 20 hours. The classes were facilitated by Proderecho and attended by law students who covered the topic of “The Constitutional reform in criminal matters”. Seventy-five participants from the Cultural Judicial Supreme Court for Justice of the Nation and Superior court of Justice for the State were in attendance.

Two meetings were held during the week of November 5-9 with magistrates and Federal Judges of the Circuit of Zacatecas to discuss the system of criminal justice in the state and the incidence within the federal courts. Magistrates and judges showed much interest in the theme and the necessity for training.

On November 15, Zacatecas Proderecho Coordinator supported a simulation of an oral trial at the Universidad Autónoma de Durango (Zacatecas campus) for 200 academics and students of law from the states of Durango, Zacatecas, Sinaloa, and Chihuahua.

A meeting was held with judges and magistrates from the Superior Court for Justice in the State of Zacatecas to discuss the functional models of institutions from Chihuahua and Oaxaca in the new system of criminal justice. A conference session held on November 22, addressed students and academic faculty of the Law School for the purpose of discussing the oral-adversarial system and the issues that await the state as it proceeds toward implementation. The second session of the conference was attended by Agents of the Attorney General and prosecutors of the state of Zacatecas for the purpose of discussing the oral-adversarial system and the issues that the operators of the new system will face.

Attorney Eduardo Ruiz Fierro, a major official from Zacatecas met with Proderecho staff with the purpose of initiating a project to create a Center for Community Mediation. The Governor of the state committed herself to begin the project within the first few days of the New Year.

Proderecho Coordinators from Zacatecas and Oaxaca met with high level officials from the Office of the Governor of Zacatecas to elaborate on the plans for establishing the Community Centers for Mediation in the municipalities of 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 Commission 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 Commission 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 Octavio 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 conduct 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 discussion 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, Administrator 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.

During the first week of April, judges, agents of the attorney general, and public defenders who specialize in adolescent justice met with the objective of evaluating their observation visits to Chihuahua and Oaxaca the previous month. As a result of the visits, the parties involved worked with the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general, and directors of the justice sectors to:

- Create a department within the Prosecutor's office to specialize in adolescents
- Create a center for restorative justice
- Provide major training to the operators of the justice system
- Develop a specialization for more agents for the prosecutors' office
- Confirm the task forces and coordinate with police

On April 3 a defined plan and timeline for implementation for the creation of a center for alternative justice was developed by the office of the attorney general for justice of the state of Zacatecas, with the assistance of the PRODERECHO Oaxaca Regional Coordinator. Additional efforts within the state were held with the Technical Secretary of the Commission for Implementation, Attorney Octavio Macias Solis, the Undersecretary of the Governor, in order to understand the basic principals of restorative justice and their importance in the justice reforms. In a breakfast meeting held, with Magistrate Leonor Varela Parga, President of the Superior Court for Justice, the law for alternative justice was drafted for the state. In addition, support for the implementation of the Center for Mediation of the Superior Court for Justice in the State of Zacatecas was given.

The monitoring of the system of Justice for adolescents and meetings to plan strategies for the implementation of the new system of criminal justice were held the week of April 14-18. A meeting with agents of the prosecutor especially directed at adolescents met to solidify personal protocols. Several officials whose focus is on adolescents and justice were government appointed. The Attorney General for Adolescents from Oaxaca, Directors of Procedures and Jurisdictions, plus a member of the sub commission of implementation met together to plan the implementation strategies.

On May 6 to 9, a subcommittee of the Attorney General met to develop an outlined plan for use with the prosecutor. Moreover, ideas were planned to develop strategies for implementing the reforms.

An introductory course on the new system of criminal justice was presented in order to accommodate the Attorney General, the deputy directors and coordinators, and the individuals who hear about the conference. Finally, Conversations were introduced on the new system of justice, in order to give the audience an opportunity to ask questions or suggest solutions related to the practice of the new system of justice.

The following advances have been realized in Zacatecas and were highlighted during a visit with the Magistrate in Mexico City:

- The importance of the Governor and the Attorney General in the implementation process is key in the implementation phase
- The initiation of Convocatorias or Open Forum Discussions with key individuals from the Courts, the Attorney General's Office, and the Public Defender have begun
- The pre-selection of operators of the system in Zacatecas has begun
- The program or schedule for training is aligned with the new scheme of training set up by PRODERECHO

- Training formerly begins on August 4 on courses of substantive criminal rights, constitutional rights and habeas corpus, and institutional charges; this course will be presented for prosecutors, defense attorneys and pre-selected judges
- A timeline has been worked out for training
- A letter of agreement was designed for the operators selected so in the event they choose to leave the training while getting paid their salaries, they will have to pay back some or all of their earnings during their training
- A campaign was designed to assist in moving forward with the reforms and distributing information to the public by the three powers together. The information will be presented by the governor.

According to the Ex-minister of the Supreme Court of Costa Rica Dr. Daniel Gonzalez, Technical Coordinator for PRODERECHO, Zacatecas has the ideal conditions for the implementation of the new criminal code of procedures as its judges have an academic and judicial profile which complements the justice reforms, there is a low level of criminal activity in comparison to other states, and the disposition of the Judicial power is marching toward this structural change. Dr. Gonzalez suggests the time is ripe to introduce the society and population to the oral trials and how justice functions in the new system, more efficiently, more people friendly, with a system of trustworthiness, and more transparent. Finally, since the passage of the reforms on February 18, the training for the state has assisted in having its population realize the importance of understanding their experiences and understandings of oral trials.

For the week of June 23-27 a meeting with the President Magistrate of the Court and the team working toward the reform for the Superior Court of the State of Zacatecas demonstrated their plans and elaborated on the criteria to interview and pre-select judges. The interviews took place the 30th of June and continued into July 4th. In addition, the revisions of the Criminal Code of Procedures were reviewed to make adjustments and adapt it in accordance with the newly passed constitution.

Conclusion

The number of events reported above enumerate the work of USAID/Mexico during FY 2008 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.