

# Russia Judicial Reform and Partnerships Program

**Prime Contractor**

Chemonics International Inc.

**Client**

USAID/Russia

**Project Name**

Russia Judicial Reform and Partnerships Program (JRP)

**Value of Services**

\$3,533,231

**Duration**

July 2005 – June 2008

**Associated Firms**

National Judicial College  
Street Law, Inc.

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CHEMONICS

**Objective**

To improve Russia's administration of justice by strengthening its judiciary's independence, management procedures, use of international fair trial standards, and ability to set standards of conduct and hold members accountable for meeting them, and to promote U.S.-Russian partnerships and sharing of best practices.

**Situation and Solution**

Emerging in the 1990s from nearly 75 years of communism, Russia's courts, judges, and lawyers had to adapt to sweeping changes and rapid democratization. The Judicial Reform and Partnerships Program (JRP) builds on the successes of its predecessor projects, Russian-American Judicial Partnership I and II (1997-2005). Working with pilot courts throughout Russia, the project draws on the volunteered talents of many U.S. federal judges and their Russian counterparts to generate practical solutions to improve court administration, promote the rule of law, and increase professionalism and integrity among court personnel. The project also uses modern communications methods to increase public awareness of Russia's improving legal processes and thereby build trust in the legal system. JRP's six components seek to achieve lasting impact and sustainability through the broad exercise of best practices:

*Component 1: Improving judicial administration*

*Component 2: Improving judicial ethics*

*Component 3: Strengthening judicial-branch self-government*

*Component 4: Promoting international fair-trial standards*

*Component 5: Improving training of judges*

*Component 6: Addressing gender-related issues*

**Results**

- Developed Rules of Conduct for Court Personnel that set standards of ethical and professional conduct for 80,000 court employees and decreased public complaints.
- Implemented new court administration and case management techniques (case management system, random case assignment, organization system, and creation of law clerk position) at five pilot courts, resulting in increased efficiency and quality.
- Developed a new Code of Judicial Ethics for judges.
- Improved transparency and judicial ethics by helping the Supreme Judicial Qualifying Collegium publish a quarterly journal. It runs articles on ethics and judicial disciplinary decisions and is available to the public, media, and judiciary.
- Introduced modern training and distance-learning methods to the Russian Academy of Justice, which used these techniques to design courses for its regional branches and create a video training course.
- Delivered training to more than 1,500 judges, court administrators, press secretaries, and other court staff.
- Developed and printed bench books and training manuals — based on Russian and foreign judicial experience — on jury trials, judicial ethics, court administration, and the judicial budget process.
- Secured some \$500,000 from Russian and U.S. sources to conduct training on intellectual property, corporate law, taxation, and commercial court administration.