



# 2018 PLAN OF ACTION

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This document provides a description of the main activities that the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) plans to develop during 2018 in fulfillment of its institutional mission and in accordance with the guidelines set out in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

The activities described in this document are designed to meet four strategic goals: i) to reposition JSCA as a key and visible stakeholder in justice reform in the region; ii) to promote sustainable civil and criminal justice reforms in the countries of the region that capitalize best practices identified at the regional and global levels; iii) to strengthen JSCA's role as a provider of information on justice systems in the region; and iv) to achieve long-term financial sustainability.

The 2018 Plan of Action is structured around the following dimensions:

- Topical Impact
- Geographic Impact

### Topical Impact

In the area of **civil justice**, JSCA's priority is to create a civil justice reform movement based on the presence of common elements in the region and in which the information that JSCA produces has an impact and is useful.

Efforts will be made to position more innovative civil justice reforms in the public debate in terms of their design and implementation given that lacks have been identified in the majority of civil procedure reforms in regard to both their regulations and implementation processes. This work will be conducted in coordination with the Civil Justice Program Alumni Network, which currently has two cohorts. A meeting will be organized to establish the network. We also will expand knowledge on the use of oral procedures and civil litigation.

In order to coordinate the civil justice reform movement at the regional level, we will continue to work on the Observatory on Civil Conflict and Access to Justice (OCCA) and an initial regional meeting will be held in the first semester of 2018.

In regard to **criminal justice**, in 2016, the study "Challenges of Criminal Procedure Reform in Chile: Retrospective Analysis After More Than a Decade" was conducted. It was disseminated in late 2017. Based on those findings, there is a need to position new challenges of criminal procedure reforms in the region. We propose implementing a dual strategy focused on:

- Countries with consolidated reforms that require next-generation challenges (Chile, Guatemala, Colombia)
- Countries with new reforms or that have not implemented reforms and require basic information for the reformist movement such as Uruguay, Brazil, Peru (specifically Lima), Panama (specifically Panama City), Mexico, and Argentina (federal level).

Given the major effort made in Uruguay, we recommend that the system begin to be installed so that monitoring and evaluation can be conducted. Funding must be identified for this initiative.

JSCA must create a strategy for impacting the discussions on the criminal procedure code taking place at the parliamentary level in Brazil.

In Honduras, JSCA will work with the Mission to Support the Fight Against Corruption and Impunity (MACCIH) to generate proposals for improving the performance of the investigation and judging of high social impact crimes and corruption.

JSCA will seek funding for criminal justice projects (multi-year projects, technical cooperation, consultancies, in situ courses for which fees can be charged).

In regard to **transparency** of justice systems, the III Version of the Index of Online Judicial Services (ISJL) will be disseminated and we will gather data for the next edition of the Index of Online Access to Judicial Information (IAcc).

Crosscutting work on the management and organization of courts in criminal and civil justice will be conducted. We also will consider aspects related to the implementation of ICTs.

### **Geographic Impact**

We propose consolidating the work conducted over the past three years to have a high level of impact in Brazil and Central America. The Central American Certificate Program on Criminal Procedure Reform will continue. We will consider focusing this program on the countries with the most interest in this work.

We also will continue to implement a strategy of creating a network in Brazil.

We were unable to hold the Caribbean Meeting on Judicial Reform in 2017, so it will be postponed until 2018. We propose holding an initial meeting to create a small network of operators that will allow us to obtain information on the sub-region's judicial systems and include them in the regional process.

We have identified a need to use a specific strategy to work on a concrete issue or with one federative entity in Mexico.

This year we hope to have a significant impact in Colombia and Peru, as these are GAC priority nations.