



JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY – MARCH 2007

A. ACTIVITIES IN FULFILLMENT OF JSCA’S INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

1. *To develop in-depth studies of justice systems and promote innovative approaches to the discussion of judicial reform.*

Indicators	Results
1) A broad local and regional debate is generated by our studies. 2) Our studies are cited in other research. 3) Countries around the region implement initiatives motivated by those studies. 4) Local funding is captured in order to carry out our studies.	<p>This quarter saw the drafting of the comparative prologue and eight studies that will be published in the next report for the “Follow-up Project on Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America.” The cases to be analyzed include those of Colombia, Guatemala (Quetzaltenango) and Ecuador (Cuenca).</p> <p>The first meeting of experts on civil justice was held. JSCA presented a study on the progress that has been made in this field in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>JSCA also participated in the parliamentary discussion of a Constitutional modification for the introduction of an adversarial criminal justice system in Mexico.</p> <p>The Center implemented activities aimed at expanding the Mar del Plata, Argentina project regarding criminal cases in which the perpetrator is caught in the act. The experience will cover the entire Province of Buenos Aires and other provinces of Argentina. Requests have been received from the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires and the Province of Santa Fe.</p>

1.1. Research and Projects

a) Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America

The first quarter of 2007 saw the drafting of the comparative prologue and eight studies that will be published in the next report for the “Follow-up Project on Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America.” The cases to be analyzed include those of Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Guatemala (Quetzaltenango), Ecuador (Cuenca), Argentina (Mar del Plata) and Costa Rica (Guanacaste).

b) Meeting of Experts on Civil Justice

The meeting of international experts on civil justice was held March 15-16. JSCA presented a study drafted by Carolina Villadiego under the supervision of Cristián Hernández, coordinator of the Management and Information Area, on the progress that has been made in this area in the region. The meeting also featured the definition of priority topics for JSCA’s work. Participants agreed to hold the first meeting this October.

c) Expansion of the Mar del Plata Project in Argentina

On March 22, Cristián Riego, coordinator of the Research and Projects Area, traveled to the provinces of Buenos Aires and Santa Fe, Argentina in order to conduct training and coordination activities. In the first province, he met with judicial officials from Matanza, Mercedes, Pergamino and Necochea in order to coordinate the expansion of the project on cases in which the perpetrator is caught in the act, which was successfully implemented in Mar del Plata. In Santa Fe, he discussed the signing of an inter-institutional cooperation agreement between JSCA and the province's government.

d) Discussion of Constitutional Reform in Mexico for Implementing an Adversarial Model

In February, Cristián Riego traveled to Mexico to participate in a discussion held at Congress regarding a constitutional reform designed to implement an adversarial criminal justice system.

1.2. Management and Information Area

a) Judicial Statistics in Guatemala

This quarter also saw the launch of information gathering activities (field work) in Guatemala. The objective is to gather judicial statistics on criminal law in Guatemala with the support of the Institute for Comparative Research in the Criminal Sciences - Guatemala (ICCPG). At the close of the quarter, that phase of the project was about to end and project members had accessed a database maintained by criminal courts in Guatemala City. The project is scheduled to end next June with a comparative report on judicial statistics on criminal law for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

b) Advisement for the Implementation of Panama's State Pact for Justice

Cristián Hernández presented a report on his January 11-15 visit to the Administrative Attorney General's Office of Panama and UNDP Panama. The purpose of the visit was to support the implementation of the State Pact for Justice.

c) Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2006-2007

This quarter saw the drafting of the *Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2006-2007*, which was carried out by interns Analía Banfi and Mariloy Díaz in collaboration with Carolina Villadiego, Nataly Ponce, Claudio Fuentes and Francisco Cruz. The work was overseen by Cristián Hernández and benefited from the support of Natalia Gambaro. At the close of the quarter the report was ready for publication.

d) Seminar on Best Practices in New Latin American Criminal Procedure Systems

This quarter we launched the competition for papers to be presented at this event. The purpose of the seminar is to analyze the processes by which criminal procedure reforms are introduced in Latin America, particularly innovative ideas about internal and extra-institutional management of the main institutions involved. The deadline for submission of papers was March 30.

e) Verifiable Indicators Project

The Inter-American Development Bank-funded project on verifiable indicators was launched in February. The purpose of the effort is to define homogenous data that allow for the calculation of

verifiable judicial indicators in eight countries (Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and Puerto Rico). The project will run through the second trimester of 2008.

f) XIV Judicial Summit

Cristián Hernández participated in the I Round of Preparatory Workshops for the XIV Judicial Summit from February 26 to March 2 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The purpose of the meeting was to draft an Ibero-American plan for judicial statistics. Also, JSCA signed a cooperation agreement with the Permanent Secretariat of the Judicial Summit.

g) Assistance for Chile's Metropolitan Region Judicial Assistance Corporation

At the end of the quarter, JSCA submitted the final report on the changes required to improve the CAJ's performance. This public entity is responsible for providing legal advice to people who lack the resources to hire private counsel. The project is related to the family justice reform taking place in Chile. The report was presented to the Minister of Justice on March 30.

h) Evaluation of Labor Debt Recovery Courts in Chile

On March 22, JSCA and the Office of Social Welfare of Chile launched a project designed to produce an evaluation of the first year of operation of the labor debt recovery courts in Chile.

i) Project "Perspectives on the Use and Impacts of Information Technologies on Justice Administration"

This quarter we invited judicial system operators from around the region to participate in a workshop on this topic. The event will be held April 12-13 at JSCA's headquarters and is being organized by the Public Sector Division of Microsoft Latin America and JSCA.

j) Judicial Management Project in Panama

During March and at the request of the European Union, JSCA developed the terms of reference of the Judicial Management Component of the project that the Community is promoting in Panama.

k) Participation and Consultation Process in Ecuador

At the request of the Supreme Court of Ecuador, Projusticia and Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Juan Enrique Vargas offered Master Classes to mark the launch of this process in Cuenca and Quito.

2. To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key justice system actors.

Indicators	Results
1) A sustained increase in the number of applications for internships.	This quarter we received nine inquiries regarding internships. Five people asked about pro bono internships (two requests came from the U.S. and one each from Argentina, Panama and Nicaragua). We also received inquiries about paid internships from individuals in Argentina, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Finally, we received one inquiry about senior internships from Peru. Four local replicas were implemented in Latin America during this period. We received 45 inquiries about our training activities, 37 regarding the Inter-American Training Program and eight regarding other seminars and courses.
2) A sustained increase in the number of people and institutions who apply JSCA solutions and request training.	
1) A sustained increase in the number of people who rate our training activities as useful or very useful.	

2.1 Training

a) Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform

This quarter saw the launch of the fourth version of the Inter-American Training Program. The application period was set for February and March, and we received 45 inquiries regarding various activities of the Training Area, 37 of which referred to the Inter-American Program. Also, we created a special section on our Website for the 2007 program. As of March 21, 150 people had applied. Also, local replicas were implemented by graduates of the Program (see table below):

Name	Activity	Location	Date	Participants
<i>Alan Iud</i>	Evaluation of Criminal Procedure Reform in Three Latin American Countries	Chamber of Commerce, Bogotá, Colombia	December 6	80 participants including judges, prosecutors, public defenders, attorneys and officials of local institutions
<i>Erick Juarez</i>	E-learning course for trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform	Quetzaltenango, Guatemala	The course ran from December 1, 2006 through April 30, 2007.	45 district prosecutors and the Public Prosecutor's Office Training Unit.
<i>Felix Tena Carmen Amarilis Cruz</i>	Introduction to Criminal Law Litigation Techniques	Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	February 16 and 23 and March 2 (12 hours)	40 university students
<i>Erick Juarez</i>	Replica Course for Judges	Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.	March 3 on site lesson. The course is ongoing using e-learning modules.	35 judges from throughout the country

b) Virtual Training Course for Latin American Prosecutors

With the support of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices and Ibero-American Institute for Public Prosecutor's Offices, JSCA has developed the first version of the Virtual Training Course for Latin American Prosecutors. The activity will be offered using e-learning and is designed to strengthen the skills of prosecutors, assistant prosecutors and other judicial officials who face new challenges related to criminal procedure reforms in the region.

During the second week of March, JSCA launched the promotion and registration period for the course. The Center has plans to offer it twice this year.

During the first quarter of 2007, we received 18 inquiries. Five were from Uruguay, four from Peru, three from Argentina and Chile and one each from Costa Rica, Guatemala and Ecuador. As of March 21, 32 people from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela had registered for the course.

c) Participation in Seminars, Conferences, Working Groups and Similar Events

◆ Freedom of Expression and New Criminal Procedure: A Conflictive Relationship?

On January 9, Juan Enrique Vargas, Executive Director of JSCA, was invited to participate in this seminar, which was organized by the Universidad Diego Portales Public Interest Action Legal Clinic. He participated on a panel about freedom of expression and public information in the new criminal procedure.

◆ "Comparative Criminal Procedure"

From February 16 through March 2, JSCA Training Area Coordinator Mauricio Duce was a visiting professor at the Pacific University McGeorge School of Law. He offered the course "Comparative Criminal Procedure," which referred to the situations in Chile and Latin America. This accelerated course lasted for 15 hours.

◆ OAS Permanent Council

In January, Juan Enrique Vargas and JSCA Board Secretary Francisco Fuenzalida traveled to Washington, D.C. to present the "Judicial Report on Latin America" to the OAS Permanent Council. Both also participated in meetings with OAS permanent representatives, including Secretary General Insulza. They also presented the 2007 Plan of Action and new version of JSCA at a Glance.

◆ Meeting on Access to Justice in the Americas -JSCA

From March 7 through 9, Research Area staff member Nataly Ponce participated in a meeting of experts on the limits of access to justice in the Americas. The event was organized by the OAS Department for the Promotion of Governance. Ponce presented the main barriers to access to justice identified through JSCA studies and participated as a speaker in the seminar on justice and human rights that was organized by the OAS and American University.

◆ Workshop with Panama's Judicial Branch

In March, Juan Enrique Vargas visited Panama and met with several justice sector authorities. He also participated in a workshop organized by the Judicial Branch.

◆ Haiti Mission

From March 18 to 21, a technical support mission was deployed to Haiti. The mission was organized by the OAS and supported in specific justice-related areas by JSCA. Participants included JSCA Board of Directors President Jaime Arellano.

d) Visits to Chile

◆ Visit by Delegation of Officials from the Dominican Republic

The delegation was received on January 24 by Research Area director Cristián Riego, who addressed JSCA's work in the region and the state of criminal justice in that country. The visitors also were informed about institutional publications and reports.

◆ Visit by Members of Spain's Judicial Branch General Council

JSCA received a visit from Juan Pablo González, of said institution, and Jorge Carrera, of the Secretariat of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices, on February 1 and 2. They visited JSCA's offices and met with Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas. They also signed a cooperation agreement between the Judicial Branch General Council and JSCA. On February 2, González and Carrera visited the Santiago Justice Center, where they observed hearings and learned about the progress that has been made in court management and administration through the criminal procedure reform.

◆ Visit by Officials from Peru's Judicial System

A delegation of judicial officials from Peru visited JSCA on March 9 by invitation of Chile's National Public Defender's Office. Delegation members met with Training Area Coordinator Mauricio Duce in order to discuss judicial reform in Peru.

◆ Visit by Students from the University of Florida

On March 12, 10 students and two professors from the University of Florida met with Mauricio Duce, who offered a presentation on the Chilean legal and criminal justice systems. The group met with Cristián Riego on March 13 in order to discuss the state of criminal procedure reforms in Latin America. Finally, they visited the Santiago Justice Center on March 14, where they met with representatives of the Metropolitan Region's public defender's and prosecutor's offices as well as investigative and oral trial judges.

◆ Visit by Members of the Buenos Aires Magistrate's Council

Sixteen members of this organization including judges, prosecutors, attorneys and public defenders visited our offices March 26-28. The purpose of the visit was to present information about the implementation of the criminal procedure reform in Santiago, Chile, highlighting developments in the areas of management and administration.

e) Internship Program

◆ Paid Internships

During this quarter, the individual selected for our paid internship program for 2006-2007, Analía Banfi, contributed to the development of the third edition of the *Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas*. She completed her work for our institution on April 5. Ms. Banfi rated her experiences as "very good" and described the environment as "very comfortable and dynamic."

Also, Mariloy Díaz joined JSCA's team through the new paid internship program that evolved as a result of the agreement signed by JSCA and the National Judiciary School of the Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic. Ms. Díaz participated in the writing of the *Report on Judicial Systems in*

the Americas. Her internship ended on March 23, and she described the experience as “very good,” noting that “the coordination involved with the implementation of each event was incredible.”

◆ **Pro Bono Internships**

JSCA currently has one pro bono intern, attorney Daniela Godoy Gabler, who is gathering bibliographical data on civil procedure reform.

The below table presents detailed information on the interns who completed their work at JSCA this quarter:

Intern	Period	University	Course of Study	Feedback
Christian Ramirez	April 1, 2006- January 1, 2007	Universidad Finis Terrae, Chile	Commercial Engineering	He felt that the internship was useful for his development as a professional and that it met his expectations.

3. To generate and disseminate instruments that improve the quality of information on justice in the Americas.

3.1. Virtual Information Center (VIC)

Indicators	Results
1) A sustained increase in the number of people who visit our website and the institutions linked to it.	This quarter there was a 3% drop in the number of visitors to the JSCA Website as compared to the previous period.
2.) A sustained increase in the number of people who rate our virtual products and publications as useful.	The amount of inquiries made by visitors increased by 0.61% over the previous period. This quarter there was a significant increase in the number of visits to the Training Section. This represents a 60% increase over the last quarter of 2006.

a) Website Development

This quarter our staff developed the **Strategic Management File** and presented it to the JSCA Board of Directors. Our staff also implemented changes to the Website in response to the institution’s new needs. These include internal changes and a system for credit card payments.

The e-learning platform continued to be used for two courses developed for Guatemala. The first was designed for prosecutors and launched in December 2006. It currently has 50 students. The other began in March 2007 and is directed at judges. It currently has 57 students. There are now five monthly modules being offered for the two courses.

A third line of action was the planning and launch of the e-learning platform and Website for the third edition of the *Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas*. The goal is for the platform to support multiple courses and new modules and to function on at least three fronts. We plan to modify the original structure used to present information on each country from the *Report*.

A significant amount of the work completed by our staff members involves contact via email, which has been negatively impacted by a large amount of spam or unwanted email. This quarter we increased the strength of our email server and introduced better filtering devices in order to improve performance of the work that is carried out using that technology.

b) Visits to JSCA’s Website

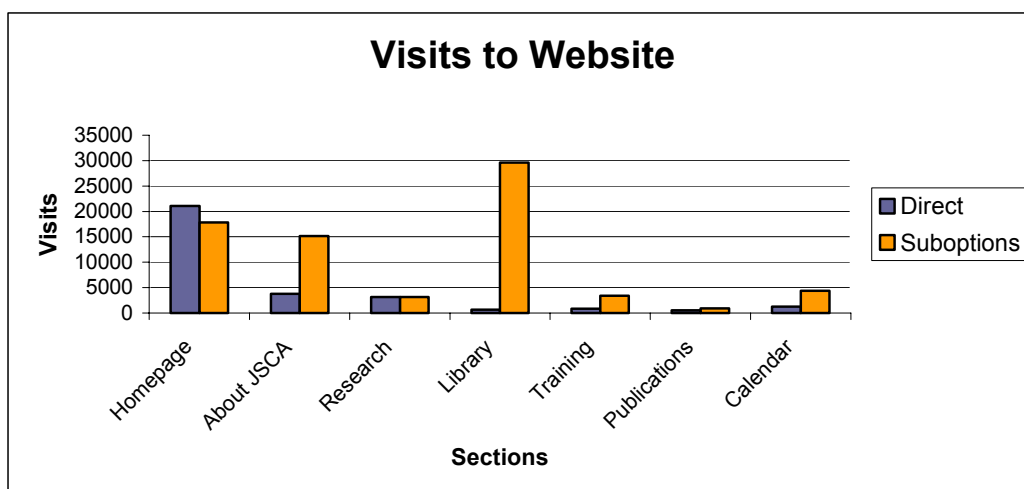
Given that it was the first quarter of the year (traditionally vacation time in this region), the number of visits to sections of our Website that do not tend to receive a great deal of traffic was satisfactorily high. The considerable increase in visits to the Training section is logical because new courses are offered at the beginning of each calendar year.

There was a considerable decrease in visits to the Virtual Library’s main webpage, though visits to internal options (documents, reviews, books) increased as compared to the previous quarter. This period saw a decrease in the number of visits to the JSCA Publications section.

The below table and graphic illustrate the trends observed during this period:

Section	Direct Access		Sub options	
	Visits	Change Previous Quarter	Visits	Change Previous Quarter
Homepage (1)	21,100	12.47%	17,848	-31.71%
About JSCA	3,763	13.75%	15,173	20.02%
Research	3,164	4.11%	3,164	4.11%
Library	680	-21.75%	29,616	43.09%
Training	853	55.37%	3,404	60.04%
Publications	572	-11.59%	904	-48.98%
Calendar	1,262	12.58%	4,403	20.10%
TOTAL	31,394	-2.72%	74,512	0.61%

(1) Direct Access to the Homepage includes all visits to the Website. Sub options corresponds to surfing of the content shown on the Homepage.



3.2. Communications and Public Relations Area¹

Indicators	Results
1) A sustained increase in subscriptions to Nexus Newsletter.	There was a 14% increase in Nexus Newsletter subscribers over last quarter.
2) A sustained increase in subscriptions to <i>Judicial Systems Journal</i> and in the citations or references to the journal in academia information systems.	Ninety copies of our journal were sold this quarter. The journal <i>Reforma Judicial</i> , which is published by the Universidad Autónoma de México Juridical Research Institute, requested two articles from Issue 11 for publication in its upcoming issue on judicial reform.
3) A sustained increase in mentions of JSCA in the social media.	There was a 22% increase in local (Chile) and regional media coverage as compared to the same quarter in 2006.
4) A sustained increase in the number of additions to the Virtual Library.	Thirty-six documents (articles and laws) were uploaded to the Virtual Library this quarter. This represents a 44% over the same quarter in 2006, during which 25 documents were added to the collection.
5) A sustained increase in the number of documents added to the physical library.	This quarter 49 new titles including audiovisual material, books, newsletters and journals were added to the physical library. The libraries of several judicial institutions in the region continue to send us publications on a regular basis. Our document exchange with other institutions in this sector continues to produce good results.

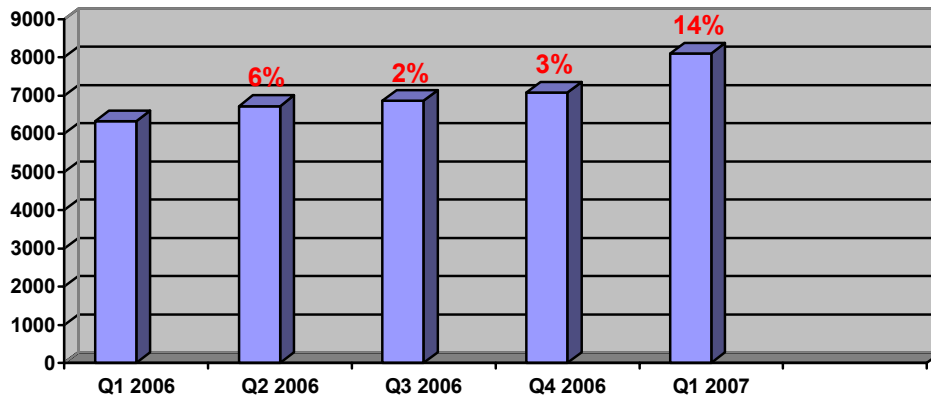
This quarter saw the restructuring of the Press and Communications Area in an effort to strengthen JSCA's relationships with justice system and media institutions in the region. Now called the Communications and Public Relations Area, this unit continues to focus on the development and management of internal and external communication and the publishing and development of strategies, actions and vehicles for projects, products and organizational activities.

a) Nexus Newsletter (Issues 70-72)

Three monthly issues of the newsletter were published in Spanish and English this quarter.

We currently have 8,092 subscribers, which represents a 14% increase over the previous quarter (October-December 2006), when we had 7,082 subscribers. This is a significant increase if we compare the current number to statistics from 2006 (see below):

¹ Based on statistics from March 15, 2007.



b) Judicial Systems Journal



This quarter brought to a close the reception of articles and materials for Issue 12 of the publication, which focuses on “Other Forms of Justice.” We are currently editing the texts and working on design and printing processes. The issue will be ready for distribution in May.

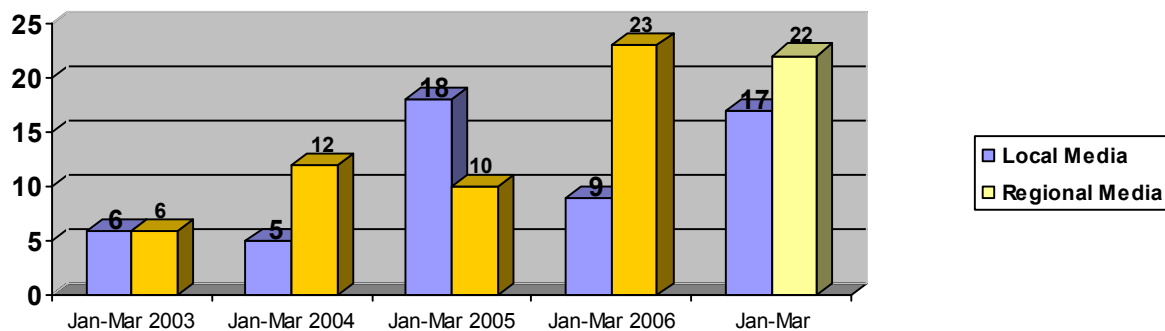
The journal *Reforma Judicial*, which is published by the Universidad Autónoma de México Juridical Research Institute, requested two articles from Issue 11 for publication in its upcoming issue on judicial reform.

We signed a document exchange agreement with Fundación Libertad y Desarrollo of Chile, which brings the number of justice sector institutions involved in the program to 14. A total of 90 copies of our journal were sold this quarter.

c) Media Coverage

Our work was mentioned 36 times in the media this quarter (17 in the local media and 22 in regional media outlets). This represents a 22% increase over the same period in 2006.

Media Coverage during Q1 2007 Compared to Previous First Quarters



d) Publications

◆ “JSCA At A Glance”

We printed 2,000 copies of this institutional publication, which is designed to inform readers of the work that JSCA has carried out since its creation, present an evaluation of its achievements, and explain the sustainability strategy that it has implemented in order to reach its goals.

Five hundred copies were sent to justice system authorities throughout the region, including permanent representatives of the OAS, ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of justice, public prosecutor’s offices and public defender’s offices.

◆ Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2006-2007

This quarter the JSCA Communications and Public Relations Area edited the country studies and worked on the design, outlay, translation and copy of the text. The area also began to upload the report’s contents to the Website. The entire document will soon be available online.

e) Virtual and Physical Libraries

Thirty-six documents (articles and laws) were uploaded during the period, which represents a 44% increase compared to the same period in 2006, during which 25 documents were added to the collection. The Virtual Library currently holds 5,790 documents, 1,680 of which are in English and 4,110 of which are in Spanish. This represents a 4% increase over the same period last year.

The physical library received 49 new titles this quarter, including audiovisual material, books, newsletters and journals. The collection numbers 1,877 documents, including books, journals, manuals, theses, newspapers, CDs and DVD’s. We also received several visits from students from Chilean universities to request research materials. Students are welcome to browse our library materials in-house or bring them home and return them later. Students and professionals from Chile and abroad who are visiting our city also visit our library and request books and information about JSCA.

We continue to receive publications from the libraries of a wide range of judicial systems institutions in the Americas, and our document exchange system has continued to produce good results.

f) Consultants’ Database

We received 17 new requests for membership from junior and senior experts. The database lists a total of 464 consultants, which represents a 12% increase over the previous quarter.



B. INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

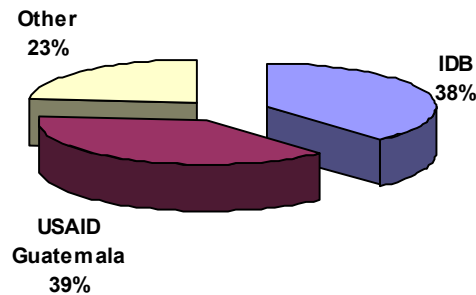
1. Financial Information

SOURCE	STARTING BALANCE	INCOME	EXPEND.	END BALANCE
<i>USAID Activities</i>	64,604		77,116	-12,512
<i>USAID GUATEMALA</i>		30,330	29,895	435
<i>IDB Activities</i>		30,000	3,000	27,000
<i>OTHER SOURCES</i>				
<i>Other projects</i>	9,500	2,191	10,609	1,082
<i>General Fund</i>	396,600	15,933	131,053	281,480
TOTAL	470,705	78,454	251,674	297,485

a) Income and Expenditures

Analysis of Income (January-March 2007)

Most of the contributions received this quarter correspond to USAID Guatemala and IDB.

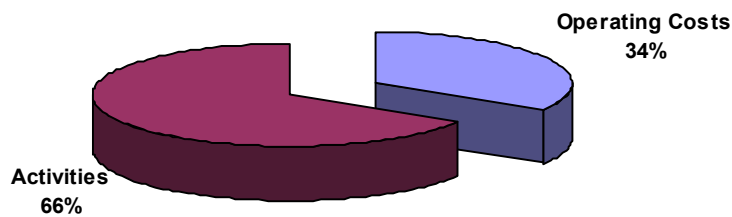


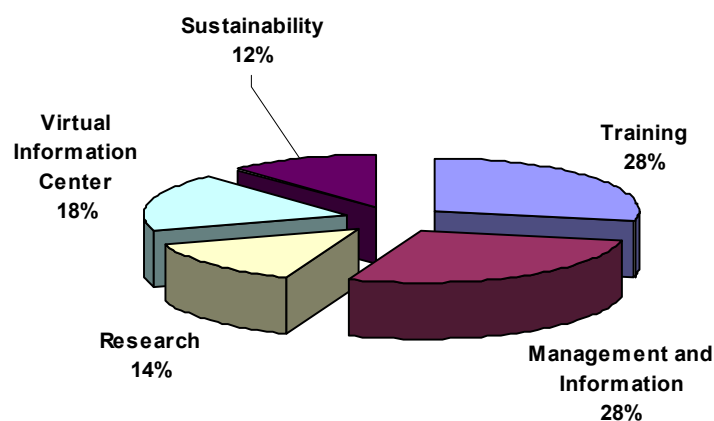
Analysis of Expenditures – Distribution of Overall Spending for the Quarter (%)

The percentage spent on activities dropped from 71% to 66% this quarter. The percentage spent on operating costs increased from 29% to 34%.

Spending on Activities (%)

Most activities-related expenditures went to training.





DESCRIPTION OF SPENDING ON ACTIVITIES

a) Research	
Research Area Salaries	23,342
b) Training	
Training Area Salaries	23,013
Specialized Virtual Courses	2,321
Fora on Judicial Reform in Mexico	9,500
JEDNET	86
Seminar on Best Practices	290
Organization of and Participation in Seminars	7,021
Other Seminars	4,423
c) Management and Information	
Salaries Management and Information Area	3,135
Paid Internships	4,670
Report on Judicial Systems	2,684
Civil Justice Reform	3,237
Measurement of Judicial Indicators and Standards	3,000
Information Gathering in Guatemala	29,895
d) Information Center	
Website	11,044
Newsletters and Press Releases	13,402
Judicial Systems Journal	6,000
e) Sustainability	
Sustainability Actions	19,828
Subtotal	166,892