



## QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS – JSCA

APRIL-JUNE 2004

### ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

#### A. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

##### **1. Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors met on April 29, 2004 in Washington, D.C. The resolutions have been published on the JSCA Website, [www.cejamericas.org](http://www.cejamericas.org).

##### **2. Personnel Changes**

Journalist Andrea Cabezón joined JSCA's Press and Communications Area in April and will provide support for all area activities. Mildred Hartmann began her work as JSCA Director of Programs in June and Claudio Riveros was hired as a computer area assistant.

The following staff members have left the organization: Luciana Sánchez, former Director of Programs; Marcela Sánchez, Project Management Coordinator; Manuel González, who worked as a computer area assistant; and María Josefina Court, former assistant in the Research Area.

##### **3. Cooperation Agreements**

Cooperation agreements were signed with the *Asociación Interamericana de Defensorías Públicas* (Inter-American Association of Public Defenders Offices) on April 1, 2004 and the Supreme Court of the Province of Mendoza, Argentina on May 19, 2004. We are currently drafting an agreement with the judicial branch of the Mexican state of Puebla and have designed an agreement to share documents and bibliographical information with institutions with which we currently have no formal cooperation agreement in place.

##### **4. V REMJA**

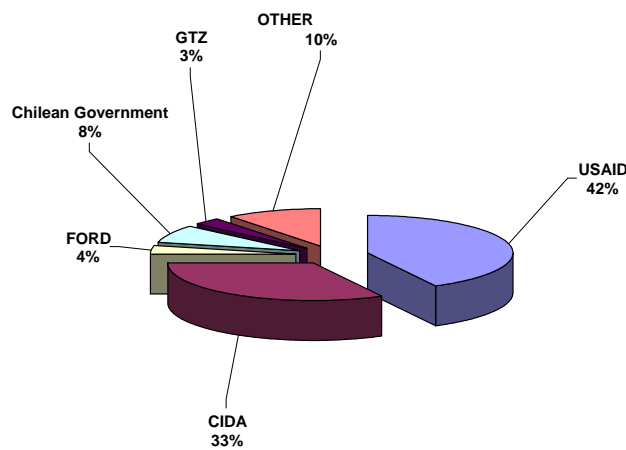
V REMJA was held April 28-30 at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. JSCA presented the *Report on Judicial Systems* during a special event held on the Aztec Patio of the OAS Main Building. Participants included representatives of missions before the OAS, REMJA attendees, and personnel from institutions headquartered in the U.S. that regularly work with JSCA such as USAID, IDB, the World Bank, and Partners of the Americas. Dr. Federico Callizo, president of the Board of Directors, and JSCA Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas presented reports on the organization's activities and work plan, which were unanimously approved.

## 5. Financial Information

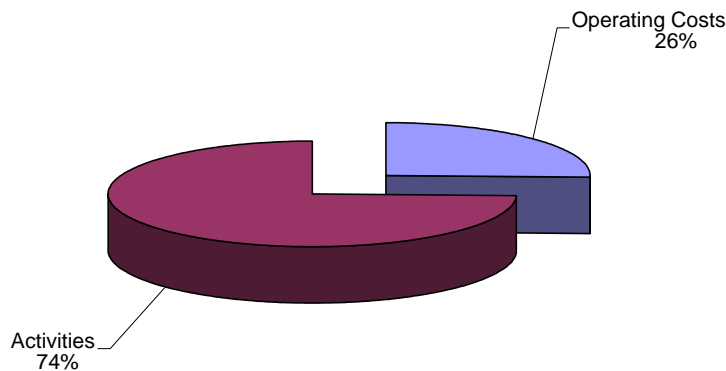
This section describes how the funds contributed by the institutions that support the Center's institutional development have been used during this quarter.

JSCA received funds from USAID, the Chilean government, GTZ, and other sources during this quarter.

### PERCENTAGE OF SUPPORT RECEIVED BY JUNE 2004 BY SOURCE

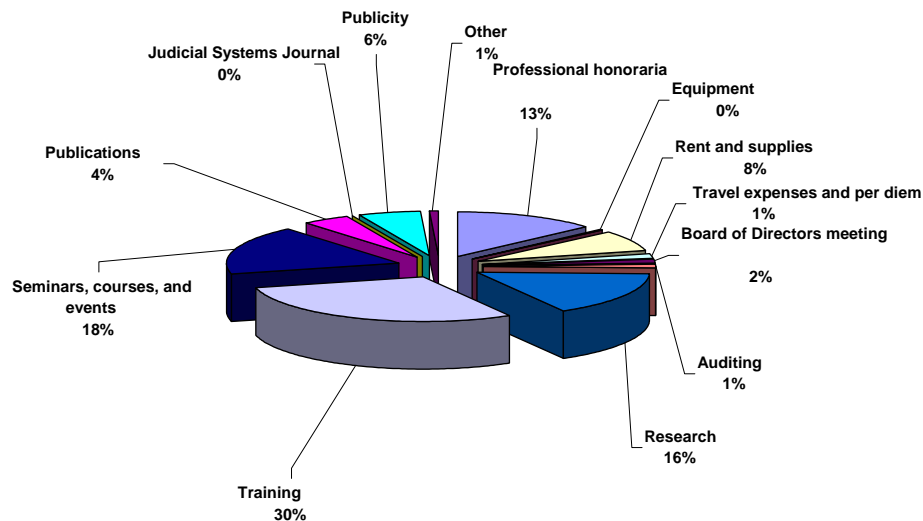


### DISTRIBUTION OF OPERATING COSTS (%)



74% of the expenditures went to JSCA activities and 26% went to supporting the Center's management and operation.

## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES (BY ACTIVITY)



## B. ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO MEET JSCA'S INSTITUTIONAL GOALS

JSCA developed and implemented the following research and training activities in countries throughout the region in order to meet its institutional objectives:

COUNTRY	ACTIVITY
Argentina	Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform, Judicial Statistics, Access to Information, Red OSC
Belize	Judicial Statistics
Bolivia	Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform, Red OSC
Brazil	Red OSC
Eastern Caribbean	Judicial Statistics, Research on Criminal Procedure
Colombia	Judicial Statistics, Red OSC
Costa Rica	Judicial Statistics
Chile	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Judicial Statistics, Access to Information, Red OSC
Dominican Republic	Red OSC
Ecuador	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform, Red OSC
El Salvador	Judicial Statistics, Red OSC
Guatemala	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Judicial Statistics, Red OSC
Haiti	Red OSC
Honduras	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform
Jamaica	Research on Criminal Procedure
Mexico	Red OSC, Support for Criminal Procedure Reform
Panama	Red OSC
Paraguay	Red OSC
Peru	Access to Information, Red OSC, Support for Criminal Procedure Reform
Trinidad and Tobago	Research on Criminal Procedure
United States	Red OSC
Venezuela	Red OSC



## **1. To generate and distribute tools designed to improve the information available on justice in the Americas.**

### **1.1. Virtual Information Center (VIC)**

A significant increase was observed in the number of visits to the Center's Website as compared to the previous quarter (67%).

#### **a) Website Development**

##### **Indicators**

- A sustained increase in the number of people who visit our Website and institutions linked to it.
- A sustained increase in the number of people who rate JSCA virtual products and publications as useful or very useful.

##### **Results**

VIC staff members are constantly working on the Website's Home Page, which is updated at least once a week. The success of this constant renovation is reflected in the 78% increase in the number of people who visit the news section of our Home Page.

We are cultivating contacts with specialized media sources in the region's justice sector, which constantly feature articles on and publicize JSCA events.

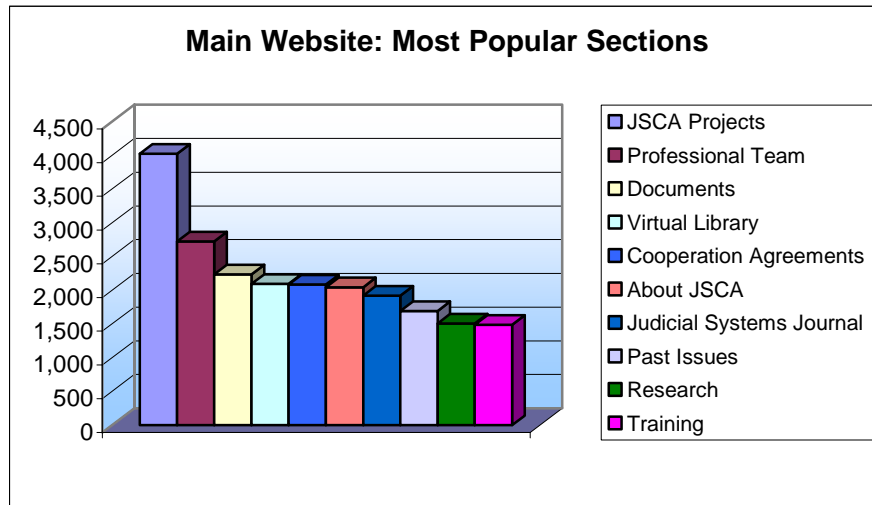
We have received congratulations and positive feedback regarding JSCA publications from a number of institutions in regional justice systems. A total of 84 justice system institutions have included a link to JSCA on their Websites, up from 23 in 2003.

We are constantly working to publish new WebPages or modules, such as the recently launched *Report on Judicial Systems* site. We launched a discussion forum on "The Judicial System and Racism against Individuals of African Descent" in May that included an asynchronous section as well as an on-line or "chat" section, the contents of which will be published. The JSCA Events Website was also unveiled and features a registration form that offers users the option to sign up for our activities using various payment methods.

#### **- Visitor Flow**

A total of **33,104 visitors** browsed our Website, generating **71,993 hits** or visits to the various sections and/ or sub-sites.

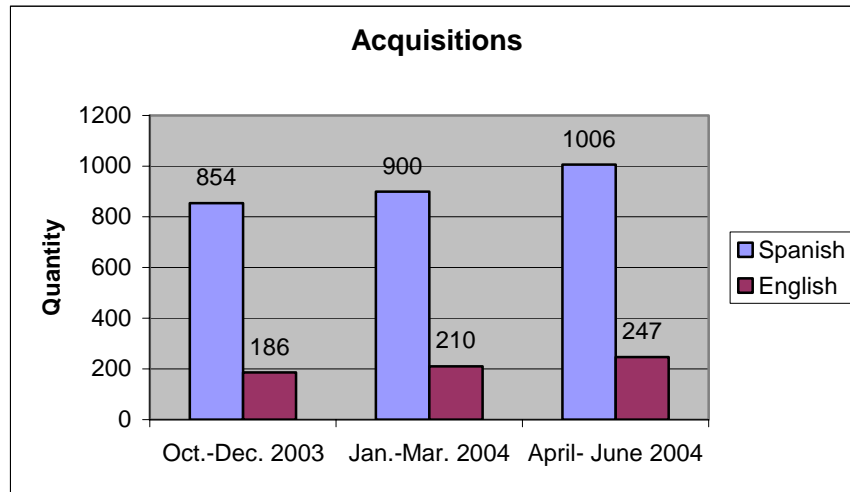
	Q 1	Q 2	%
Main Page	30,995	46,245	49.2%
ADR	3,214	10,129	215.15%
Red OSC	1,049	2,835	170.26%
Events and News	8,444	12,784	51.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,702</b>	<b>71,993</b>	<b>64.74%</b>



### b) Virtual Library

Indicator	Result
A sustained increase in the number of people who visit our Website and institutions linked to it.	1. JSCA's Virtual Library was visited 2,012 times this quarter, which represents a 23% increase over the last period.
A sustained increase in the number of people who rate JSCA virtual products and publications as useful or very useful.	2. We received 12 requests from users who asked us to help them implement an online Phpmymylibrary catalogue.

We publicized our new online Phpmymylibrary catalogue, sending messages to lists of librarians published on the Internet. By the end of this quarter the collection contained 490 monographs, 57 periodicals, and 58 CD-ROMs.

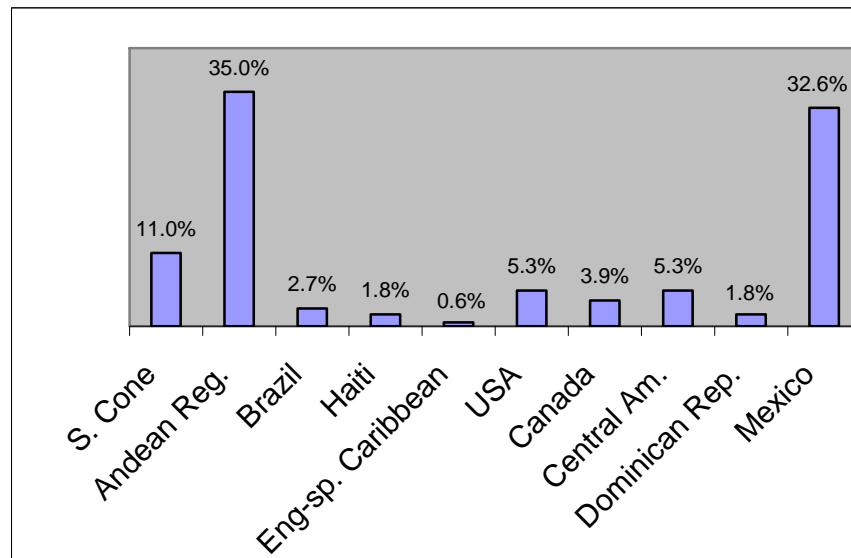


By the end of this quarter, JSCA’s online collection included 857 research documents, reports, and papers; 396 pieces of legislation; and 262 book reviews.

### c) Other Activities

- **Contact Network:** During this quarter we renewed our efforts to reinforce the cooperation agreements that JSCA has signed with other institutions, particularly regarding the exchange of bibliography and documents. The following chart explains the growth observed this quarter:

Region/ Country	No.	%
Southern Cone	37	11.0
Andean Region	118	35.0
Brazil	9	2.7
Haiti	6	1.8
English-speaking Caribbean	2	0.6
USA	18	5.3
Canada	13	3.9
Central America	18	5.3
Dominican Republic	6	1.8
Mexico	110	32.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>100</b>



- **Global Legal Information Network (GLIN):** JSCA's librarian attended a training program organized by the U.S. Library of Congress and held May 17-21, 2004 in Washington, D.C. His participation in the program allowed JSCA to associate itself with the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), which is composed of national libraries of congress and international organizations. JSCA's GLIN membership will allow it to publish full text documents containing the original sources of legislation from 20 countries.

- **Fulbright Scholar:** John Gathegi, a Florida State University Library and Information Sciences professor and Fulbright Senior Scholar, presented his research to JSCA's Virtual Information Center. The study identified the strengths and weaknesses of the information available on our Website and paid special attention to the legislation documents. Gathegi also evaluated the Website according to American Association of Law Libraries standards and found a number of deficiencies, which we will address during the third quarter of 2004.

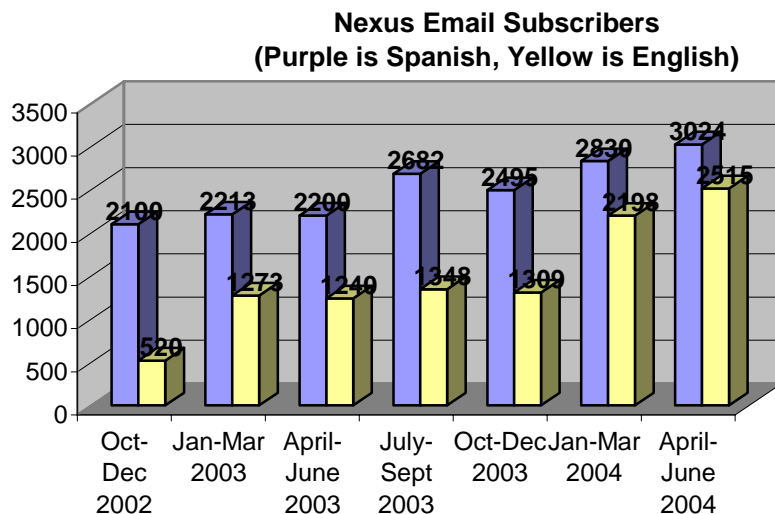
## 1.2. Press and Communications Area

### Indicators

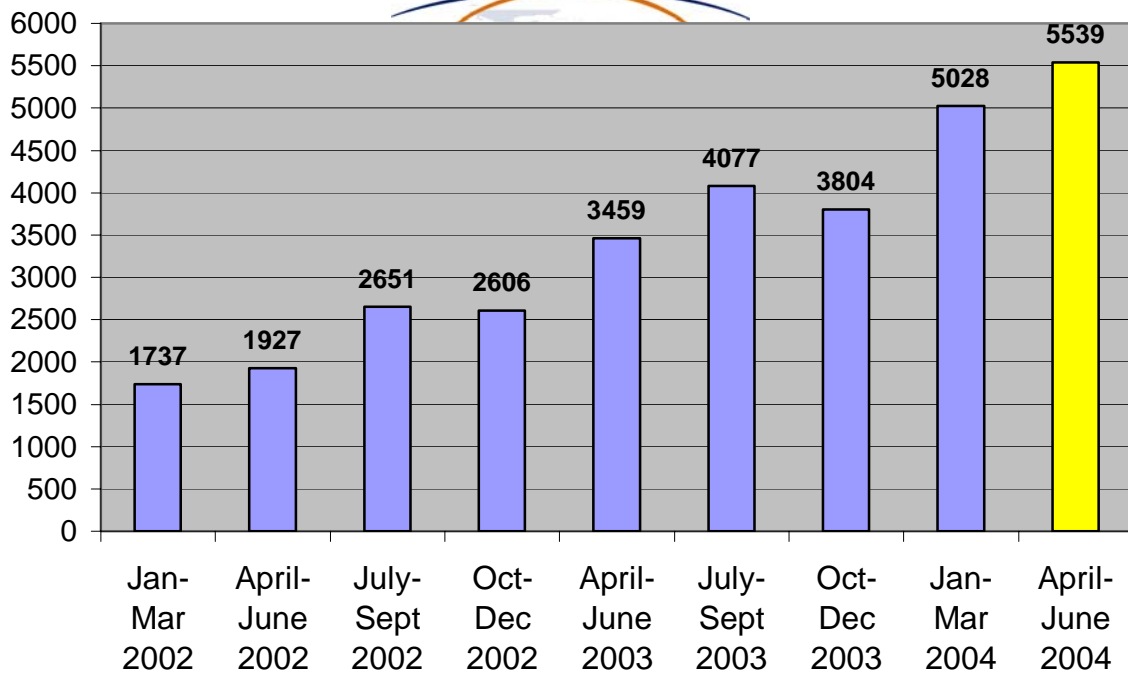
- A sustained increase in the number of people who subscribe to the Nexus Newsletter
- A sustained increase in the number of people who subscribe to the *Judicial Systems Journal* and the number of journal articles that are cited or included in academic information systems.

### a) Nexus Newsletter (Issues 34, 35, and 36)

The number of Nexus Newsletter subscribers went from 5,028 to 5,529 this quarter, which represents a 10.2% increase. Most of the new subscribers are English speakers, given that there was a 6.8% increase in Spanish-speaking subscribers and a 14.1% increase in English-speaking subscribers. The number of visits to the Newsletter Website went from 422 to 900, which represents a 113% increase.



## Total Number of Subscribers



A new biannual edition of the Newsletter is being prepared in French and Portuguese.

### **b) Press Coverage**

The following list describes mentions of JSCA or its members in the social media, excluding scheduled appearances and coverage, and/or transcriptions of audiovisual and radio media. There has been a considerable increase in the frequency with which the Center is mentioned in the press. This is due to a JSCA Press and Communications Area strategy to create and maintain contacts in media outlets that specialize in judicial topics.

In order to increase our interaction with the specialized media and exchange and disseminate information, Press and Communications Area staff have contacted at least 70 written specialized media sources and sent them information on JSCA's publications and institutional goals. The response has been quite positive: JSCA activities have received coverage and publicity from a variety of sources, including Revista Datavenia, of Brazil; Boletín Jurídico, of Brazil; Revista Todo Legal, of Argentina; Revista Judicial, of Ecuador; Revista La Trama, of Argentina; and Periódico La Semana Jurídica, of Chile.

### **d) Judicial Systems Journal**

We have launched a new strategy for publicizing the journal, and promotional information has been sent to 1,500 official and academic institutions throughout the region. This resulted in a 24% increase in the number of visits to the journal's Website (a total of 1,957 were recorded, up from 1,576 last quarter).





## e) Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas

The Report was distributed to the delegations that attended the V Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (V REMJA) in Washington, D.C. on April 28, 29, and 30. Print versions of the document were sent in Spanish and English to representatives of all 34 American nations, as were approximately 100 CD ROM copies. Another 100 CD ROMs were distributed during the “Day of Open Debate: Mexico’s Criminal Justice System Reform,” which JSCA co-sponsored. The document was also distributed to the Supreme Court Chief Justices of Ibero-America during the VIII Ibero-American Summit of Supreme Court Chief Justices in San Salvador, El Salvador on June 24 and 25. Six hundred bilingual CD versions of the report and at least 100 bilingual print versions were given out at JSCA events.

The Report has been cited as a source in several studies and journalistic pieces. For example, it was cited in an IDB report on justice in Costa Rica.

### **2. To promote regional cooperation and the exchange of experiences among key actors in the justice sector.**

#### **2.1. Training**

##### **a) *Institutional Strengthening for Criminal Procedure Reform***

This quarter saw the initiation of the second phase of the *Inter-American Program for Training Trainers for Criminal Procedure Reform*. The intermediate course *Problems Associated with Implementing Criminal Procedure Reform* began April 19 and will run through August 6. The course will be offered using e-learning technology such as the virtual campus CEJACAMPUS ([www.cejacampus.org](http://www.cejacampus.org)). All of the 54 students that were selected to continue in the program opted to do so.

Participants have been asked to evaluate the first 5 modules of the program. The following list presents some of the most important results of the exercise:

- 68% of the students polled rated the content of the modules as “very good.”
- 59% of the students polled rated the way in which the content was presented in the modules as “entertaining and dynamic.” 36% rated it as interesting, and only 5% said that it was “nothing special.” No one stated that they thought that the approach was “boring and slow.”
- 77% of the students polled rated the chats as “very useful” or “useful” tools for learning more about the topics presented in the modules.



JSCA has contacted the Universidad de Guayaquil, Ecuador in order to promote the participation of graduate students in our training programs and propose a plan that would allow the university to offer students that successfully complete the course credit in Master's degree or graduate programs. We have already established similar agreements with the Universidad Diego Portales (Chile) and Universidad de Palermo (Argentina) law schools.

Participants in the training program include judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police officers, criminal and criminal procedure law professors, attorneys and, in general, criminal justice system operators from countries throughout the Americas.

**b) Virtual Forum**

This year's first virtual forum was held April 26-28. The discussion focused on *The Judicial System and Racism against Individuals of African Descent* and was based on the document of the same title by Felipe González and Jorge Contesse. The activity included a two-day virtual forum as well as a chat with local experts. The latter was held June 13 and featured the participation of 5 people.

**c) Distance-learning Course on *Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean: Improving Governance through the Justice Sector***

The second version of the course was implemented this quarter. As we noted in the previous quarterly report, the program was organized by the World Bank Institute (WBI), the Public Sector Group's Latin American and Caribbean Region Office, and the Legal Vice-Presidency of the World Bank in coordination with Spain's General Judicial Branch Council (CGPJ) and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA). The distance training course was taught through video-conferencing and directed at participants from Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. Chile and the Dominican Republic participated as observers. The first stage of the program ran from April 15 to June 3 of this year and the second, an on-site seminar, will be held July 7-9 in Madrid. A total of 142 people participated in the course.

The following table provides additional information on the participants:

Country of Residence	Women	%	Men	%	Total
<b>Guatemala</b>	13	43%	17	57%	<b>30</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	15	44%	12	56%	<b>27</b>
<b>Mexico</b>	5	24%	16	76%	<b>21</b>
<b>Paraguay</b>	14	27%	7	33%	<b>21</b>
<b>Peru</b>	4	36%	7	64%	<b>11</b>
<b>Dominican Rep.</b> (observer)	3	100%	0	0%	<b>3</b>
<b>Venezuela</b>	11	38%	18	62%	<b>29</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>142</b>



#### d) Internship Program

##### Total number of inquiries and/or applications for internships:

- *Paid Internships*: 11 inquiries and/or applications were received from Argentina (4), Spain (2), Chile (2), Bolivia (1), Mexico (1), and Paraguay (1). We have not yet established a deadline for this year’s competition.
- *Pro Bono*: We received 7 inquiries/applications for this type of internship: 4 from Spain and 1 each from Argentina, France, and Germany. Of these, only one has led to a commitment to receive the intern. This is due in part to issues related to availability, problems with the Webpage, and other aspects of the “match” between the applicants and the Center.

We regularly receive general inquiries about internships, as well as emails from individuals requesting information about job opportunities, organizational information, etc. We have most recently been contacted by individuals in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, and Mexico.

Notably, an internship request was received from CHILE INSIDE, an agency that arranges exchanges with Europe and coordinates unpaid professional internships for foreign students in Chile who are associated with the German-Chilean Chamber of Commerce. However, our attempts to make further contact with this group have been unsuccessful to date.

The main channel through which requests for information and/or internship applications are received is the JSCA network and by email directly at [capacitacion@cejamericas.org](mailto:capacitacion@cejamericas.org) .

##### Information on Internships Held This Quarter

The following table lists current and future JSCA interns and provides information on the projects that they will work on, the type of internship held, and the period during which they will be at JSCA.

Name	Country	Type	Area	Period
Heidi Fishpaw	United States	Pro-Bono	Press	March 2004 – May 2004
John Gathegi	United States	Senior	I/S	May 2004 – June 2004
Olisa Shaina Aber	United States	Pro-Bono	Research	May 2004 – August 2004
Sandra Wiens	Canada	Pro-Bono	ADR –Events	June 2004 – October 2004
Reid Allred	United States	Pro-Bono	Research	June 2004 – August 2004
Theodore Chesnut	United States	Pro-Bono	Research	June 2004 – August 2004
Beatriz Boonempark	France	Pro-Bono	TBA	August 2004 – September 2004



**e) Other Training Activities**

**- Litigation Course at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina**

From 26 - 28 May, Mauricio Duce and Andrés Baytelman offered a seminar entitled “Litigation for Oral Trials in Adversarial Systems” at the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina. Fifty participants took this 16-hour course.

**- Visit of the Federal Judicial Branch for the State of Oaxaca, Mexico Delegation to Temuco, Chile.**

During the week of 24-28 May, an 8-member delegation from Mexico’s Supreme Court, judicial branch of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico, and the National Center for State Courts, visited Chile with the aim of learning about the Chilean criminal justice reform process. The visit included discussions with JSCA staff members, meetings with local authorities, and a field visit to observe the operation of the system in the city of Temuco, Southern Chile.

**- Argentine Parliamentarian Delegation Visit to Valparaiso, Chile**

An 8-member delegation mainly composed of members of the Argentine parliament visited Chile June 3-4 in order to learn about the Chilean criminal justice reform process, and the political process involved in particular. A field visit was made to the city of Valparaiso, and a series of meetings was held with local authorities and JSCA staff members.

**- Workshop on the Accusatory System- Oaxaca, Mexico**

On 14 June, JSCA staff member Mauricio Duce gave a workshop on “Basic Principles and Elements of an Accusatory Criminal Procedure Model in Latin America” in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, to an audience of 70 Oaxaca Superior Court judges. Mr. Duce delivered a workshop on “Orality as a Work Method in the Accusatory System” to 90 participants from the Prosecutor’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, judicial branch and other attorneys on June 15. 160 individuals were trained during the 8-hour sessions.

**- Workshop on the Accusatory System and the Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America- Puebla, Mexico**

On 16 June, JSCA staff member Mauricio Duce delivered 2 workshops in the state of Puebla, Mexico before an audience of 80 participants from the State Prosecutor’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, and the judicial branch. Attorneys from other areas also attended the events. The workshops were entitled “Basic Principles and Elements of an Accusatory Model of Criminal Procedure in Latin America” and “Orality as a Work Method in the Accusatory System.” Each workshop lasted 4 hours.



## f) Requests for Training

- **Public Defender’s Office, Colombia.** A group of attorneys involved with Colombia’s Public Defender pilot plan, which is supported by USAID, requested that JSCA submit a proposal for a training course that focuses on oral litigation skills. The proposal is currently awaiting approval by Colombia.
- **Prosecutor’s Office, Ecuador.** Ecuador’s Public Ministry has enquired about the possibility of implementing a JSCA- organized training program for prosecutors that includes e-learning. The proposal is currently under discussion.
- **Judicial Branch of the State of Puebla, Mexico.** The judicial branch of the State of Puebla has begun exploring the possibility of organizing a conference on criminal justice reform and the accusatory system with JSCA. The event is tentatively scheduled for October of this year.

## 2.2. Networking Activities

Indicator	Results
<p>1) A sustained increase in the number of institutions and/or individuals interested in participating in regional and/or network activities fostered by JSCA.</p> <p>2) A sustained increase in the number of contacts and joint projects among members of these networks.</p> <p>3) A sustained increase in the number of institutions that find it “useful” or “very useful” to participate in networks or regional activities promoted by JSCA.</p>	<p>1) A decision was made during the annual Red-OSC meeting to open membership in this network to any and all interested organizations.</p> <p>JSCA’s association with the Iberian-American Association of Public Prosecutors continues to develop. An event on criminal prosecution held in April in Buenos Aires drew 250 participants, including 95 prosecutors, four of whom were prosecutor generals, and 2 Supreme Court chief justices.</p> <p>JSCA continues to support AIDEF (Inter-American Association of Public Defenders Offices).</p> <p>JSCA is currently co-organizing two events for judges with the Supreme Court of Honduras. Both will build on the events held in that country last year. In addition, JSCA was invited to be a panelist at the VIII Summit of Supreme Court Chief Justices in El Salvador. We are continuing to work on the joint project to improve judicial statistics with Central American countries, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico.</p> <p>2) We are currently developing projects with Bolivia and at the regional level with networks coordinated by Partners of the Americas and are encouraging these networks to develop joint projects.</p> <p>3) An information systems expert was hired as a consultant to improve the quality of our Website.</p>



### a) Network of Civil Society Organizations (Red OSC)

The III Annual Meeting of the Civil Society Organizations Network and the Day of Open Debate on Mexico's Criminal Justice Reforms were held May 13-14 in Mexico City. Participants included representatives of JSCA, INAVEC, DPLF, FESPAD/CEPES, ICCPG, PAZ CIUDADANA, FUNDACIÓN ESQUEL, IMEJ, and INECIP. NCSC representatives attended as observers, as did members of the Mexican Human Rights Commission. In brief, the following issues were discussed:

**Network Operation:** In spite of the difficulties it has experienced, the network is consolidating and meeting its basic objectives of exchanging information and raising awareness and fostering relationships between its members. Participants were particularly emphatic about continuing the work of the Network and strengthening these bonds. In addition, it was emphasized that the network and its members were not only to be found in specific contexts but also participated in other events and activities (especially those organized by JSCA), in recognition of the fact that the work among organizations of the network went beyond the specific context of network sponsored events. This was thought to be a highly positive element that resulted in a reconsideration of the network's closed structure, with a view to opening it up to other organizations in the future. For this purpose, it was agreed that members of the Network would be able to propose discussion forums or chat sessions on specific issues (Public Ministries, fundraising, public participation, victimology, among others). In this respect, JSCA made a commitment to assist in facilitating these online discussions. It was also noted that although the objectives established when the Network was founded have not yet been completely met to date, the organization is moving in the right direction.

**Evaluation of Progress Made in 2003:** a) Toolbox: This kit was not seen as a useful mechanism by most members, and a proposal was made to discontinue it. b) *Infored* Newsletter: Although participants acknowledged its usefulness, it was felt that the work involved with publishing the newsletter was too much for member organizations and a proposal was made to continue sharing the information produced and/or channeled by members –where these have their own newsletters – through the network email list, though without the coordination required for the *Infored* newsletter. c) Annual Meeting: The need for and usefulness of an annual meeting was examined in light of the low attendance of member organizations this year. A frequency of every two years for these meetings was proposed, with members having the opportunity to organize meetings of sections of the network during these bi-annual meetings in order to discuss topics that are of interest to specific groups.

### b) Judicial Branches

The Iberian-American Summit of Supreme Court Chief Justices was held June 24-25 in San Salvador, El Salvador. Participants discussed the main problems and challenges to the administration of justice in Iberian-American countries. Representatives from 22 countries participated in the event and discussed issues ranging from the judicial career and the judicial academy to justice sector budgets, globalization and legal security, the fight against corruption, and statistical information systems. The Summit agreed to promote training in judicial branch statistical units with the collaboration of JSCA.





### **3. To carry out in-depth studies of justice systems and encourage innovative contributions to the discussion of judicial reform.**

#### **Indicators:**

- Broad-based regional and local debate is generated on the basis of studies produced by JSCA.
- The studies are cited to in other research projects.
- New initiatives are begun in countries of the region as a result of these studies.
- Local funding is obtained for the execution of these studies.

#### **3.1 Follow-Up and Support for Criminal Procedure Reforms**

##### **First Stage**

During his visit to the province of Córdoba, Argentina, JSCA Academic Director Cristián Riego met with INECIP representatives to discuss opportunities for broadening the follow-up study of the criminal procedure reform of the federal justice system in that province and others in northeastern Argentina. Terms of Reference were sent to INECIP in June, along with a new contract for activities to be carried out in July and August.

##### **Third Stage**

The finalization of this stage also marks the end of the first version of the Follow-up Study on Criminal Procedure Reform in Latin America. This stage has been implemented in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in Bolivia, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Final reports for Buenos Aires and Bolivia have been published on JSCA's Website.

Validation of the results of the study in Buenos Aires was carried out during a session held at the San Isidro Bar Association in the province of Buenos Aires on April 14. JSCA's local counterpart CELS presented the results of the study to local authorities. One impact of the study was the June 3-4 visit of the Undersecretary of Justice for the Province of Buenos Aires to JSCA headquarters in Santiago, Chile. The purpose of the visit was to increase his knowledge of the functioning of Chile's criminal procedure reform and to strengthen ties with JSCA.

CEJIP presented the Bolivia report on May 13 in the main auditorium of the Universidad Católica de Bolivia. The event was attended by 250 people, including members of the judicial branch, public prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice, the university itself, and other institutions. The study was presented by CEJIP Coordinator Daniel Mogrovejo, with additional comments by a member of the CSO network, which is coordinated in Bolivia by POA. JSCA is currently negotiating the publication of the report with POA and CEJIP.

In another area, the validation process for the special report on criminal justice systems in Saint Lucia, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago has begun, and we hope to have validated, publishable results in English and Spanish in August.



Under the general framework of the follow-up study, JSCA has been tabulating information on the observation of trials, which is being processed in a database. We have planned a variety of statistical analyses for this data and will publish the results on the Study Website.

### 3.2 Challenges in Public Criminal Prosecution in the Americas

The Pablo Neruda Auditorium, located in Paseo de la Plaza in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was the setting for the Inter-American Seminar on the Challenges Related to Public Criminal Prosecution, which was held April 15 and 16. A total of 290 people attended the event, including 7 representatives of CARICOM countries, 2 Supreme Court Chief Justices, 4 Prosecutor Generals, and more than 100 prosecutors. The purpose of the event was to discuss the serious deficiencies in public criminal prosecution in the region. A general informative presentation was offered on the current operation of public prosecutor's offices in 12 jurisdictions in the Americas and the results of the Follow-up Study. This was followed by sessions on public safety, the organization and management of public prosecutor's offices, prosecutors' use of their new powers, and criminal investigations. More information on the program, copies of related documents, and a list of participants may be found at [www.cejamericas.org](http://www.cejamericas.org)

This event has allowed JSCA to enter into a new line of research that is designed to continue to build on the now-completed follow up study.

### 3.3 Access to Judicial Information

In June 2003 the Ford Foundations' Southern Cone Program on Citizenship and Human Rights approved the project *Access to Judicial Information*, which is being jointly implemented in Argentina, Chile, and Peru by JSCA and the IHRC's Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. The project was extended to October 2004, and we are currently generating products based on the final country reports that were submitted at the end of June.

### 3.4. Judicial Statistics

Indicators:	Result:
Justice sector institutions from countries in the region adopt instruments developed by JSCA to improve their information systems.	Costa Rica's judicial branch is currently implementing a set of indicators in order to assess the performance of its courts including those contained in the <i>Coding and Decoding Manual</i> .
Information on the functioning of the justice sector that is generated by JSCA is used for in-depth studies or for decision-making within the justice sector itself.	The Website that houses JSCA's statistical database on Justice Systems in the 34 OAS member countries is almost complete.





The information-gathering stage of the Generation of Justice Sector Indicators and Statistics project has been completed in Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala and has begun in Belize.

The information gathered will reveal the state of judicial statistical information systems in the 5 countries. The analysis and processing of this information will provide an important diagnosis of what judicial statistics need to be produced and disseminated. The most important element is the development of data for key indicators on the different activities of judicial systems, which will build a general picture of the aspects of judicial information systems that most need improvement in the countries studied.

The study results will also allow for optimizing the use of instruments developed by JSCA. For example, the data gathered indicates that the “Data Spreadsheet” contained in the *Coding and Decoding* manual must be improved as follows:

- Details must be provided on the method used to calculate the monetary information requested on the form.
- Some concepts included in the form must be explained.
- Instructions for gathering data must be improved.
- More detailed definitions of the elements being measured must be incorporated into the manual’s glossary.

The above modifications will give those responsible for generating judicial statistics more precise tools that will help guide them through the process of creating or improving their justice information systems. The data-gathering phase in Belize will provide an opportunity for assessing the instruments outlined in the manual as applied in a country with an Anglo-Saxon legal tradition.

An Online Access to Judicial Information Index has been designed in order to complement these efforts. The Index was applied generally in four countries during the month of June, a process that gave us the opportunity to improve its structure and redefine some categories. Once these modifications are complete, the Index will be applied throughout the region.