



## FACT SHEET

### **The International Judicial Relations Committee: A Resource for USAID Rule of Law and Justice Sector Strengthening Programs**

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The International Judicial Relations Committee (IJRC), one of the United States Judicial Conference's 25 standing committees, responds to requests for assistance to foreign judiciaries by U.S. Government agencies supporting rule of law and justice sector strengthening in partner countries around globe. USAID and the IJRC enjoy a decade's long relationship and have partnered on many occasions to strengthen the independence, accountability, and efficiency of justice system institutions and actors in all regions of the world. This partnership was renewed in December 2014 with the signing of an updated Memorandum of Understanding.

Through the auspices of the IJRC, federal judges, court administrators, and other judiciary officials are available to assist USAID Missions and implementing partners in the following manner:

- Engaging in peer to peer dialogue on issues fundamental to justice system reform;
- Conducting assessments of the needs of foreign justice systems and judiciaries;
- Providing technical assistance to foreign judiciaries in specific subject matter areas;
- Assisting development of methodologies and curricula for judicial education programs;
- Hosting and participating in visits of foreign judiciaries to the United States.

The imprimatur as well as the subject matter expertise that the IJRC offers can be an important means of establishing relationships with justice institutions and actors during all phases of a program. The participation of the IJRC and members of federal and state judiciaries in USAID programs and activities can serve as a means of generating support for fundamental legal and judicial reforms or renewing support where momentum may have stalled. In addition, where there is no rule of law program in place or prospect of undertaking one in the immediate future, having a judge participate in conferences, trainings, and high-level meetings can be an effective means for USAID Missions to remain engaged with senior decision-makers on issues fundamental to the rule of law and justice sector strengthening.

Members of the federal judiciary donate their time pro bono. Thus, the only expenses incurred are those for transportation, accommodations, and per diem. These expenses may either be financed by a USAID Mission or through a contractor or grantee.

For more information about the IJRC and integrating members of the U.S. judiciary into USAID Rule of Law programming, contact Andrew Solomon, Senior Rule of Law Advisor, Governance and Rule of Law Division, USAID/DCHA/DRG at [asolomon@usaid.gov](mailto:asolomon@usaid.gov).