Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic judiciary branch nullifies rule of law efforts in the entire country. The Supreme Court, with support from the USAID-International Development Law Organization (IDLO) Kyrgyzstan Judicial Strengthening Program, recognized this fact, and made addressing corruption in the Kyrgyz court system a cornerstone of their work. In December 2013, the Supreme Court formally adopted the Anti-Corruption Plan, which is based on recommendations put forward by the Judicial Strengthening Program, along with details on how and when the judicial will implement it.

The Supreme Court’s promulgation of the Anti-Corruption Plan marks a major milestone in cooperation between the Supreme Court and the Judicial Strengthening Program, who have consistently encouraged a renewed commitment to an anti-corruption strategy within the Kyrgyz court system. In 2012, the program produced the Sector Vulnerability Mapping carried out by Transparency International, which is an extensive survey documenting the opportunities and corrupt mechanisms used in the judiciary and provided a number of recommendations on how to combat such practices. As a result the majority of the recommendations generated in the mapping process are included in the Supreme Court’s Anti-Corruption Plan.

The Anti-Corruption Plan details activities necessary to eliminate improper unilateral contact between participants in judicial proceedings, judges and court personnel. The Plan also puts forward measures to expand public access to information about court proceedings, including publication of judicial decisions and use of ‘e-court,’ modern information management systems, by all courts to provide reliable information to the participants. The Plan mandates improved processes to reveal improper pressure exerted upon judges by government officials and also efforts to impose severe penalties upon those who interfere improperly in court decision-making.

With USAID providing the requested technical support, the Plan recommends judicial organs improve the selection processes and disciplinary procedures against judges who do not perform in accordance with the law. After adopting the Plan, the Supreme Court introduced automated case distribution within the Supreme Court and requested the Judicial Strengthening Program’s assistance. This will assign cases at random, and illuminate conditions for corruption and undue influence and safeguard the impartiality of judges.