



Annual Report 2024

Justice Studies Center of the Americas

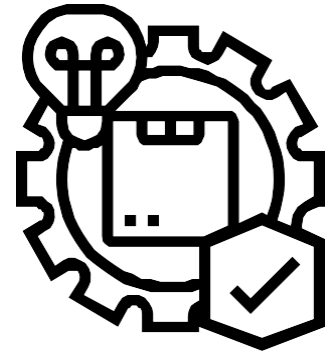


JSCA

Justice Studies Center of the Americas

¿What is CEJA?

CEJA is the specialized agency for justice systems within the Organization of American States (OAS). Based in Santiago, Chile, its mandate extends to all active member states of the OAS. With 25 years of experience, it has driven judicial reforms in over 22 countries and trained more than 60,000 professionals in the region on topics such as criminal prosecution, judicial governance and management, oral procedures, gender, and the use of technology.



WHAT DOES JSCA DO?

- 01** We conduct studies and generate comparative evidence.
- 02** We provide technical assistance to States, justice institutions and civil society.
- 03** We monitor the implementation of laws and public policies.
- 04** We offer specialized training and create spaces for exchanging experiences and best practices in the region.

PRIORITY AREAS



Regional presence of CEJA in 2024

In 2024, CEJA reached 15 countries across the region, providing training to over 3,000 professionals from justice institutions and civil society throughout the Americas



Content

Studies and publications.....	Pág. 5.
Projects.....	Pág. 8.
Training.....	Pág.12.
Studies visits.....	Pág. 16.
Event organized by CEJA	Pág. 18.
CEJA participation in events.....	Pág. 27.
Working meetings	Pág. 30.
Institutional strengthening.....	Pág. 32.
Interships.....	Pág. 37.
Financial report	Pág. 38.

Studies and publications

- **Study “Access routes to justice in Colombia and Peru”, in partnership with IDRC Canada**

This study, developed in partnership with the International Development Research Center (IDRC), between January 2023 and December 2024, aimed to analyze the different judicial and non-judicial solutions for access to justice in family and housing conflicts, as well as their effectiveness, in Colombia and Peru.

CEJA systematized the information collected during 2023 in person, through interviews, in 15 municipalities and departments of both countries. With this information, country studies and a comparative study were prepared, the data of which were validated in workshops that our institution organized with experts in Bogotá and Lima.

In 2024, the development of the regional public policy proposal on Alternative Methods of Conflict Resolution (MASC) in Latin America of CEJA began. To this end, a workshop was held with experts from different countries on the continent, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

1. Study “Pathways to resolve family and housing conflicts in Colombia: Effectiveness of approaches and responses”

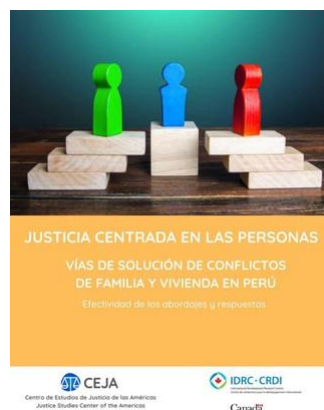
The study analyses the different ways of approaching and transforming civil and family conflicts in Colombia, focusing on alternative methods of conflict resolution, community justice and the judicial route, their access and operational barriers; and discusses the routes and their effectiveness in guaranteeing the fundamental right of access to justice, to formulate recommendations that contribute to its strengthening and operation.



[ACCESS BOOK](#)

2. “Study “Pathways to resolve family and housing conflicts in Peru: Effectiveness of approaches and responses”

The study analyses the different ways of approaching and transforming civil and family conflicts in Peru, focusing on alternative methods of conflict resolution, community justice and the judicial route, their access and operational barriers; and discusses the routes and their effectiveness in guaranteeing the fundamental right of access to justice, to formulate recommendations that contribute to its strengthening and operation.



[ACCESS BOOK](#)

3. Study “Various ways to provide access to justice in family and housing issues: comparative analysis based on two case studies”

The study presents a comparative analysis of the two national reports produced by CEJA. Both experiences are examined considering the fundamental standards of the right of access to justice, with a focus on the principle of effectiveness. According to this standard, States are required not only to refrain from obstructing access but also to create the conditions that proactively eliminate barriers preventing individuals from seeking and obtaining effective protection of their rights within the justice system.



[ACCESS BOOK](#)

Publication “Cooperation for the investigation and criminal prosecution of Transnational Organized Crime in Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Argentina”

This analysis document, published by CEJA in 2024, examines the effectiveness and challenges of criminal judicial cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) in Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Argentina.

Judicial cooperation has facilitated the development of tools such as Joint Investigation Teams, which promote more stable collaborative efforts. However, these teams also present limitations, including their temporary nature and restricted scope of application. In response, new cooperation structures, such as mixed investigation bodies, are emerging, offering greater flexibility and long-term sustainability.

Furthermore, the publication highlights the impact of special investigative techniques and horizontal inter-institutional cooperation, which, along with the digitalization of processes, present new opportunities and challenges in addressing TOC in the region.



[ACCESS BOOK](#)

Projects

Citizen and participatory survey for the design of the Criminal Prosecution Policy of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile

The objective of this project was to conduct a citizen and participatory survey for the design, construction, and implementation of the Criminal Prosecution Policy by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile until 2031, with a territorial, participatory, and flexible approach.

In 2024, CEJA conducted a national and regional diagnosis based on a qualitative and quantitative survey, aimed at identifying crimes or criminal phenomena most relevant to the community due to their impact and social connotation. This information was gathered through 21 workshops across all regions of Chile, with over 200 participants. Additionally, a citizen consultation was held to gather further input, with broad participation.



Workshop Coyhaique



Workshop Lo Espejo



Workshop Puerto Montt

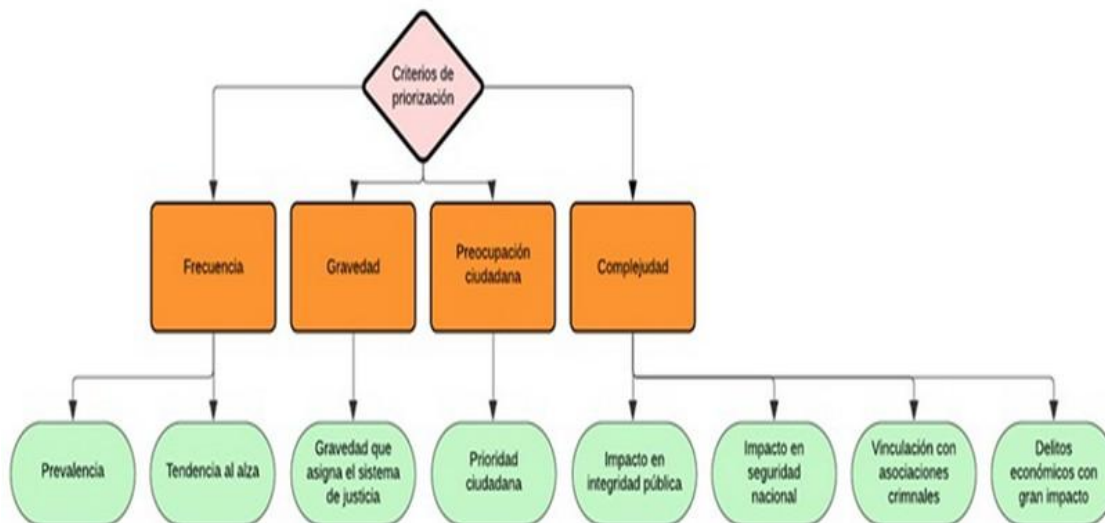


Workshop Valparaíso

Criminal prioritization methodology designed by CEJA for the Chilean Public Prosecutor's Office

Within the framework of CEJA's technical assistance to the Chilean Public Prosecutor's Office, a proposal was designed to prioritize crimes, offering a strategic, transparent, and flexible approach to criminal prosecution policy at both the national and regional levels, with a focus on the criminal legal ecosystem.

This tool takes the form of a prioritization index, which groups the strategic-level prioritization criteria and sub-criteria. It promotes objectivity and consistency in prosecutors' decisions, placing citizen concerns at the center while considering the varying criminal realities and the institutional and managerial capacities.



- **Design of indicators for the evaluation of compliance with a Criminal Prosecution Policy**

Within the framework of technical assistance to the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile, CEJA designed a set of indicators to evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency, and quality of activities carried out to implement the Criminal Prosecution Policy. Additionally, CEJA proposed a system for evaluating and monitoring the policy's implementation.

Technical assistance for the design and implementation of an oral trial pilot for family justice in Peru

This CEJA technical assistance initiative aimed to implement a new judicial office model and introduce oral proceedings in the family courts of Arequipa.

To achieve this objective, CEJA conducted a normative and qualitative diagnosis that evaluated the quality of family courts in custody and visitation procedures, identifying areas for improvement, strengthening, or change.

Based on the results and comparative evidence, a new judicial office model and a set of practical guidelines were proposed to support the work of system operators. This aimed to improve efficiency and ensure the successful implementation of oral proceedings, in line with the new unified process designed by the Budget Program by Results, 'Speed in Family Judicial Processes,' of the Judicial Branch of Peru.



Project “Promoting respect for the human rights of the LGBTIQANB+ population as users of mental health institutions”

The project was funded by the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). It responds to recommendations made by the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture (SPT) following its 2016 visit to Chile, where concerns were raised about the treatment of LGBTIQANB+ individuals in mental health institutions. Among these concerns was the need to prevent mistreatment, marginalization, and rights violations by training staff in international human rights principles.

This project adopts an intersectional approach, linking three fundamental rights: health, equality and non-discrimination, and access to justice. It recognizes that mental health is crucial both for ensuring decent living conditions and for overcoming systemic barriers that limit access to justice, particularly for vulnerable populations.

En 2024, CEJA, en colaboración con el Mecanismo Nacional de Prevención Contra la Tortura en Chile y la Subsecretaría de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos, inició el desarrollo de un programa de sensibilización y formación que garantice un trato digno e inclusivo hacia la población LGBTIQANB+, el cual comprende el diseño de un curso especializado, un manual de buen trato y atención respetuosa, y 30 infografías con lineamientos para la atención de las personas LGBTIQANB+ en instituciones de salud mental.



Training

In 2024, CEJA achieved the unprecedented milestone of training more than 3,000 professionals from justice institutions and civil society across the Americas



[EFFJ - MÉXICO] Programa Reforma a la Justicia Civil en las Américas
NACIONAL
Asincrónico
60 horas
Con Certificación



[EJ - MÉXICO] Programa Reforma a la Justicia Civil en las Américas
NACIONAL
Asincrónico
60 horas
Con Certificación



[QUERETARO-MÉXICO] Programa Reforma a la Justicia Civil en las Américas
NACIONAL
Asincrónico
60 horas
Con Certificación



[NAYARIT-MÉXICO] Programa Reforma a la Justicia Civil en las Américas
NACIONAL
Asincrónico
60 horas
Con Certificación



[N - BOLIVIA] Curso Especializado sobre litigación oral
NACIONAL
Asincrónico
60 horas
Con Certificación



Curso Gestión judicial y Case Management en la Justicia Civil y de familia
REGIONAL
Asincrónico
40 horas
Con Certificación

- **Training on Civil and Family Justice Reforms for the Judicial Branch of Mexico City**

In 2024, CEJA trained 1,074 magistrates and justice operators from the PJDCMX on civil and family justice reform in the Americas.



- **Training on reforms to Civil and Family Justice for the Federal School of Judicial Training - Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico**

In 2024, CEJA trained 205 magistrates, judges, and administrative professionals from the Judicial Branch of the Federation of Mexico on civil and family justice reform.



- **Training on Civil and Family Justice Reforms for the Judiciary of the State of Nayarit, Mexico**

In 2024, CEJA trained 236 magistrates, judges, and administrative professionals from the Judiciary of Nayarit on civil and family justice reform.



- **Training on Civil and Family Justice Reforms for the Judiciary of the State of Querétaro, Mexico**

In 2024, CEJA trained 126 magistrates, judges and administrative professionals of the Judicial Branch of the State of Queretaro, México on civil and family justice reform.



**JUSTICIA
EN EVOLUCIÓN**
PODER JUDICIAL DEL ESTADO DE QUERÉTARO

- **Training on Civil Justice Reforms for the Judicial Branch of Panama**

In 2024, CEJA began training 520 magistrates, judges and administrative professionals of the Judicial Branch of Panama on civil justice reforms.



REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
**ÓRGANO
JUDICIAL**

- **Training on oral litigation for the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency of Bolivia**

In 2024, CEJA trained 301 lawyers from the Public Registry of the Ministry of Justice and Institutional Transparency of Bolivia on oral litigation and trauma-informed care.

This training was carried out in partnership with the International Justice Mission – Bolivia and the Ministry of Justice of Bolivia



ESTADO PLURINACIONAL DE
BOLIVIA

MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA Y
TRANSPARENCIA INSTITUCIONAL



- **Training for the Judicial Branch of Paraguay**

In 2024, CEJA, in partnership with the Association of Judges of Paraguay, trained 40 magistrates, judges, and professionals from the Paraguayan Judiciary.



- **7th and 8th version of the regional course “Improving criminal prosecution and resocialization in cases of gender violence in Latin America and the Caribbean”**

In 2024, CEJA implemented the 7th and 8th versions of the Regional Course “Improving criminal prosecution and resocialization in cases of gender violence in Latin America and the Caribbean”, developed in collaboration with the German agency for development cooperation abroad - GIZ.

Through the CEJACAMPUS platform, 59 professionals from 10 countries in the region were trained: Guatemala, Argentina, El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay.



Other courses taught on the CEJACAMPUS platform

In 2024, CEJA, through its e-learning platform CEJACAMPUS, offered a total of 9 virtual and asynchronous courses to magistrates, judges and other justice professionals from all over the region.

Courses	Regional / Country
Course on Investigation and Judgment of Economic Crime	Open, regional level
Restorative Justice Course	Open, regional level
Course Expert Evidence in an Oral Civil Process	Open, regional level
Curso Juicios por Jurados	Open, regional level
Collective Processes Course	Open, regional level
Course on Judicial Management and Case Management in Civil and Family Justice	Open, regional level
Course Dimensions of the Public Prosecutor's Office	Open, regional level
Procedural Justice Course	Open, regional level
Procedural Justice Course	Open, regional level

Study visits organized by CEJA

Study Visit of the Judicial Branch of the State of Querétaro, Mexico

In June 2024, a delegation of judges and officials from the Judicial Branch of the State of Querétaro visited Chile as part of a study program organized by CEJA.

The objective of the visit was to learn about the functioning of oral proceedings in family justice and gain valuable insights to implement in their country. The delegation aimed to identify and analyze the main challenges that would arise with its implementation, including logistical, training, and cultural aspects.

During the visit, the delegation participated in presentations by specialists in judicial office models and oral proceedings, as well as officials from various justice institutions in Chile. Additionally, they took guided tours to observe hearings at the Third Family Court of Santiago and visited the Center for Precautionary Measures and the Arbitration and Mediation Center (CAM).



TECLAB Study Trip – Labor Justice Mexico

In May 2024, CEJA welcomed 12 ministers and judges from various states in Mexico who traveled to Chile to learn about the implementation of labor procedural reform. The delegation visited the Supreme Court, the Labor Court of Santiago, and the Faculty of Law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile. They had the opportunity to observe hearings, engage with professionals, and attend specialized lectures and classes to understand the operation of the labor procedural reform, as well as the advances and challenges of the Chilean system.

This initiative was part of the project *Towards Effective Courts and a Coordinated Labor Justice (TECLAB)*, funded by the United States Department of Labor. It concluded with a working session where professionals prepared a document outlining best practices, aimed at creating implementation guides for their respective states.



Study Visit of the Judiciary of Peru to Deepen the Judicial Treatment of Gender Violence in Colombia, Argentina and Chile

In November 2024, CEJA successfully organized the International Internship Program of the Peruvian Judiciary to Deepen the Judicial Treatment of Gender Violence in Colombia, Argentina, and Chile.

With sessions held in Bogotá, Buenos Aires, and Santiago, the program provided delegations of Peruvian magistrates with the opportunity to explore innovative approaches, best practices, and specialized mechanisms implemented in the region, fostering mutual learning and international cooperation in the fight against gender violence.

The delegations participated in presentations by specialists in the judicial treatment of gender violence and officials from various justice institutions in the three countries. Additionally, they took guided visits to specialized units of public prosecutors, criminal and family jurisdictions, observing hearings, precautionary measures centers, and arbitration and mediation institutions.



Events organized by CEJA

•Side Event “Women’s rights in rural areas and their access to justice in the Americas”

In June 2024, in Asunción, Paraguay, and within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), CEJA organized the event “Women’s Rights in Rural Areas and Their Access to Justice in the Americas,” in partnership with the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CIM-OAS, and the Government of Paraguay.

The event provided a platform for discussing and exchanging views on the challenges of access to justice and the social inequalities faced by women living in rural areas across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The following authorities participated in the event: the Minister of Women of Paraguay, Cynthia Figueredo; the Minister of Women of Panama, Juana Herrera Araúz; the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, Víctor Alfredo Verdún Bitar; the Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Annette Walter; and the Executive Secretary of the CIM, Annette Walter. CEJA was represented by the President of the Board of Directors, María Victoria Rivas; Councilor Cecilia Barrios; and Executive Director, Nataly Ponce.

A total of 724 people attended 200 participants in person and 524 virtually through CEJA’s platforms. The event was broadcast in Spanish, English, and Portuguese.



- **Side Event “Security of Judges and Prosecutors against Organized Crime in the Americas”**

In June 2024, within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), CEJA organized the event “Security of Judges and Prosecutors Against Organized Crime in the Americas” in collaboration with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) and the Center for Judicial Studies (CEJ) in Asunción, Paraguay.

The event focused on the security challenges faced by prosecutors and public ministry officials in the region, whose independence and rights are threatened by organized crime and other criminal organizations.

Authorities participating in the event included the President of the National Association of Judges of Paraguay, Delio Vera; the President of the Association of Prosecutors of Paraguay, Augusto Salas; and the Head of the Unit for the Security of Prosecutors and Officials of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile, Emilio Rodríguez. CEJA was represented by the President of the Board of Directors, María Victoria Rivas; Councilor Cecilia Barrios; and Executive Director, Nataly Ponce.

A total of 403 people attended the event—100 in person and 303 virtually through CEJA’s platforms. The event was broadcast in Spanish and English.



Side Event “Inter-American Principles, Civil Society and Freedom of Association”

In June 2024, within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), CEJA held the event “Inter-American Principles, Civil Society, and Freedom of Association” in collaboration with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) and the Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF) in Asunción, Paraguay.

The event addressed the challenges faced by civil society in exercising its freedoms and rights in a Latin American context, where democracy is often undermined by populist leaders and measures that restrict the fundamental principles of a state governed by law.

The event featured participation from the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association, Gina Romero; the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the IACHR, Pedro Vaca; and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Justice, Enrique Roig. CEJA was represented by the President of the Board of Directors, María Victoria Rivas; Councilor Cecilia Barrios; and Executive Director, Nataly Ponce.

A total of 433 people attended the event—70 in person and 333 virtually through CEJA’s platforms. The event was broadcast in Spanish and English."



- **Side Event “Conflict resolution paths and vulnerable populations in the Americas” within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS)**

In June 2024, within the framework of the 54th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), CEJA held the event “Conflict Resolution Pathways and Vulnerable Populations in the Americas” in conjunction with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Asunción, Paraguay.

The event promoted discussion on the progress and challenges to resolve conflicts in a regional Latin American context where violence undermines democratic freedoms and generates a culture of conflict that prevents peaceful resolution and the creation of healthy communities.

Mateo Vasquez, an expert in alternative conflict resolution mechanisms; Eduardo Vega, an expert in access to justice in Peru and former member of the UN Committee Against Racism; Terry Ince, founder and Coordinator of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago (CCoTT), and Federico Burone, Vice President of Programs and Partnerships (IDRC), participated in this event. CEJA was represented by the President of the Board of Directors, María Victoria Rivas, and Councilor Cecilia Barrios, as well as the Executive Director, Nataly Ponce.

This event was attended by 291 people, 70 in person and 281 through CEJA platforms. The event was broadcast in Spanish and English.



- **International Seminar “Conflict Resolution Mechanisms: Dialogues for a New Regional Agenda”**

In September 2024, CEJA and IDRC Canada convened specialists from eleven countries across the Americas, including Panama, El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Uruguay, Canada, the United States, and Guyana, in Bogotá to discuss the progress and challenges of Collaborative Conflict Resolution Mechanisms (CDR) in Latin America and the Caribbean. Key topics included people-centered justice, environmental conflicts and climate change, indigenous and community justice, restorative justice, AI and new technologies, and dispute resolution in the private sector.

The speakers shared research, case studies, and experiences that facilitated in-depth discussions on these issues and offered perspectives aimed at advancing justice across the continent. CEJA presented the findings and conclusions from the study "People-Centered Justice: Access to Formal, Alternative, and Community Justice in Colombia and Peru."

The event was held at Externado University of Colombia and attended by notable figures such as Octavio Tejeiro, Vice President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Colombia, and Helen Ortiz, Vice Minister of Justice of Colombia. CEJA’s Board of Directors was represented by Councilors Jenny Murphy and Nadia Franco.

This event was attended by 700 people, 200 in person and 525 through CEJA platforms. The event was broadcast in Spanish and English.



- **International Virtual Seminar "Challenges and experiences in the development of a Criminal Prosecution Policy"**

On December 4, 2024, CEJA held, virtually and in conjunction with USAID, the seminar "Challenges and experiences in the development of a Criminal Prosecution Policy", within the framework of the Program for the Strengthening of State Criminal Justice Institutions developed by DAI Mexico.

The event discussed the experiences and challenges in the construction of Criminal Prosecution Policies of the Public Prosecutors of the region, taking into consideration current criminal phenomena and the need for efficiency and effectiveness in their prosecution, with parallel respect for the guarantees of a Democratic State of Law.

The invited panelists were Miguel Emilio La Rota, lawyer and economist with a Master's degree in Criminology from the University of Oxford, Rodrigo Honores, Coordinator of the Studies Area of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Chile, Gerardo Márquez, former Prosecutor of the State of Coahuila, Mexico, and Javiera Domange Pfeng, researcher at CEJA.

The event was broadcast live on YouTube and viewed by 446 people.



"Desafíos y experiencias en la elaboración de una Política de Persecución Penal"

¿Dónde y cuándo?

4 de diciembre
 12:00 horas México
 15:00 horas Chile
 13:00 horas Colombia

Transmisión online por Canal de YouTube de CEJA

 Miguel La Rota Abogado y economista. Maestría en política pública de la Universidad de Columbia y Máster en criminología de la Universidad de Oxford.	 Rodrigo Honores Abogado. Coordinador del Área de Estudios de la División de Estudios de la Fiscalía Nacional del Ministerio Público de Chile.	 Gerardo Márquez Ex Fiscal General del Estado de Coahuila de México. Maestría en Ciencias Penales por la Universidad Autónoma de la Laguna.	 Javiera Domange Socióloga de la Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Investigadora del Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas.
--	--	--	--




DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas

CEJA participation in events

Presentation by CEJA Executive Director at IDRC seminars in Ottawa, Canada

At the invitation of IDRC, CEJA Executive Director Nataly Ponce participated in two in-person events in Ottawa, Canada.

First, she took part in the seminar "Cooperation Canada's International Cooperation Futures Forum," where she spoke at the session "The Future is Digital: Leveraging AI for Localized Development." In her presentation, the Executive Director discussed the challenges of using AI in justice systems across Latin America. She highlighted several initiatives that CEJA has monitored in various countries, such as AI applications for citizen guidance, early case qualification, and identifying patterns in criminal cases. She also reflected on the critical issue of algorithmic biases and explored how new technological tools can help address the significant problem of judicial congestion.

Secondly, she participated in the "2024 OECD Global Forum on Equal Access to Justice," organized by the OECD and IDRC. During this seminar, she presented the quantitative data collected and analyzed in the study "People-Centered Justice: Access to Formal, Alternative, and Community Justice in Colombia and Peru," which was developed based on information gathered through a joint project between CEJA and IDRC.



- **Presentation at the Closing Ceremony of the Diploma in Negotiation and Mediation at the University of Chile**

•
Lorena Espinosa Olguín, Director of Studies and Training at CEJA, participated in the closing of the 5th edition of the Diploma in Negotiation and Mediation at the University of Chile, where she delivered a presentation titled "Collaborative Mechanisms in Latin America: Diagnosis and Projection."

In her presentation, she provided a detailed analysis of collaborative conflict resolution mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean. This presentation aligns with one of CEJA's priority areas, where she has conducted significant studies, including qualitative and quantitative data collection in Colombia and Peru. She also presented a public policy proposal aimed at strengthening MASC (Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms) in the region.



- **Participation in the Workshop on Judicial Ethics, Open Justice and Judicial Transparency, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**

CEJA participated in the Workshop on Judicial Ethics, Open Justice and Judicial Transparency, organized by the United Nations Office on Crime (UNODC), the National Association of Magistrates and the Judicial Academy of Chile.

As a CEJA researcher, Rodrigo Nakada was invited as an observer of this important initiative, along with 15 magistrates.

At the workshop, participants reflected on judicial ethics in the practice of public office, addressing topics such as judicial integrity, open justice and transparency, in addition to forming work groups that contributed to the Guide to good judicial practices in ethics, which is in the process of being prepared by the institutions organizing the activity.



Working meetings

Meeting with Meg Satterthwaite, United Nations Special Rapporteur on judicial independence

In July 2024, CEJA Executive Director Nataly Ponce met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers during her visit to Chile, where she held discussions with State officials and representatives of international organizations and civil society on good practices and challenges regarding the independence of judges and lawyers.

The challenges related to the role of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals in the career path of judges in Chile were discussed. The CEJA Executive Director emphasized the importance of ensuring the autonomy not only of judges, but also of prosecutors, whose role is crucial in the face of organized crime and corruption.



- **Meeting with Lisa LeSage, Director of Justice Programs at USAID Costa Rica**

In September 2024, CEJA welcomed Lisa LeSage, Director of Justice Programs at USAID Costa Rica, in Santiago, Chile. They discussed restorative justice, complex criminality, access to justice in areas far from urban centers, and violence against women, seeking common ground and planning possible collaborations.



Visit from a delegation of the Center for Research on Democracy (CIDEMO) at the University of Oriente, El Salvador

◆
In November 2024, CEJA hosted a delegation from the Center for Research on Democracy (CIDEMO) at the Universidad de Oriente in El Salvador. During the event, we discussed CIDEMO's citizen awareness project in the departments of Morazán and La Unión, aimed at equipping civil society with tools and knowledge. The CEJA team shared the institution's history and the territorial and public policy approaches guiding our research and projects, with a particular focus on self-composed dispute resolution methods and community-driven data collection.



Institutional Strengthening

OAS Resolution AG/RES 3029 (LIV-0/24) commemorating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the creation of CEJA

This important resolution by the Organization of American States (OAS) recognizes CEJA as 'the OAS agency specialized in justice systems. It highlights CEJA's technical excellence in promoting, training, and monitoring justice reforms to ensure oral proceedings, transparency, speed, and equality, as well as enhancing the effectiveness of criminal prosecution and addressing crime, corruption, and violence across the continent. The resolution also outlines the creation of a roadmap to increase CEJA's visibility, foster collaboration with other OAS bodies, and ensure institutional sustainability.



OAS RESOLUTION

ASAMBLEA GENERAL

AG

QUINCUAGÉSIMO CUARTO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES
Del 26 al 28 de junio de 2024
Asunción, Paraguay

OEA/Ser.P
AG/doc.5832/24 rev. 4
27 junio 2024
Original: español

CALENDARIO
DEL QUINCUAGÉSIMO CUARTO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES
DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL
(Aprobado en la primera sesión plenaria, celebrada el 27 de junio de 2024)

Miércoles, 26 de junio de 2024

1:00 p.m. a 2:10 p.m. *Los derechos de las mujeres en las zonas rurales y su acceso a la justicia*
([AG/CP/INF. 808//24](#)) ([AG/CP/INF. 810/24](#))
Organizador(es): CEJA y Gobierno del Paraguay, Gobierno de Alemania, CIM
Lugar: Salón Medallistas, Comité Olímpico Paraguayo

6:00 p.m. a 8:00 p.m. *Principios interamericanos, sociedad civil y libertad de asociación*
([AG/CP/INF. 808//24](#))
Organizador(es): CEJA
Lugar: Sheraton Asunción Hotel - Salón Río Apa (Aviadores Del Chaco 2066, Asunción)

Jueves, 27 de junio de 2024

9:00 a.m. a 11:00 a.m. *Seguridad de jueces y fiscales frente al crimen organizado en las Américas* ([AG/CP/INF. 808//24](#))
Organizador(es): CEJA
Lugar: Hotel La Misión (Dr. Juan Eulogio Estigarribia 4990, Asunción)

12:00 p.m. a 1:50 p.m. *Vías de solución de conflictos y poblaciones vulnerables en las Américas*
([AG/CP/INF. 808//24](#))
Organizador(es): CEJA
Lugar: Sheraton Asunción Hotel - Salón Río Apa (Aviadores Del Chaco 2066, Asunción)

Participation of CEJA in the plenary session of the OAS General Assembly

At the 54th General Assembly of the OAS, María Victoria Rivas, President of the Board of Directors of JSCA, presented the history and trajectory of the institution to the representatives of the member states, in addition to explaining the priority areas in which the institution works and the main projects it develops on the continent.



Participation of CEJA in the meeting of the OAS Committee on Political and Juridical Affairs

In September, the OAS CAPJ met in Guatemala, where the Executive Director of JSCA participated virtually in the event, presenting JSCA's history and work in the region and highlighting opportunities for collaboration and synergy with other OAS bodies.



Framework Agreement with the OAS and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

- ♦ In 2024, a Framework Agreement was signed with the OAS to facilitate collaborative processes with the IACHR.

This Agreement was necessary for CEJA to be able to present a proposal to the IACHR for the use of CEJACAMPUS. It is also the basis for CEJA to promote joint activities with the IACHR.



Agreement with the Attorney General's Office of Colombia

In 2024, Margarita Cabello Blanco, Attorney General of Colombia, visited the CEJA office in Santiago, Chile. During the visit, key issues related to justice systems across the continent were discussed, with a particular focus on the need for comprehensive policies with a gender perspective, access to justice for vulnerable populations, and potential areas for collaboration following the signing of the agreement.

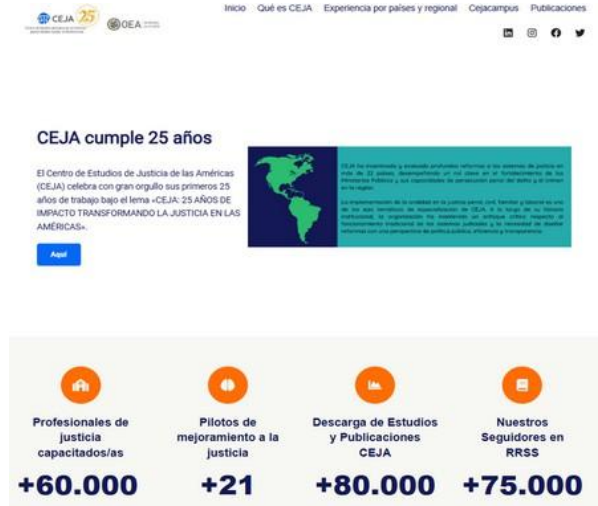


Cooperation agreements 2024

♦ Institution	Country	Date	Objective
Judicial Branch	Perú	03-mar	Adenda nro. 001 al Acuerdo de Cooperación Internacional
Board of Federal Oral Courts of the Argentine Republic (JUTOF)	Argentina	20-mar	Acuerdo Cooperación
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)	Bolivia	05-jul	Convenio Marco de Cooperación
Council of the Judiciary of the City of Buenos Aires (CMCABA)	Argentina	04-abr	Convenio Marco de Cooperación
National Commission of Superior Courts of Justice of the United Mexican States	México	10-jul	Acuerdo CNT-17-02
Center for Judicial Studies	Paraguay	25-jul	Convenio Marco de Cooperación Institucional
INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION (IJM)	Bolivia	14-ago	Acuerdo de cooperación en el marco del proyecto "Curso Virtual especializado sobre litigación oral"
General Secretariat of the OAS	Regional	05-dic	Acuerdo de cooperación

New CEJA website design

In 2024, as part of JSCA's institutional strengthening, the redesign of its website began, with a special focus on highlighting JSCA's regional impact, key themes, and achievements by country. The new website is set to be officially launched in 2025, marking a significant step toward JSCA's modernization.



CEJA Staff Training on Project Impacts and Theory of Change

"As part of CEJA's institutional strengthening, an internal training course was developed in 2024 for CEJA staff on project impact and the theory of change.

This virtual course emphasized the importance of project impact in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of project proposals.

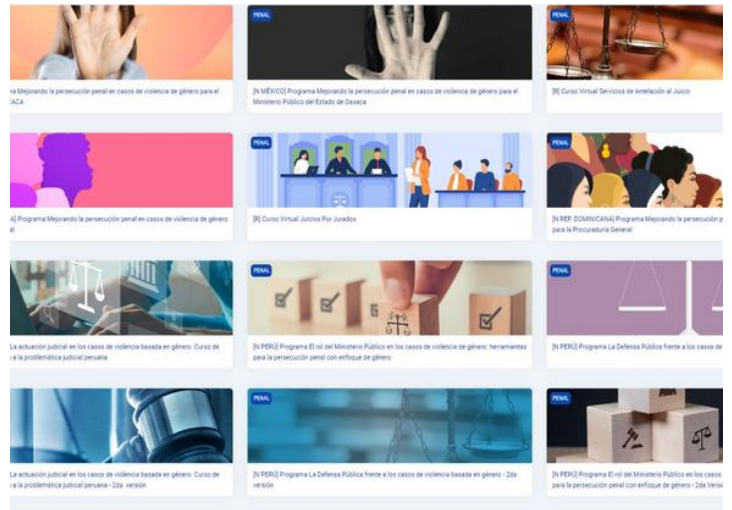
The training was developed within the framework of the IDRC project.



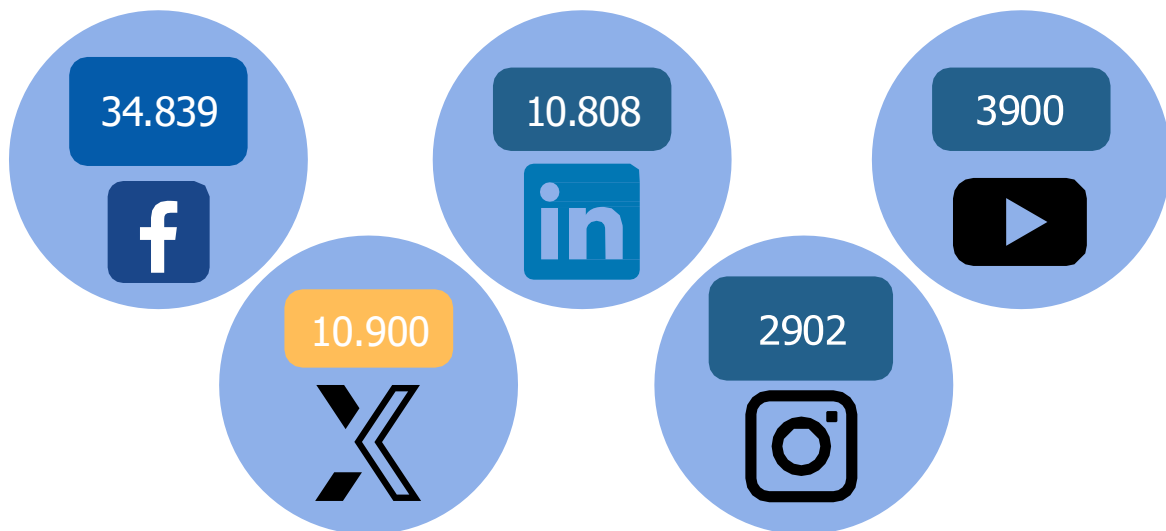
- **Wide dissemination of the new CEJACAMPUS**

2024 marks a milestone with the widespread dissemination of the newly modernized CEJACAMPUS, launched in 2023, to justice institutions and recognized international organizations across the Americas.

Thanks to this effort, CEJACAMPUS has reached unprecedented figures, adding more than 1,600 students in real time by 2024.



- **CEJA's followers on social media**



Internships

In 2024, CEJA welcomed 10 interns from 7 countries in the Americas and Europe. The program began with Senior Intern Douglas Meléndez, former Prosecutor of El Salvador, through a partnership with George Mason University (United States).

In May 2024, two groups of junior interns joined CEJA, focusing on research related to alternative conflict resolution mechanisms and artificial intelligence in justice. The interns included:

- Mauricio Frechero (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Catalina Silva Palma (Diego Portales University, Chile)
- Catalina Parada (Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain)
- Benjamín Vergara (Diego Portales University, Chile)
- Bruno Tapia (Catholic University of Ecuador, Ecuador)
- Emily Oñate (Catholic University of Ecuador, Ecuador)
- Rosa María (Autonomous University of Madrid, Mexico)
- Ivanna Tello (Peru)

These interns presented systematized matrices of information, compiled from various sources, for use in CEJA publications.

Finally, CEJA hosted Camille Vasquez, an intern from Université Toulouse Capitole (France) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain). She authored the analysis document "Cooperation for the Investigation and Criminal Prosecution of Transnational Organized Crime in Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Argentina," under the supervision of Executive Director Nataly Ponce and researcher Rodrigo Nakada.



Financial report

In 2024, the projected budget as of December showed income of USD 1,022,182 and expenses of USD 1,016,182, resulting in a surplus of USD 6,000.

CEJA did not receive the voluntary annual contribution from Chile in 2024, nor was it received in 2023.

INCOMES		
PROJECTS	USD	%
IDRC	1,022.182	100%
GIZ VARIUOS		
TRAINING. MEXICO II		
MP CHILE		
PROJEC. CAPACI. FAM PJ		
PILOT FAM		
PLAN MP		
PROJEC. ASCENSOS MP		
PROJEC MEXICO PJ		
TRAINING PARAGUAY		
SENAME		
TRAINING PJ NAYARIT		
TRAINING INTERNATIONAL AND VISITS		
TRAINING QUERETARO		
OPCAT		
OTTHER VARIOUS PROJECTS		
TOTAL INCOME PROJECTS		
SUB TOTAL		
CHILEAN CONTRIBUTION	-	0%
TOTAL	1,022.182	100%

EXPENDITURES ACTIVITIES			
FUENTES/ SOURCES	ACTIVITIES		
	STUDIES	TRAINING	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IDRC	117,650 (17%)	514,000 (76%)	41,150 (7%)
GIZ			
TRAINING . MEXICO II			
M. PUBLICO DE CHILE			
PROJEC. CAPACI. FAM PJ			
PILOT FAMILIA			
PLAN MP			
PROJEC. ASCENSOS MP			
PROJEC. MEXICO PJ			
TRAINING PARAGUAY			
TRAINING NAYARIT			
OTHER PROJECTS			
TOTAL	672,882		
EXPENDITURES OPERATIONS			
FUENTES/ SOURCES	PROJECTS	SFOP	CHILEAN CONTRIBUTION
	343,300	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			1,016.182



Annual Report 2024

Justice Studies Center of the Americas



JSCA

Justice Studies Center of the Americas