

## CASE TRACKING AND PERFORMANCE SYSTEM FOR COSTA RICAN NARCOTRAFFIC PROSECUTORS

Project Implemented by Florida International University, Center for the  
Administration of Justice and its subcontractor, Master Lex.

### Second brief progress report to INL October 1 to November 15, 2010

These are the main achievements since those reported in the First Quarterly Report, covering the period October 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010.

#### 1. Briefing for the new Attorney General.



**FIU/ML Team with new Costa Rican Attorney General.** (Right) Country Project Director, Daniel Gonzalez; FIU/CAJ Senior Technical Advisor, Tirza Rivera-Cira, Ana Carazo; Costa Rican Attorney General, Jorge Chavarria (center); (left) Master Lex Vice-President, Mauricio Chotocruz, Master Lex Project Coordinator, Rodolfo Arias; FIU/CAJ (picture taken by Deputy Country Director, Carmen Rodriguez, also present).

On October 27, 2010, FIU informed the newly appointed Attorney General, Jorge Chavarria, of the scope of the Project for Case Tracking and Performance Systems for Costa Rican Narcotrafic Prosecutors, introduced the project team and provided him a progress report on the current situation of the project. The Attorney General showed great interest in the project and informed the FIU/ML team about his ideas for better organizing his Office. The main ideas are the combination of the Adjunct Prosecutor Office for Narcotraficking and the Adjunct Prosecutor Office for Organized Crime into one unit, the strengthening of the Narcotraficking Office in San Jose, and not expanding prosecutorial narcotraficking offices in the regions. He made the commitment to meet in a month with FIU staff to present a detailed plan for the reorganization of the Attorney General's Office.

## **2. Visit of US Embassy Officials to the project's offices and request for proposal on possible increased funding needs.**



On October 27, Leah Cato, US Embassy Political/Narcotics Affairs Officer; Marcelyn Sanchez, Narcotics Affairs Officer and Daniel Zambrano, Political Officer visited the project offices at Master Lex headquarters in Barrio Escalante, 100 meters East of “El Farolito.” As result of this meeting and the FIU/ML meeting with the new Attorney General, Ms. Cato requested that FIU provide views

about possible increased funding requirements, as a result of the expected merger of the Narcotics and Organized Crime Units or of Attorney General Chavarria's priorities. FIU agreed to send a proposal once the Attorney General defines his agenda for reorganization.

## **3. First training activity.**



Participants and invited experts (Daniel Gonzalez and Mario Houed) to the first training activity on direct examination and cross examination at trial.

On October 25 and 26, 2010 the first training round table took place. The invited experts were Daniel Gonzalez, the Country Project Director and Mario Houed, international consultant in Criminal and Criminal Procedures Law and former Costa Rican Supreme Court judge. The presentations of both were graded unanimously as excellent by the participants. The topic was the trial direct and cross examination of witnesses at trial. Sixty-two prosecutors attended the activity. Fifty-two were from the Adjunct Prosecutor Office of Narcotrafficking and the Adjunct Prosecutor Office of

Organized Crime. Although the invitations were issued with sufficient advance time, ten prosecutors from these two offices could not attend because of urgent activities that could not be postponed. Therefore, their spaces were used by prosecutors from other Adjunct Prosecutor Offices. 96% of the participants graded the materials received in advance in a CD as excellent. 90% considered that the round table satisfied their expectations, but 84% considered that a round table (four hours) is not enough to cover all their questions on the subject. All of them felt they need more training; some of the topics mentioned were: strategies to plan an investigation and a trial, production and treatment of evidence; appellate briefs and motions, preparation of trial closing arguments and international trials. Many of them mentioned the need to focus topics through case study.