

# DE JURE: DATA AND EVIDENCE FOR JUSTICE REFORM

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## RATIONALE

Justice practitioners argue that efficient, fair, and accessible justice systems promote peace and security, encourage investment and growth, and provide fundamental protections to citizens. Consequently, governments around the world, and international donors such as the World Bank, have invested substantially in justice systems with the intent to lower barriers to access, reduce delays, tackle corruption, and improve the quality of decisions.

Yet we know little about whether these investments are delivering on their promise – in part, because data is typically hard to access, and few agree on the metrics by which to measure success in the justice sector. As a result, the design of new policies and programs tends to be based on common practice instead of rigorous evidence, and the causal impacts of reforms often go unmeasured.

In recent years, however, governments have invested in smart courts with electronic case management systems and audiovisual capabilities, and conducted large-scale legal needs surveys. Together, these changes have generated vast amounts of granular data on the functioning of courts and the justice needs of citizens, and offer a tremendous opportunity to study justice reform in a way that could never have been done before.

## THE DE JURE PROGRAM

The Data and Evidence for Justice Reform (DE JURE) program is a collaboration between the World Bank's Governance Global Practice and the Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) team. By leveraging the Bank's relationship with governments, the DE JURE program aims to harness the potential of recent changes in data availability to establish a global data infrastructure for the justice sector, and – through rigorous analysis and experimentation – expand the evidence base on the economics of justice reform.

## OBJECTIVES

**I. DATA:** Work with World Bank operations and client governments to strengthen case management and administrative data systems, and pilot a public data depository that brings together key elements from these systems in the form of a series of 'Doing Justice' indicators;

**II. MEASUREMENT:** Use administrative and survey data, in conjunction with economic theory and literature, to develop an empirically-validated measurement framework that lays the foundation for research on the economics of justice reform;

**III. LEARNING:** Work with client governments to tackle priority policy research questions, and to understand the impacts of changes in laws and regulations, information and monitoring systems, and incentives and enforcement mechanisms, by embedding experimental research into the rollout and scale-up of justice sector interventions.

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## DE JURE LAUNCH WORKSHOP JUNE 12-15, WASHINGTON, DC

DE JURE will be launched at the DIME Workshop on Data and Evidence for Justice Reform, to be held in Washington, DC, from June 12-15. The workshop will bring together government officials, World Bank staff, partner organizations, and academics working on justice, to set the research agenda for the program and identify immediate opportunities for expanding the evidence base on justice reform.