Mary Roberts

**Internship Report**

This summer, I completed an IHRP internship in Santiago, Chile with the Justice Studies Centre of the Americas (CEJA), an institution associated with the Organization of American States that conducts legal and policy research to foster judicial reform and increase access to justice in the Americas region.

CEJA is a relatively small office that focuses on one or two projects at a time. Most of the work I encountered during my internship concerned access to justice and access to information, with an emphasis on the use of information and communication technologies in the judicial process. One project that I worked on is a World Bank study on judicial transparency and accountability; the interns at CEJA were able to sit in on a videoconference between the World Bank and judicial actors from participating OAS member states. We also learned a fair amount about the civil law process in criminal, commercial, family and employment law in adapting civil law questionnaires to the common law.

Although most of CEJA’s work is conducted in Spanish, most of the lawyers working there do have some English. At times, I was also able to make use of my abilities in other foreign languages, namely, French and Portuguese.

CEJA made an effort to present us with interesting and educational opportunities beyond our assigned tasks. We learned about the Chilean criminal process by observing ongoing trials and court appearances, and by attending a criminal law lecture at the Universidad Diego Portales. One of the directors of CEJA prepared a seminar for us on the historical development of the criminal law in Latin America and the current state of ongoing reform efforts.

You can access CEJA’s website at the following link: http://cejamericas.org/