

## The Judicial Power of Mendoza, Argentina, and its Access to Justice Policy: The Mobile Judicial Information Center

The implementation of the Mobile Judicial Information Center (CeMoIJ) by the Supreme Court of Justice in the province of Mendoza in 2007 proved to be an effective instrument to strengthen public access to justice. This hypothesis will be explored throughout this article by analyzing the main goals and activities carried out by the mobile center. The CeMoIJ is a mobile, judicial information system formed by two vehicular units (vans) that leave from the Judicial Building three times a week to different areas of the province. CeMoIJ seeks to facilitate and promote access to justice for residents, to provide information on judicial matters, to offer free advice on issues dealing with civil, labor, family, social security, etc., to detect and address problems related to violence, and to assist in matters related to judicial procedures and access to justice.

The theoretical framework adopted is based on the rights of public access to justice and the administration of justice as a public service. Applying these concepts to a state that uses adoptive measures to enforce them means that work must be done to eliminate obstacles that impede public access to justice, especially for vulnerable persons. We will look at standards extracted from conventions, as well as recommendations within the Human Rights Inter-American System to further expand this framework.

The article is structured as follows: first, we will introduce the province's existing problem and the provincial justice system's solution. We will then describe the CeMoIJ experience, which streamlines the participation of the Court, the Bar Association, the Women's Institute, and the municipalities. Following this, we will detail the activities carried out by the CeMoIJ. Finally, an analysis will be made of the sources used, including interviews with the operators in charge of the Mobile Cen-

ter, as well as any statistics that may emerge from these studies.

Based on the following conclusions, it can be argued that – after more than 13 years of implementation – the effectiveness of CeMoIJ's performance as a means to improve access to justice has been proven. This is due to the growing demand for its use, the wide variety of consultations, and the team's multidisciplinary composition. Thus, the population remains informed of their rights and is advised and accompanied by one of the three government branches when it comes to accessing the justice system to enforce them.

Finally, we concluded that given its permanence over time and the quality of its response, the CeMoIJ has become an instrument that strengthens an access to justice. Moreover, with its work located in the region and not in fixed offices, it eliminates some of the obstacles for inhabitants. Even if its final results could be improved, it is an instrument whose replication in other countries is desirable and possible.

**KEYWORDS:** *Access to justice; Mobile center; Judiciary; Administration of justice; Citizenship.*