Legal Education and Reforming the Justice System

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May 26, 2006, Lima, Peru

The Context

- Globalization and increased interaction will affect the justice system
- Globalization is a top issue to law schools
- Law schools: observer or participant in fostering justice?
- SOME HOSTILITY TO DEMOCRATIC REFORMS
- Time of change for political and social structures.
Training for Transnational Legal and Professional Practice

- Need to understand cultural, historical and social context
- Need for evaluating transnational ethics, standards, policies and practices
- Barriers of traditional legal education in the United States and in Latin America
  - US - focused on common law and US law
  - Latin America - focused on civil law and lecture
  - Structural barriers - overcrowding, lack of funding

THE URUGUAYAN EXAMPLE

- Challenges:
  - No fees, no admissions standards
  - Faculty lost to revolution
  - 18,000 students
- Changes:
  - Fees and limited enrollment
THE IMPETUS FOR LAW SCHOOL REFORM

- New laws
- New treaties
- New demands

TOOLS FOR LAW SCHOOLS

- **Curriculum** - comparative law, international law, language and cultural context
- **International organizations** - student, professional, higher education
- **Degrees** – ll.m.’s
- **Exchanges** - student and faculty
- **Clinics and centers** - tools for training and reform
MAKING A DIFFERENCE-PUBLIC IMPACT & PRACTICAL TRAINING

- Direct clinical legal services to citizens
  - To specialized groups
  - To the poor
- Examples of clinics
  - Chile
  - UF/Univeristy of Costa Rica
- Policy impact - centers
  - PUCP/Justicia Viva, IDL
  - UF/CGR

The Impact on Students
- Training
- Fostering public service

COOPERATING WITH THE PROFESSION AND THE JUDICIARY

- Participation in education and preparation of students.
- Continuing legal education for the bar
WHAT WE SHOULD DO

**U.S. Schools**
- Recognize importance of international teaching
- Establish relationships with Latin American colleges
- Facilitate exchanges
- Teach context, language and culture
- Recognize independent and distinct needs of Latin American partners

**Latin American schools**
- Seek needed structural changes
- Foster changes from within
- Help create transnational professional organizations and standards.