



Rule of Law

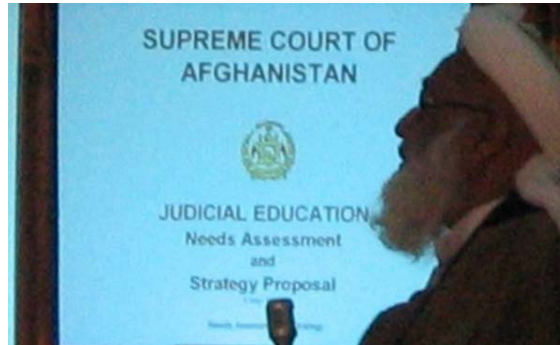
Judicial Education Needs Assessment

On May 4, 2006, Livingston Armytage presented the findings of the Supreme Court's first National Judicial Education Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment included a statistically representative national survey of 157 judges from 31 courts in eight provinces, approx. 11% of the total 1415 judges in the country. Mr. Armytage also interviewed key stakeholders, judges, lawyers, legal academics, civil society representatives, and donors.

The key findings are: 1) a significant number of judges, almost 37%, have not completed any university education; 2) a significant minority of judges, 40%, have not completed any systematic practical basic or "stage" judicial training; 3) there is a system-wide lack of fundamental judicial competencies in legal knowledge, judicial skills, and conduct/outlook; and

4) there are grave concerns about judicial corruption and the lack of professional standards and disciplinary procedures. As a result, these fundamental deficiencies have: de-professionalized the judiciary; eroded public confidence in the courts; and require a major integrated strategic response which significantly exceeds existing short term training endeavors.

The event concluded with a constructive discussion among the judges and legal professionals present as to how the Supreme Court could address these issues.



Chief Justice Shinwari speaks at the presentation of the Afghanistan National Judicial Education Needs Assessment, May 2006.