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EVALUATION OF THE COURT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN HAITI AND THE CARIBBEAN

This evaluation of the court reform program in the Caribbean assesses the extent to which court improvement programs funded by multilateral donors between 1987 and 2000 have improved the efficiency of the region's courts. The study has significance to the national and international institutions interested in modernizing the Caribbean's courts in support of a more effective service to justice.

This paper analyzes the efficiency and impact of various court improvement programs in the eastern Caribbean and Hispaniola. Surveys conducted both in the past and present have been analyzed. Studies have shown that past programs have concentrated efforts to introduce court administration systems in various eastern Caribbean and Latin American nations. However, projects have failed to strengthen national institutions, transfer knowledge to local experts, modernize and improve courts performance.

This paper presents Haiti's most recent court improvement program (1995-2000) as a case study, which illustrates the international donor's incoherence, the incapacity of the state to provide minimal justice to its citizens, and the violation of basic human rights in the prisons. The study concludes with basic recommendations for future court improvement initiatives in Haiti or any other nation of the Caribbean.

- 1) Encourage future legal reform program to promote the participation of citizens and civil society organizations.
- 2) Donors need to address capacity development of national institutions for project's sustainability.
- 3) Improve and strengthen communication between donors, governments and stakeholders.

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