

The Committee

Established as the third branch of the U.S. government under Article III of the Constitution, the federal judiciary is composed of federal courts throughout the United States – including the Supreme Court, U.S. courts of appeals, U.S. district courts, and U.S. bankruptcy courts. The federal probation system, pretrial services program, and federal defenders program are also nationwide elements of the federal judiciary.

The Committee on International Judicial Relations coordinates the federal judiciary's relationship with foreign judiciaries and with those agencies and organizations that are involved in international judicial relations, the expansion of the rule of law, and the administration of justice. It is one of a network of committees established to support the Judicial

Conference of the United States, the policy-making body for the federal courts. The chair and members of the Committee are appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States, who also presides over the Conference.

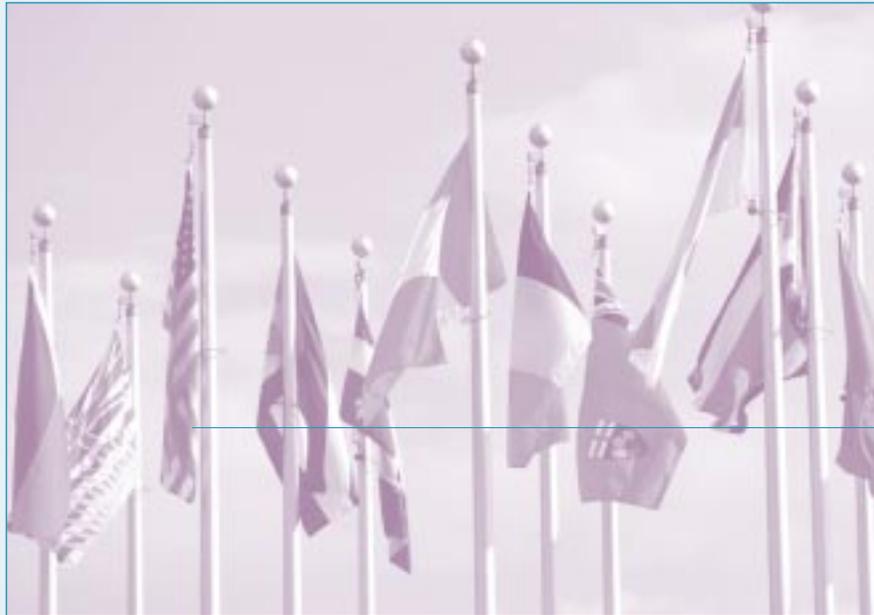
Staff support is provided to the Committee by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the administrative arm of the federal judiciary. The Committee is also assisted by advisors and liaisons from the office of the Chief Justice, the Federal Judicial Center (the judiciary's research and training agency), the United States Department of State, and the United States Agency for International Development.

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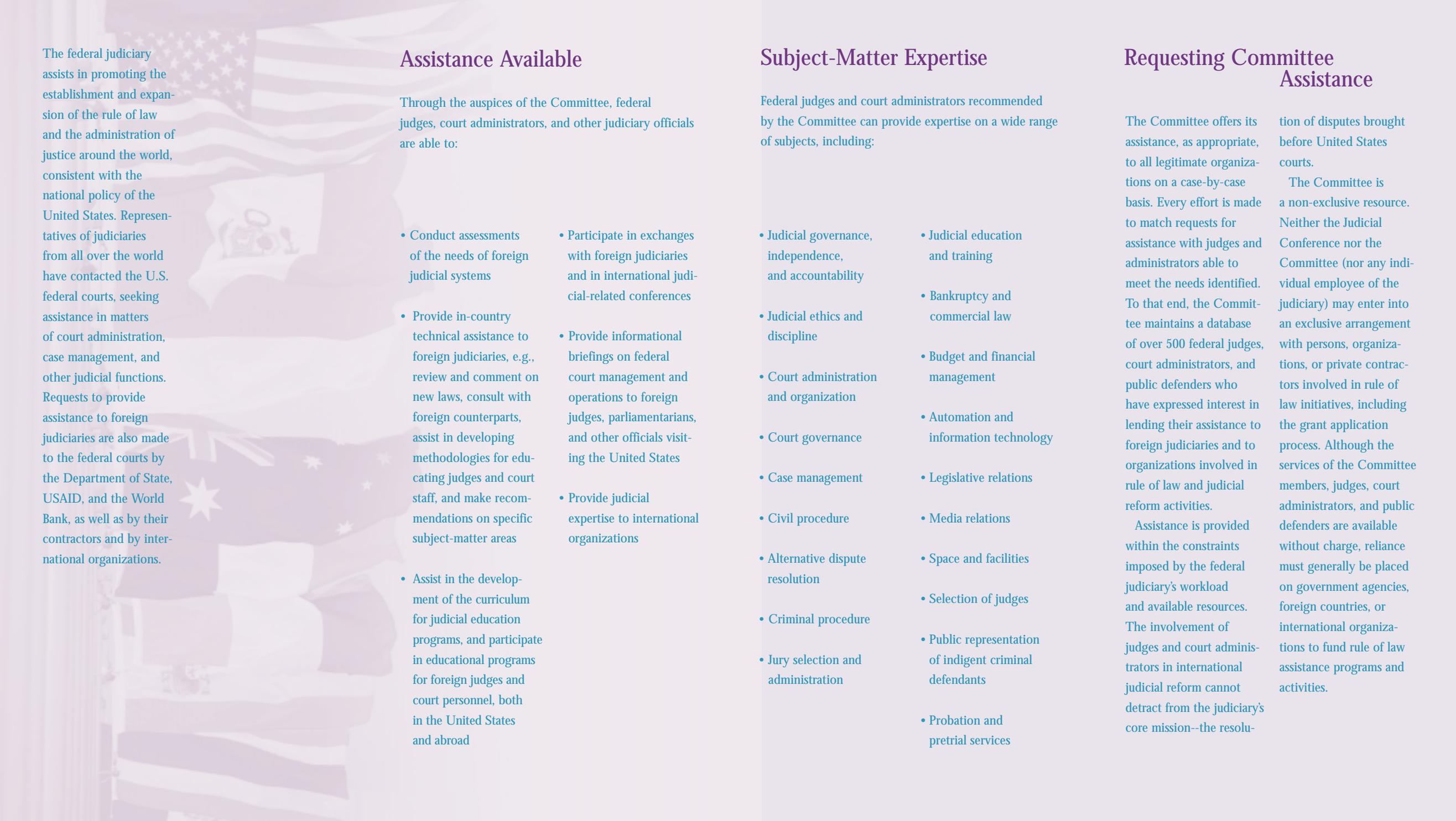
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COMMITTEE ON International Judicial Relations

A Resource
for the Judiciaries
of Other Nations

UNITED STATES
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE



The federal judiciary assists in promoting the establishment and expansion of the rule of law and the administration of justice around the world, consistent with the national policy of the United States. Representatives of judiciaries from all over the world have contacted the U.S. federal courts, seeking assistance in matters of court administration, case management, and other judicial functions. Requests to provide assistance to foreign judiciaries are also made to the federal courts by the Department of State, USAID, and the World Bank, as well as by their contractors and by international organizations.

Assistance Available

Through the auspices of the Committee, federal judges, court administrators, and other judiciary officials are able to:

- Conduct assessments of the needs of foreign judicial systems
- Provide in-country technical assistance to foreign judiciaries, e.g., review and comment on new laws, consult with foreign counterparts, assist in developing methodologies for educating judges and court staff, and make recommendations on specific subject-matter areas
- Assist in the development of the curriculum for judicial education programs, and participate in educational programs for foreign judges and court personnel, both in the United States and abroad
- Participate in exchanges with foreign judiciaries and in international judicial-related conferences
- Provide informational briefings on federal court management and operations to foreign judges, parliamentarians, and other officials visiting the United States
- Provide judicial expertise to international organizations

Subject-Matter Expertise

Federal judges and court administrators recommended by the Committee can provide expertise on a wide range of subjects, including:

- Judicial governance, independence, and accountability
- Judicial education and training
- Bankruptcy and commercial law
- Budget and financial management
- Automation and information technology
- Legislative relations
- Media relations
- Space and facilities
- Selection of judges
- Public representation of indigent criminal defendants
- Probation and pretrial services
- Judicial ethics and discipline
- Court administration and organization
- Court governance
- Case management
- Civil procedure
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Criminal procedure
- Jury selection and administration

Requesting Committee Assistance

The Committee offers its assistance, as appropriate, to all legitimate organizations on a case-by-case basis. Every effort is made to match requests for assistance with judges and administrators able to meet the needs identified. To that end, the Committee maintains a database of over 500 federal judges, court administrators, and public defenders who have expressed interest in lending their assistance to foreign judiciaries and to organizations involved in rule of law and judicial reform activities.

Assistance is provided within the constraints imposed by the federal judiciary's workload and available resources. The involvement of judges and court administrators in international judicial reform cannot detract from the judiciary's core mission--the resolu-

tion of disputes brought before United States courts.

The Committee is a non-exclusive resource. Neither the Judicial Conference nor the Committee (nor any individual employee of the judiciary) may enter into an exclusive arrangement with persons, organizations, or private contractors involved in rule of law initiatives, including the grant application process. Although the services of the Committee members, judges, court administrators, and public defenders are available without charge, reliance must generally be placed on government agencies, foreign countries, or international organizations to fund rule of law assistance programs and activities.