

For Immediate Release
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UF Center for Latin American Studies Receives New Grant from US Embassy Panama

Gainesville, FL - The Center for Latin American Studies received a \$273,000 grant from the US Embassy Panama to implement a new project, "Equal Justice for all in Panama: Supporting the Transition to the Accusatory System in Rural and Indigenous Communities." The project is based on a national campaign to inform Panamanian citizens about the new Accusatory Justice System (AJS) with emphasis on vulnerable indigenous populations in remote rural areas. The project targets indigenous and local residents in two rural districts Panama: Santa Fe, Veraguas and Pinogana, Darien. The activities include the development of culturally sensitive AJS training materials; AJS capacity-building workshops for community members; and a broad AJS information campaign utilizing radio and social media to reach local and indigenous communities. The Center will be partnering with two non-governmental organizations to implement the project. Village Rights International (VRI) brings specialized knowledge in the application of indigenous legislation and the protection of human rights in indigenous rural communities in Panama, particularly in the Darien region. Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo (ACD), a Panamanian non-profit organization with ample experience in participatory planning and research in indigenous communities, will provide in-country coordination and support for the project.

Founded in 1930, the mission of the UF Center for Latin American Studies is to advance knowledge about Latin America and the Caribbean and its peoples throughout the hemisphere. With over 170 faculty from colleges across UF, the Center is one of the largest institutions for interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach on Latin America, Caribbean, and Latino Studies.

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