

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **The World Justice Project Announces New Leadership in Two Key Positions**

Juan Carlos Botero, the highly regarded Director of The World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index, has been promoted to the position of WJP Executive Director effective immediately, announced William H. Neukom, the organization's Founder and CEO. The selection was made after an extensive international search.

In making the announcement, Mr. Neukom said: "Juan has served the WJP with distinction since he joined the organization in 2008 to head our Rule of Law Index. His leadership has made our Index trusted around the world for its impartial measurement of countries' adherence to the rule of law. Through the search process, we saw that Juan stands out head and shoulders as the best person for this position."

Mr. Neukom also announced that Alejandro Ponce, the WJP's Senior Economist, was promoted to the position of Chief Research Officer and will, among other duties, lead the development of the organization's annual Rule of Law Index.

"The WJP is gearing up," said Mr. Neukom. "These promotions will make the organization even stronger and help us to work even more effectively with businesses, government officials, non-governmental organizations, and individuals from all work disciplines worldwide to promote reforms that create communities of opportunity and equity."

WJP Board Chair, William Hubbard, partner in the Columbia, South Carolina, office of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP and President of the American Bar Foundation added: "Juan travels the globe discussing Index findings and all of WJP's work with high-level government officials, members of the judiciary, leaders of businesses and NGOs, and top academicians. His efforts have expanded the visibility of the WJP and elevated understanding of the rule of law on the world stage. Juan's and Alejandro's appointments are an important step forward for this organization and a significant contribution to the rule of law."

The WJP Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup> was launched in 2010 and has been rigorously reviewed by experts from around the world. In 2012, the Index will reach 100 countries covering 93 percent of the world's population. The Index is one of WJP's three initiatives which also include in-depth research and scholarship on the rule of law and the WJP mainstreaming program, an effort to carry rule of law principles into practical on-the-ground programs in scores of countries.

### **Biographical background**

**Mr. Juan Carlos Botero's** previous experience includes service as a researcher at Yale University and consultant for the World Bank, where he focused on developing cross-country indicators and designing several indices of the World Bank's *Doing Business* report. He also

served as: Director of the Colombian Government Trade Bureau in Washington, D.C.; Chief International Legal Counsel of the Colombian Ministry of Commerce; Deputy-Chief Negotiator of the US-Colombia Free Trade Agreement; member of the Advisory Board of the Colombian antitrust and consumer protection agency; Executive Director of the Instituto de Ciencia Política (Bogotá); and Judicial Clerk at the Colombian Constitutional Court. He has been a professor or guest lecturer in several countries, a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Rule of Law, and a Leader of the Innovating Justice Network (The Hague). His academic publications focus on the areas of rule of law, access to justice, and labor regulation.

A national of Colombia, Mr. Botero holds a law degree from Universidad de los Andes and a Master of Laws from Harvard University. He is a Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) candidate at the Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of the bars of Colombia and New York.

**Dr. Alejandro Ponce** joined The World Justice Project as Senior Economist in 2009. He is a co-author of the WJP Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup>. Dr. Ponce has extensive experience in the development of cross-country indicators. Before joining The World Justice Project, he served as an Economist at the World Bank collaborating in the design of surveys to measure financial inclusion around the world. Earlier in his career, he worked as a consultant in the design of the index of judicial efficiency and regulation of dispute resolution as part of the Doing Business Indicators of the World Bank and served as Deputy Director for the Mexican Banking and Securities Commission (CNBV). Dr. Ponce has also conducted research on behavioral economics, financial inclusion and, more recently, on the linkage between economic development and the rule of law.

A national of Mexico, Dr. Ponce holds a B.A. in Economics from ITAM in Mexico, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University.

### **About The World Justice Project**

The World Justice Project (WJP), an independent, non-profit organization, works to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. The WJP's multinational and multidisciplinary efforts are aimed at: government reforms; development of practical programs on the ground in support of the rule of law; and increased awareness about the concept and impact of the rule of law. The Project has three complementary programs: Research and Scholarship, the WJP Rule of Law Index<sup>®</sup>, and mainstreaming practical on-the-ground programs to extend the rule of law. For further details, visit [www.worldjusticeproject.org](http://www.worldjusticeproject.org).

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