

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL:

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UNITED STATES RANKED 18 OUT OF 113 COUNTRIES ON RULE OF LAW

2016 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index Measures How Rule of Law Is Experienced by the General Public Worldwide

WASHINGTON, DC (20 October 2016) – The World Justice Project (WJP) today released the *WJP Rule of Law Index® 2016*, the annual report measuring how the rule of law is experienced by the general public worldwide. According to the Index, the United States' overall rule of law performance places it at 13 out of 24 countries in the EU/EFTA/North America region*, 18 out of 36 among high income countries, and 18 out of 113 countries and jurisdictions worldwide.

The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is the world's leading source for original data on the rule of law. The 2016 edition expands coverage to 113 countries and jurisdictions (from 102 in 2015), relying on more than 100,000 household and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced in practical, everyday situations by the general public worldwide. Performance is measured using 44 indicators across eight primary rule of law factors, each of which is scored and ranked globally and against regional and income peers: **Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.**

The top three overall performers in the *WJP Rule of Law Index 2016* were Denmark (1), Norway (2), and Finland (3); the bottom three were Afghanistan (111), Cambodia (112), and Venezuela (113). In the EU/EFTA/North America region, the top performer was Denmark; the bottom performer was Bulgaria.

The complete 2016 report—including online data visualizations and download options— is available on October 20 at: www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index

“Effective rule of law is the foundation for communities of peace, equity, and opportunity,” said William H. Neukom, WJP Founder and CEO. “No country has ever attained—let alone sustained—a perfect realization of the rule of law. The *WJP Rule of Law Index* is intended to be a first step in setting benchmarks, informing and guiding reforms, and deepening appreciation and understanding for the foundational importance of the rule of law.”

UNITED STATES RANKINGS

WJP Rule of Law Index 2016 performance (1 is best)

UNITED STATES OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 18/113

UNITED STATES OVERALL REGIONAL RANK*: 13/24

FACTOR	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**	GLOBAL RANK
Constraints on Government Powers	11/24	13/36	13/113
Absence of Corruption	13/24	20/36	20/113
Open Government	10/24	12/36	12/113
Fundamental Rights	16/24	20/36	21/113
Order and Security	18/24	26/36	31/113
Regulatory Enforcement	13/24	19/36	19/113
Civil Justice	16/24	27/36	28/113
Criminal Justice	14/24	22/36	22/113

*Countries measured in the European Union, European Free Trade Association, and North America region: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

** High Income countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong SAR, China, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

ABOUT THE WORLD JUSTICE PROJECT:

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law around the world. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of peace, opportunity, and equity—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at: www.worldjusticeproject.org

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