



PODER JUDICIAL



The Judiciary Serving Our People

For a more humane, affordable, transparent, modern and technologically developed administration of justice

The efforts being carried out by the Judicial Power to advance in its modernization and professionalization are duly organized in our **Decennial Strategic Plan 2012-2021**, which is in correspondence with the National Human Development Plan of the Government of the Republic.

Axis No.1: "**Continue Reducing the Delay of Justice**":

To achieve this objective, new information and communication technologies have been introduced in the processing of lawsuits, through a new Judicial Dispatch Management Model, which began to function in 2007, aimed at ensuring that cases be evacuated in a more efficient, accessible and transparent way, through the implementation of public organization management techniques, which relieve the judges of administrative tasks; allowing them to concentrate on their jurisdictional function and creating dynamic mechanisms with easy access to the population for the resolution of disputes.

Through its computer platform, called SISTEMA NICARAO, the management model facilitates the online file consultation for all procedural parties, avoids direct contact between the parties and the judges, which provides greater transparency in the processing of judicial cases; and even enables electronic notifications. This model contains working mechanisms that consist of common service offices for all courts of the same matter and hierarchical levels, which are Judicial Support Offices (Offices for the Reception and Distribution of Cases and Writings; Notification Offices; Hearings, Public Service Offices, etc.) and Procedural Support Offices (processing offices).



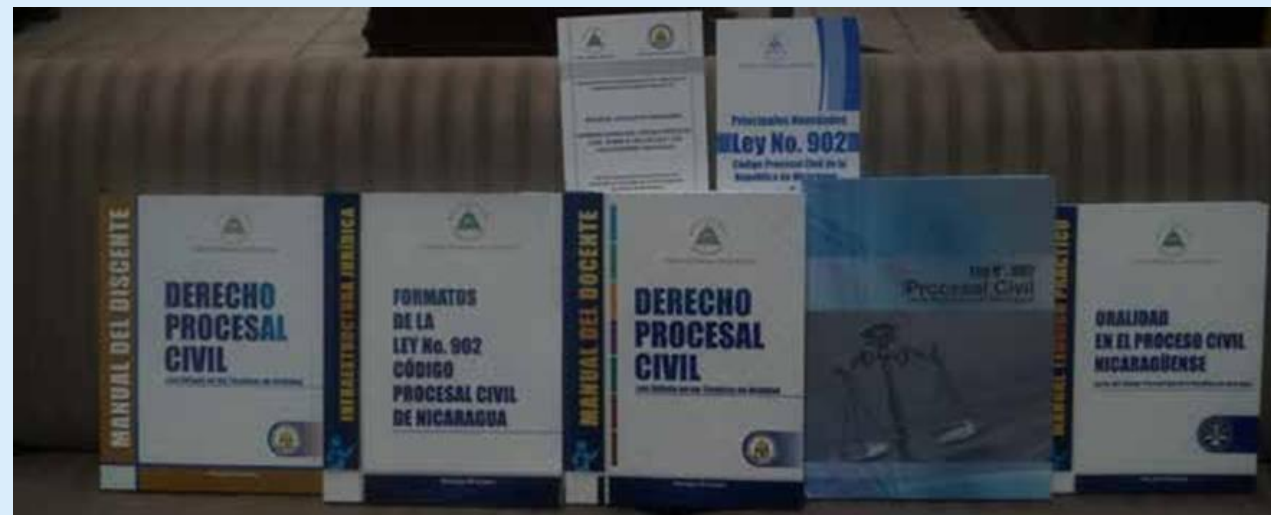
Strategic Axis 2, which seeks to promote greater impartiality in the Judiciary.

This guideline is closely linked to the regulatory reforms promoted by the Supreme Court of Justice.

This procedural reform began in 2002 with the incorporation of orality in **criminal matters, and in the last decade it was extended to work, family and, more recently, to civil matters**; providing greater access to the Nicaraguan population and making processes more transparent, Now all trials are oral and public, governed by principles such as immediacy, concentration, publicity and speed.

The benefits of this correct mixture between a modern and automated dispatch management model with an oral, certified and warranted procedural system, is reflected in statistics. **Since 2017**, when the new Civil Procedure Code came into force, this matter reached the highest **resolution rates**, with **166.5%**. **That year, 26,891 cases entered the system and 44,785 were resolved, including 17,894 of the backlog inherited from the old written procedure.** In the last year reported in the Report of the Judicial Power, civil matters also obtained the best results, with **158.4% cases resolved**; In that period, **25,643 cases were admitted and 40,631 were resolved, including 14,988 of previously pending .**

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Another fundamental component of this axis is constant training, through the **Institute of Higher Judicial Studies**.

In the last 2 years, **721 training activities were developed**, in which **25,374 officials of the justice system participated**, on a wide range of legal issues, from violence prevention, gender and human development, alternative resolution methods of conflicts, drug trafficking, organized crime, human trafficking and money laundering, as well as training activities for the entry into force of the new Civil Procedure Code. Likewise, the third edition of the Masters' Class in Law and Human Development from a Gender Perspective was imparted.



Another key issue for the advancement in the professionalization of the Judicial Power is the **full application of the Judicial Career Law**, which orders the organization of competitive examinations to compete for jurisdictional positions, not only for judges or magistrates, but also for secretaries of proceedings, public defenders and others; as well as performance evaluations that allow for the promotion of the best officials, while sanctioning, demoting or dismissing, as appropriate, those who have deficient results.

In 2017, the National Council of Administration and Judicial Career evaluated the performance for the re-election of **32 magistrates of the Courts of Appeal** with expired terms. On November 3, 2017, the CNACJ convened by means of an internal process agreement to choose **10 vacancies for Magistrates of the Courts of Appeal** within the judicial career ladder; applying objective criteria in all cases, clearly defined in the Judicial Career Law, thereby contributing to the stability of the positions, which has been a priority of the Judicial Power.



Strategic **Axis No. 3: Ensuring Legal Security** includes such important issues as progress in Public Registries, both for Real and Commercial Property, which are fundamental for the economic and social development of the country.

Between 2010 and 2019, the physical and computer infrastructure of the Chinandega, Managua, Masaya, Jinotega, Rivas, Matagalpa, Boaco, Río San Juan, Estelí and Carazo Registries was improved.

In the last 2 years, **569,898** services were provided in the 17 registry offices of the country, of which 257,351 correspond to registrations and 312,547 to the issuance of certifications.

The Integrated Cadastre-Registry Information System (SII-CAR) is being fully applied in the Chinandega, Managua and Estelí registries, while it is beginning to be replicated in the León Registry and it is planned to start the replication also for this year in the Registry of Madriz, Nueva Segovia. SII-CAR automates and simplifies processes; digitizing information and making the provision of registry services transparent, while substantially improving response times for the user population, but the most important thing is that it strengthens legal security on land tenure, which is one of the main challenges in our country.



Also, within this guideline, other aspects of great relevance are included, such as those referring to the processes of incorporation of lawyers and notaries, as well as the disciplinary processes that are carried out against legal professionals and against judicial officials, for faults committed in the exercise of their functions.

Audits were created in the 9 judicial districts of the country;

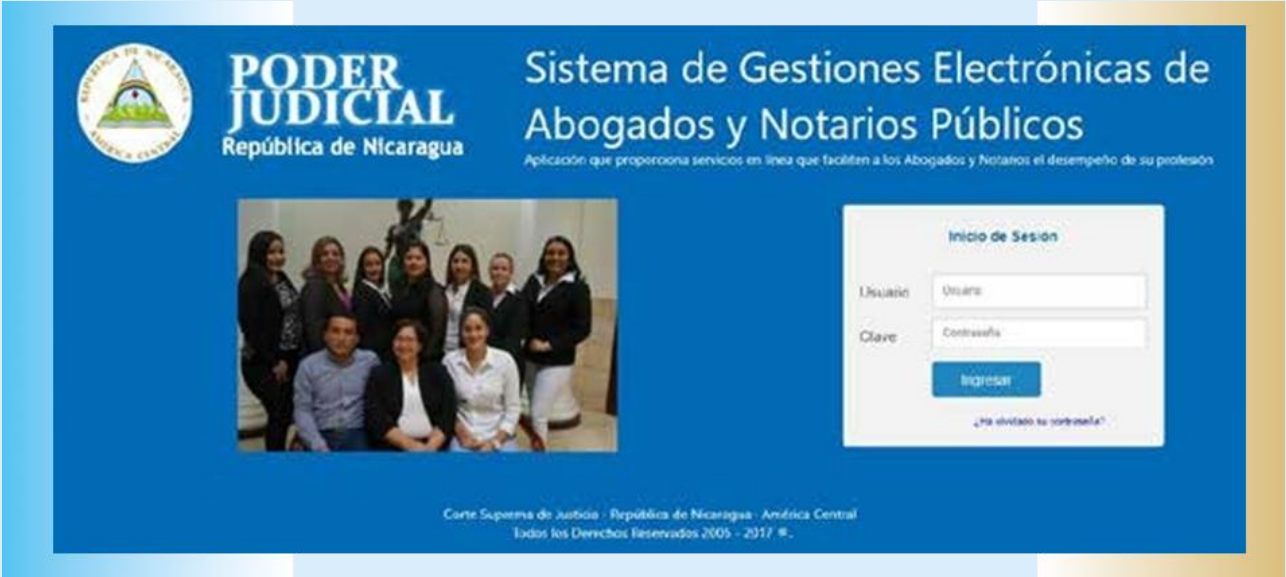
In the new Office of Attention to the Public of the Judicial Inspectorate in the Supreme Court, **11,596 people were attended**; A complaint document was drawn up for 110 users, as most of them have limited resources, which does not allow them to hire a lawyer to represent them; thus giving them greater access to justice.

The development of a computer tool for the “Online Complaint Submission to Judicial Officials and / or Lawyers and Public Notaries” is being concluded. With the implementation of this online service, the following benefits are obtained:

- Reducing the use of paper.
- Saving time and resources for the person
- Access to file complaints 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, providing through electronic means, improved access to the Web Portal of the Judicial Power.
- Monitoring by email the progress of the complaint presented.

The General Directorate for the Registry and Control of Lawyers and Public Notaries has also incorporated computer tools to provide greater transparency to the information that is recorded from legal professionals and provide greater legal security to the user population. Such is the case of the Lawyers and Notaries Electronic Management System, which allows more agile and effective communication mechanisms between them and the Supreme Court of Justice.

This tool is available on the website of the Judicial Power and has 3 modules: the first, for updating the information of lawyers and notaries; the second for sending the notarial indices and, the third, to make requests to the Secretariat of the Supreme Court of Justice, related to professional practice.



In the last 2 years, 29,662 lawyers and public notaries were registered through this platform.

Strategic axis number 4, which consists of continuing to facilitate access to justice for citizens from the most humble and vulnerable sectors, in order to ensure effective judicial protection for national and foreign investors.

Thus, for example, in the last period, the Public Defender's Office provided 241,594 services (in criminal, civil, family and labor matters to people with limited resources); attending 100,106 cases, of them 53,471 criminal and 46,635 family and other matters. As a result of the care provided in family matters, rights were restored to 24,449 girls, boys, adolescents and the elderly, for an amount of C\$124 million 753,401.64 córdobas, which is equivalent to about U\$3 million 480,000.00 dollars.



Jurisdictional	100,106
Penal	53,471
Family and other Subjects	46,635
Non-Jurisdictional	141,488
Mediations	4,960
Notary	4,960
Advisory	131,568

The Strategic Plan of the Judiciary also mandates us to promote and strengthen alternative conflict resolution methods, in order to build a "Culture of Peace", aimed at building social relationships based on mutual respect, tolerance and dialogue.

The mediation service provided by the Alternative Conflict Resolution Directorate resulted in 29,039 requests being received in the last year, 6,115 mediations being carried out, of which 3,969 ended with agreements.

The Judicial Facilitators Service, which is a mechanism for popular participation in the administration of justice, is present in the 153 municipalities of the country; through 4,981 facilitators (s). In the last 2 years the service has provided more than 321,688 attentions to the population, including mediations, talks, consultations, referrals of cases and out-of-court agreements.



On the other hand, the **Institute of Legal Medicine** has become a strategic ally for the justice administration system and, in particular, for the fight against Gender-Based Violence. **In the last period, 200 women victims of violence were transferred** to institutions of the health, social and protective sectors: 29 girls and adolescents, 123 women between 18 and 35 years of age and 48 between 36 and 60.

In 2017, the construction and equipping of the new building for the Toxicology, Serology and DNA laboratories of the Institute of Legal Medicine was completed. It is a modern building, built according to international standards, which guarantee transparency, quality, analytical security and speed.

In its headquarters and the 27 delegations throughout the country, **in the last year 71,868 expert reports and 2,283 analyzes were carried out on biological matrices collected from deceased and living people**, to determine the abuse of drugs, alcohol, psychotropics and other medications.



Surveys	Gender		TOTAL	%
	Male	Female		
Physical injuries	16,542	9,876	26,418	40.6
Psychic Injuries	1,820	12,721	14,541	22.3
Health condition	9,023	824	9,847	15.1
Intrafamily Violence	1,450	6,329	7,779	11.9
Sexual violence	557	3,563	4,120	6.3
Dangerousness	923	29	952	1.5
Mental Health Status	457	184	641	1
Biological Age	319	144	463	0.7
Guardianship	155	193	348	0.5
Credibility	2	7	9	0
TOTAL	31,248	33,870	65,118	
PERCENTAGE	48	52	100	100

A fundamental element in the Axis of Facilitation of Access to Justice has been the incorporation of the gender perspective, which has been done by the Judicial Power, to promote gender equality in justice.

In the last decade, it has implemented measures that have contributed to the protection of women's rights, such as:

The creation of the Gender Commission of the Supreme Court of Justice of Nicaragua, which is responsible for promoting the mainstreaming of the gender perspective by creating the Institutional Gender Policy to Protect and Promote the enjoyment and fulfilment of human rights established in national and international legislation for women, girls, boys and adolescents.

They actively participated in the creation of Law 779, "Comprehensive Law against Violence toward Women", which incorporates the criminal offenses established in the Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate Violence against Women "Belem Do Para". As this law was approved, Specialized Courts against Violence were created, with judges selected through opposition competitions.

Norms and protocols for action have been drawn up for the interdisciplinary teams attached to the specialized courts in matters of Family and Violence against Women, in order to avoid revictimization and facilitate the consistent application of the Constitution, Treaties and Doctrine in cases of violence.

107 specialized judges, magistrates have been trained, who have received a Master's Degrees in Law and Human Development From a Gender Perspective, which has been taught in 3 editions, with the support of the Public Law Institute of the King Juan Carlos' University in Spain.



With the support of UNICEF, three very important instruments were developed to improve the administration of justice in favor of children and adolescents, these are: the Standardized Protocol of Judicial Action for criminal proceedings in crimes of sexual violence against children and adolescents. The Standardized Protocol on comprehensive approaches and legal medical assessment for cases of girls, boys and adolescents who are victims of sexual violence; the Standardized Protocol for the Defendants and Specialized Public Defenders for a Comprehensive Attention for Girls, Boys and Adolescents victims of crimes, especially Sexual Violence.

UNICEF has also contributed technically and financially with specialized training for jurisdictional and administrative personnel, through courses, diplomas and workshops for almost 800 civil servants, who received workshops on the prevention of violence against children and adolescents; In this manner, we can say with satisfaction that the Judicial Power privileges its transformation, not only procedural orality, technology or judicial infrastructure, but also the management of human talent, which allows judicial proceedings to be governed by international standards ensuring the protection of Human Rights.



Another of the fundamental Axes of our Strategic Plan, is the one related to Interinstitutional Coordination.

Nicaragua is a regional benchmark in this regard. Coordination between the different institutions of the justice system began with the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime and money laundering. From there, it has expanded to prevent and punish violence against women, girls, boys and adolescents; as well as the Family, Registration processes and labor rights.

Likewise, there is coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other State institutions, in the preparation of technical reports on compliance with international agreements and treaties to which Nicaragua is a party.

This coordination extends to active participation in international forums such as the **Central American and Caribbean Judicial Council** and the **Ibero-American Judicial Summit**, from which products emanate aimed at modernizing and making the jurisdictional function more transparent.



Finally, there is the Strategic Axis aimed at Improving the Administrative Management of the Judiciary to facilitate the jurisdictional function. Since 2010, special emphasis has been placed on institutional modernization; beginning with an efficient and transparent administrative management, where resources are prioritized towards the jurisdictional function, which is the reason for the existence of the Judicial Power and to facilitate the population's access to justice.

Between 2011 and 2019, more than 42 million dollars have been invested in the construction of 19 departmental and municipal judicial complexes, 8 Justice Houses and auxiliary institutions of the Judicial Power, not to mention the million dollar investments in computers, IT programs, furniture, office equipment, vehicles and many other elements that are completely transforming the way citizens access justice services. So far this year, the construction of the San Juan del Sur House of Justice, the Siuna Judicial Complex, the expansion of the Judicial Complex and the Bluefields Registry have begun, as well as the construction of the Justice House of Masatepe and the complexes for Registries of Estelí and Masaya, which have been put out to tender.



IN CONCLUSION:

The Judicial Power of the Republic of Nicaragua has executed a series of strategic plans to modernize the provision of the public service for the administration of justice; with actions aimed at making it more affordable, efficient, transparent and guaranteed. The most recent of these organized efforts is the 2012-2021 Ten-Year Strategic Plan.

In the last 10 years, the National Council of Administration and Judicial Career of the Supreme Court of Justice, has achieved a profound transformation in physical infrastructure, incorporating technological tools and acquiring computer equipment for the jurisdictional function, which have their maximum expression in the continuous process of replications of the Judicial Dispatch Management Model, which together with the entry into force of new Oral Procedural Codes in all matters, are allowing progress in the goals established.

Undoubtedly, there are still many challenges ahead, since the construction of a righteous, efficient, transparent and affordable justice system for the population is a dynamic process that can never be considered a finished product, there are always things to do, aspects to improve; where the important thing is not to fall into inertia, but to have action plans, with clearly defined goals and a result-based measurement system, that allows for progress in the achievement of the objectives set, for the benefit of our citizens, to whom we are responsible.

Thank you very much!