

Table of Contents

Preface	i
Executive Summary	1
Introduction	11
I. The World Bank and Judicial Reform in Latin America	17
A. Background: The Judiciary in Latin America	17
B. The World Bank, “Governance” and Legal Reform	21
C. The Venezuela Project	31
D. Other Legal Reform Initiatives	34
E. Bank Lessons	38
II. The Venezuelan Judicial Sector	41
A. Historical Background	41
B. Constitutional Structure of the Judiciary	45
C. The Role of the Judge	47
D. Political Interference: Parties, President and Military	50
E. Corruption	56
F. Institutional Neglect	58
G. Outdated Legal Codes	62
H. Access to Justice for the Poor	63
I. Conclusion	68
III. Human Rights in Venezuela	69
A. The Explosion of Human Rights Violations	69
B. Impunity and the Judicial Sector	73
IV. The Struggle for Reform	81
A. Venezuelan Reform Initiatives Prior to the Project	81
B. The Bank and Venezuelan Reform	82
C. Venezuelan Reform Proposals During the Crisis	86

V. Evaluation of the Bank's Role	89
A. Comprehensive Reform	91
B. Government Commitment	102
C. Judicial Independence	104
D. The Bank's "Economic" Focus	106
E. Access to Justice	110
F. Participation	111
G. Coordination of Donor Involvement	116
H. The Project on Its Merits	118
Conclusions and Recommendations	123
A. Conclusions	123
B. Recommendations to the World Bank	125
Appendix	129
A. A Report of the Conference on Judicial Reform in Latin America: The Role of Multilateral Development Banks, June 10-11, 1996, Caracas, Venezuela, and the list of participants	129
B. Letter of Douglas A. Webb, World Bank Legal Department (commenting on a draft of <i>Halfway to Reform</i>) .	147