

IBJ Cultivates a Talented Group of

In 2009, IBJ continued to successfully partner with government legal aid centers, bar associations, and academics to cultivate a new generation of lawyers equipped with the training, resources, and support they need to better defend Chinese citizens in the courtroom.

IBJ operates in China with a very high level of cooperation from the government, owing to relationships with National Legal Aid of China and the Chinese Ministry of Justice first established in 2001, which IBJ has strengthened ever since. IBJ has also developed key strategic partnerships with the All China Lawyers Association and universities

and law firms throughout China.

Even as it maintained ongoing working relationships with a robust partnership network, IBJ expanded the geographic scope of its physical operations in China, establishing a new Defender Resource Center (DRC) to serve the southeastern region of the country late in 2009. Located in Wuhan, Hubei Province, the new SEDRC is a joint effort with the Wuhan University School of Law. The dean of the law school, Yongping Xiao, welcomed IBJ's collaborative approach to advancing the rule of law at the DRC's opening ceremony in September.

DRCs form IBJ's institutional base in China, providing a venue for training, mentoring, and collaboration among the defender community. IBJ's first DRC opened in 2004 in Anhui Province. The next year, the DRC model was replicated and built upon in Beijing, where a national DRC was founded. In 2007, a northwestern DRC was started in Xi'an. In the spring of 2009, a significant milestone in the field of juvenile justice in China was reached when this DRC partnered with the Northwest University of Political Science and Law and the Yanta Procuratorate to open Xi'an's first community-based juvenile rehabilitation center.

JUSTICE FACTS: CHINA

Rule of Law: 45/100

2009 Prison Population:
1.57 million, 119 people per
100,000

In 2008, the conviction rate was greater than 99%. (The combined conviction rate for first- and second-instance criminal trials was more than 99 percent in 2008; 1,008,677 defendants were tried, and 1,373 were found not guilty.)

70 percent or more of criminal defendants went to trial without a lawyer.



Child at a juvenile detention center reading an IBJ brochure.

Criminal Defense Attorneys in China



From top: Jim Gronquist (right) at the China University of Political Science and Law. China Director Jean Amabile and Beijing Program Officer Liu Yujin. Workers at IBJ's December 4th Campaign in Nanjing.

CHINESE LAW STUDENTS SEE POTENTIAL IN LEGAL AID



Children reading IBJ poster at a juvenile detention center.

“Helping hand in hand is the best way to put the theory of rehabilitation and correction into practice.”

Jin Yixiang, a volunteer for IBJ's project at the Yanta Procuratorate's Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in Xi'an, is also a student at the Criminal Law Institute of the Northwest University of Political Science and Law. Yixiang's experience working with the youths at the center has enriched his perspective on legal aid in China.

One client, a boy accused of having robbed a taxi driver, was sent to Yixiang by the boy's father in order to improve his behavior and attitude. Yixiang has met with him often, giving the boy a sense of hope.

Yixiang believes that IBJ legal volunteers at the Juvenile Rehabilitation Center play an important role as mentors by spending time with juvenile defendants who have been ignored and ostracized by society. The lawyers inspire them to become more productive members of their communities.