December 20, 2011

To our friends at the World Federation of Public Health Associations,

As a Co-Sponsor of The World Justice Project (WJP)—sharing your reputation, expertise, and enthusiasm for advancing the rule of law—the World Federation of Public Health Associations has been instrumental to the WJP’s success. Thanks to your continued support, our distinguished Honorary Chairs, dedicated Board of Directors and Staff members, and the efforts of thousands of stakeholders around the world, the WJP has emerged as a catalyst for rule of law reform efforts for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. As this year draws to a close, we want to share highlights of the past year with you and ensure you have access to various resources we have distributed over the past several months.

The WJP Rule of Law Index® has stimulated discussions and actions on the rule of law in countries around the world, and has been cited by governmental leaders, including presidents and chief justices, as supporting evidence of the need to advance rule of law reforms in their countries. It has been referenced in The Economist, The New York Times, The Washington Post, El País, as well as other major media in over 60 countries. On November 30, we presented the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2011 to the Washington, DC community, and video of the event is available on our website. An electronic version of the Index is available here.

The WJP also remains an innovative incubator of projects to strengthen the rule of law and generate reform from the grassroots level. At the World Justice Forum III this summer in Barcelona, Spain, 400 leaders from more than 100 countries designed nearly 50 innovative multidisciplinary projects to strengthen the rule of law. In the report, “From Talk to Action,” you can find information on the Forum’s keynote remarks, plenary sessions, and projects incubated by participants. This report is available here.

These projects continue to take shape and will soon be invited to apply for a new round of the Opportunity Fund. The World Justice Project’s mechanism to provide direct funding and support to rule of law projects around the world. This competition—annual, online, and open to the public—will launch in January 2012, and will inject entrepreneurial creativity into rule of law reform efforts.
Meanwhile, the previous round of the Opportunity Fund has concluded, including projects that provided legal empowerment and access to justice for hundreds of women in Nigeria; hearings at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on the rights of Mexican workers and indigenous groups; and anti-corruption trainings for young engineers in the Middle East and North Africa.

We hope you will review the Index and the Forum Report, and we welcome your suggestions on additional individual and institutional partners from different fields that we should engage. Please address your inquiries and suggestions to our Interim Executive Director, Juan Botero, at boteroj@wjpn.org or via fax at +1 (202) 747-5816.

**We look forward to deepening our relationship with you in 2012.** In the coming year, we will expand the Index to cover 100 countries, transform the Opportunity Fund into a dynamic online competition, launch a new website, and host rule of law events around the world. This will be a landmark year for the WJP and we hope to engage the World Federation of Public Health Associations to continue our efforts to strengthen the rule of law around the world.

Thank you again for your ongoing support as we together continue the work of The World Justice Project.

Sincerely,

William H. Neukom
Founder, President, and CEO

cc: Juan Carlos Botero, Interim Executive Director and Rule of Law Index Director
    Dwight Gee, Executive Vice President for Planning and Development
    Nancy Ward, Director of Mainstreaming Initiatives