



## **Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program Update** *January 2008*

*U.S. DOS/INL's JSSP program seeks to increase the capacity of the Afghan Government and Afghan legal practitioners to deliver fair and transparent criminal justice and rule of law services to the people of Afghanistan. To that end, JSSP advisors work with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice on a wide range of initiatives. In addition, JSSP conducts police/prosecutor training in four provinces and works to promote Afghans' access to justice services by implementing provincial justice conferences, training and mentoring of defense lawyers, and working on a range of other projects.*

### ***Regional JSSP Strengthens Justice Reform in Kapisa***



**Prosecutors and provincial government officials take part in a breakout session at the Kapisa Provincial Justice Conference. The participants discussed the current state of the justice system in Kapisa.**

On Jan. 27-28 JSSP facilitated the Kapisa Provincial Justice Conference. Over 100 government and justice sector actors from Kapisa province participated in the conference. Representatives from the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Justice, and an Afghan Independent Human Rights' NGO led discussions in breakout groups, and exchanged ideas on the current state of the justice sector in Kapisa. Participants provided an overview of the challenges facing the legal system in the province, and detailed shortcomings in infrastructure, education, and manpower. A detailed report on the conference is being finalized for distribution.

### ***JSSP Develops Code of Ethics***

JSSP completed a comprehensive draft of the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for prosecutors with the Attorney General's Office. The final draft code will be submitted to the Attorney General for consideration. JSSP

trainers have also begun development of an ethics curriculum and lesson plans to raise awareness of the draft code.

### ***Regional JSSP conducts assessment of police/prosecution training program***

Regional JSSP teams in Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar are conducting assessments of the Year 1 police/prosecution training and mentoring program. The assessment will evaluate the effectiveness of teaching methods, the value of the program to the students and the program's impact on the students' careers. Final reports from each team will be translated into English and submitted to JSSP Kabul for compilation into a final report.

### ***Regional JSSP conducts Module 3 of Year 2 training course***

In January, regional JSSP teams concluded the first mentoring phase of the Year 2 course and began the second training phase. This training included discussions on search and seizure, juvenile law, the role of defense attorneys, ethics and police/prosecution coordination.



**Nangarhar team leader Andria Kerney and the class in group mentoring. In group mentoring, students are given the opportunity to present their cases and have their work critiqued by JSSP-R staff and their colleagues. This is a useful tool for determining local traditional law enforcement techniques that may be impeding citizens' use of the formal legal system.**