



Effective Criminal Defence in Latin America

Keynote speaker: James L. Cavallaro, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

October 20th, 2015
7pm – 8:15pm, followed by drinks reception

Open Society Foundations–Washington, D.C.
1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington D.C. 20006

Please join us for the launch of *Effective Criminal Defence in Latin America*, the result of two years of ground-breaking comparative research into the rights and treatment of criminal suspects in six Latin American countries.

With data from Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, Colombia and Argentina, this report examines not only how defence rights are framed in domestic legislation and whether standards set by the Inter-American system are met, but also how these rights are implemented in practice.

Crucially, it approaches the issue from the perspective of the suspect, examining access to effective criminal defence, and whether structures and systems exist to enable suspects to effectively exercise these rights.

This assessment comes after two decades of dramatic change in criminal procedures across Latin America; in many countries the process of reform continues. *Effective Criminal Defence in Latin America* provides an opportunity to take stock of what is working, and what is not.

The launch will explore the key findings and recommendations of the research through a panel discussion with the authors, and will be an opportunity to discuss the development of regional standards for Latin America.

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