

Selecting Guatemala's Next Attorney General



What's at stake?

In mid-May 2018, the President of Guatemala will select and appoint the new Attorney General (Fiscal General) from the Nominating Commission's list of finalists to lead the country's Office of the Public Ministry (Ministerio Público) for the next four years. The selection of the next Attorney General is a priority for Guatemalans and the international community since he or she is essential to eradicating corruption and impunity in Guatemala. Current Attorney General Thelma Aldana's term in office will end May 17, 2018; she has played a leading role in prosecuting corruption-related cases. The hope is that her successor will continue to help reduce crime and strengthen Guatemala's justice system.

Nominating Commission's Process

transparency



professional excellence



objectivity



public disclosure



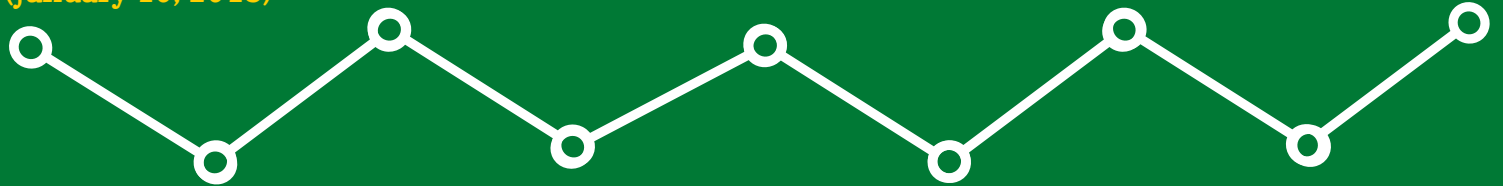
Commission members convene and are sworn in by Congress (January 10, 2018)

Secretariat of the Commission posts a roster of all applicants

Conduct background checks of qualified applicants and update roster

Vote to determine 6 finalists

President selects and appoints the new Attorney General



Public call for applicants

Review applications and determine qualified applicants

Interview, grade, and rank candidates

Submit finalists to the President (at least 15 days before May 17, 2018)

Office of the Public Ministry

Essential to criminal prosecution, respect for the rule of law, and security in Guatemala

Works closely with the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG)

We need to observe and monitor the Nominating Commission's selection process

Weaknesses of the Nominating Commissions

In past selection processes, the Nominating Commission was beset with accusations and legal challenges

12 of the 15 commission members are law school deans, and some of their universities do not have or are just starting a law degree program

Current assessment tools by the Commission do not ensure an objective evaluation



LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM

By Stephanie Heredia