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SERBIA

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2011

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USAID SUPPORTS SERBIA'S JUDICIAL AND GOVERNMENT SECTORS THROUGH A NEW, FIVE-YEAR PROJECT

BELGRADE – The U.S. Agency for International Development will launch a new program on October 6 to strengthen the rule of law, increase the public's awareness of judicial reforms, and prevent and detect corruption.

Minister of Justice Snežana Malović, President of the High Court Council Nata Mesarović, and a senior U.S. Embassy representative will speak on behalf of the new USAID Judicial Reform and Government Accountability Project (JRGA), which will be unveiled at 10 a.m. at the Aeroklub, Uzun Mirkova Street No. 4, Belgrade.

This event, open to the media, will provide an opportunity to learn about USAID's efforts to improve Serbia's judiciary and governance as well as the goals of the five-year JRGA Project.

JRGA will work hand-in-hand with counterparts in the judiciary and government, as well as independent agencies, to:

- Strengthen the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, and the administration of justice in Serbia;
- Increase public awareness of reforms in the judicial sector; and
- Strengthen the ability of the Serbian government, independent agencies, and civil society to detect and prevent corruption.

The Judicial Reform component will make Serbia's legal system more efficient, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the people. It will strive to improve court proceedings and strengthen leadership within the Administrative Court, High Misdemeanor Court, and Misdemeanor Courts.

The Government Accountability component will strengthen the capacity of independent agencies and civil society organizations to promote an open, accountable, and efficient government. This will fight corruption and poor administrative practices and will increase the public's demand for good governance and its participation in public matters.

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Media representatives should confirm their attendance by sending an e-mail to Jelena Đujić at j.djujic@jrga.org. Requests for interviews should be made by phoning Ms. Đujić at 065/ 644 64 64. The media should arrive at the event by 9:45 a.m.

Since 2002 USAID has invested more than \$662.7 million to stimulate economic growth, strengthen the justice system, and promote good governance in Serbia. For more information about USAID, visit <http://serbia.usaid.gov>.