

The International Program

Newly Independent States



ARMENIA



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



CZECK REPUBLIC



REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



SERBIA



SLOVENIA



GERMANY

Judicial Watch’s director of investigations and research, Chris Farrell, met with a delegation of governmental and NGO representatives from [Armenia](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Serbia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Macedonia](#), [Germany](#), and the [Czech Republic](#) at the request of the State Department’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) to examine issues of “Transparency and Accountability.” The program was designed to introduce representatives of these “newly independent states” to the practices and tools used by organizations like Judicial Watch, to hold judges, government, and elected officials accountable to the rule of law.

As set forth in its Mission Statement, “through its educational endeavors, Judicial Watch advocates high standards of ethics and morality in the nation’s public life and seeks to ensure that political and judicial officials do not abuse the powers entrusted to them by the American people. Judicial Watch fulfills its educational mission through litigation, investigations, and public outreach.” Judicial Watch’s [International Program](#) is an integral part of its educational program.

The [Background Notes](#) provided by the U.S. Department of State reports that good diplomatic relations have been established with each of these newly independent

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states and ongoing economic assistance is being provided in support of their move “toward the development of democratic institutions with respect to human rights and the rule of law, and economic institutions which promote widely shared economic growth.”

The development of a strong and vibrant civil society is founded upon the creation of institutions and laws that support democratic principles. By introducing the representatives of these newly emerging states to non-governmental organizations like Judicial Watch, they are provided an opportunity to interact with those who have used and exercised the twin pillars of transparency and accountability in holding to account those who have violated the public’s trust. Further, International visitors learn that the key to the health of a society is the exercise of the rule of law. For Judicial Watch, that has been realized through its application of the [open records and open meetings laws](#) (most famously represented by the [Department of Commerce Trade Missions](#) and [Cheney Energy Task Force](#) lawsuits, respectively), which confront, expose, and prosecute legal, ethical, and criminal violations of the law.

Mr. Farrell met with the distinguished visitors on May 7, 2013, at JW’s headquarters in Washington, DC. A general overview of JW’s [mission](#), operation, budget and staffing was discussed, followed by an in-depth discussion of the federal open records and open meetings laws (the Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] and Federal Advisory Committee Act [FACA], respectively); JW’s [Judicial Financial Disclosure Project](#); [Whistleblower representation](#); and significantly, JW’s [Illegal Immigration Project](#). Mr. Farrell informed the delegates that JW selects its cases based upon “big policy issues,” and the illegal immigration schizophrenia is emblematic of a breakdown in the rule of law. JW holds firmly to the view that lawbreakers should not be rewarded, which is the endgame of amnesty proponents.

The United States is a country where relative peace and prosperity is enjoyed by its citizens—made up of widely diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious groups of people—all governed by an ingenious Constitution. The U.S. Constitution gives civil society the freedom and the mandate to keep government accountable to the people.