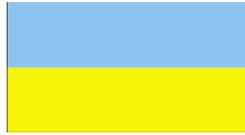


The International Program

Ukraine



At the invitation of the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), through its host, the World Learning, Exchange and Training Unit in Washington, D.C., a meeting between the president of Judicial Watch and a group of distinguished visitors from the Ukraine was arranged.

The U.S. Department of State's [Background Notes](#) for Ukraine confirms that U.S.-Ukraine diplomatic relations were established "in 1991, following its independence from the Soviet Union. . . . The United States attaches great importance to the success of Ukraine's transition to a democratic state with a flourishing market economy . . . centered on realizing and strengthening a democratic, prosperous, and secure Ukraine more closely integrated into Europe and Euro-Atlantic structures." Importantly, the U.S. government provides financial assistance to Ukraine for the express purpose of the "development of a democratic, prosperous, and secure Ukraine, fully integrated into the Euro-Atlantic community...."

President Tom Fitton met with the Ukrainian visitors at Judicial Watch's headquarters in Washington, D.C., on August 6, 2013. He provided the visitors with an overview of Judicial Watch's mission and activities and informed them that as a non-governmental organization, it serves, essentially, as a watchdog over the nation's public life.

Mr. Fitton then introduced the visitors to the primary tool used by Judicial Watch to hold public officials accountable: the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)—an [open records law](#) that provides access to records and other government documents of the various federal agencies. And to underscore the breadth of issues in which Judicial Watch engages, he informed the visitors that it is likely that every [topic](#) they are aware of, have read about in their newspapers, or had questions concerning—JW has probably filed an open records request concerning. And the documents and other records produced as a result of those requests and investigations are posted on

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Judicial Watch’s Internet site. The posting of documents to its public Internet site— together with its [Weekly Update](#) and other [media exposure](#) provided through TV and radio interviews, online print journalism, and other new media outlets—all serve to fulfill its role as an educational foundation. It is a process that promotes transparency and accountability, which in turn helps to preserve and protect the foundations of good government in a democratic republic.

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.” [The International Program](#) is an integral part of its educational program.