

The International Program – Latin America



Guests: Latin American Delegation

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton met with the Latin American visitors at its headquarters in Washington, DC, on June 10, 2008, at the request of the Mississippi Consortium for International Development. The visitors were invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

The 21-day program is designed to provide participants with greater insight into the inner workings of a democracy and "the principles of transparency, accountability and ethics and . . . how these principles are defined, monitored and enforced in both the public and private sectors."

As set forth in Judicial Watch's [Mission Statement](#), "through its educational endeavors, Judicial Watch advocates high standards of ethics and morality in our 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. Countries seeking to strengthen or develop democratic institutions often look to America to

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study its laws and the ingenious balance of powers created by its Founding Fathers. Since 2001, Judicial Watch has been meeting with representatives of developing countries who want to learn how they can stop corruption and demand accountability from their judges, government officials and agencies.

As indicated by the country flags, the Latin American visitors hailed from a broad swath of countries across Central and South America, the Caribbean, and North America (Mexico)—and all hold positions of influence within their countries.

The relationship the United States enjoys with its Latin American neighbors is both challenging and rewarding. Their importance in the war against terror, the illegal drug trade, and illegal immigration is immeasurable. Although there has recently been some degree of animosity between the U.S. and some Latin American countries whose leaders have decidedly turned away from democratic principles, many of these countries maintain a healthy and positive relationship with the U.S.