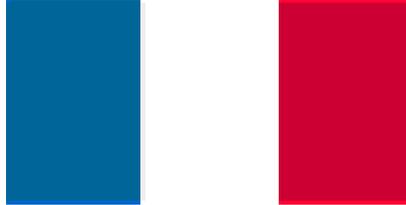


The International Program – France



July 1, 2008

Guest: MR. ALAIN PIERRE CHARLES SAFFAR

Deputy Director, Specialized Criminal Justice, Directorate
Of Criminal Affairs and Pardons, Ministry of Justice

Paris, FRANCE

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton met with Mr. Alain Saffar at its headquarters in Washington, DC, on July 1, 2008. The Institute of International Education arranged Mr. Saffar's professional program of study, under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP).

Mr. Saffar, as the second in command in the Directorate of Criminal Affairs and Pardons (DAGG) in the Ministry of Justice in France, has worked closely with the U.S. regarding extradition requests and in the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral law enforcement agreements. The professional objectives for his visit to the United States were, in part:

- To provide an understanding of the U.S. criminal justice system within the framework of the federalist model and the separation of powers;
- To introduce the roles and responsibilities of key law enforcement and prosecutorial institutions at the international, federal, state and local levels and the ways in which they cooperate to prosecute criminals and deter crime. . . .
- To study relations between the U.S. judicial system and the media; and

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- To study law enforcement issues relating to protecting national security while preserving civil liberties.

In support of the program's objectives, Mr. Fitton was asked to discuss Judicial Watch's role as an "ethical and legal 'watchdog'" over the U.S. government's legal and judicial systems.

As set forth in its [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.

The U.S. Department of State's [country profile](#) reports that "relations between France and the United States are active and friendly." France is considered "America's oldest ally and is today "a close partner with the U.S. in the war on terror."