The International Program - Russia

A meeting with Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton was requested by Ms. Elena Panfilova, through the auspices of the Eisenhower Fellowships.

The Eisenhower Fellowships is an organization that was founded in tribute to former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953 and reflects "his conviction that greater understanding among individuals fosters greater understanding among nations and contributes to peace and progress for all." Among its numbers are "four heads of government and at least 100 in positions of influence at cabinet level or higher. Hundreds of other alumni have led major corporations, NGOs, and academic institutions, or served as legislators, judges, ambassadors, and noted journalists."

Mr. Fitton met with Russian Eisenhower Fellow, Elena Panfilova, on April 22, 2009.

Ms. Panfilova has been active in Russian civil society since 1994. She has served as lecturer at the School of Public Policy and currently heads Transparency International's outreach in Moscow, Russia, as Director for Anti-Corruption Research and Initiatives.

Mr. Fitton discussed the importance and impact of open records laws—the primary tool used by Judicial Watch—to hold government and elected officials accountable to the people.

Mr. Fitton shared his personal insights regarding the need for dedication, tenacity, and patience. Even with the enactment of open records laws in the United States, it takes an organization such as Judicial Watch to provide permanence to the mission.

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.