



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Maryland first lady and judge Katie O'Malley (second from right) with U.S. District Judge Richard Bennett (third from right), and Open World alumni Judge Serhiy Stepanov (far left), who was hosted in Baltimore in 2011, and Judge Andrey Boyko, who was hosted in East St. Louis, IL, in 2006. The judges had just come from a press conference at the Odessa Law Academy.

ODESSA, UKRAINE – A high-level delegation of Open World hosts from Maryland made a reciprocal visit to Odessa Region, Ukraine, May 14–20 to look at rule of law issues there. The delegation was made up of Maryland first lady and judge **Katie O'Malley**, U.S. District Judge **Richard Bennett**, Maryland Secretary of State **John McDonough**, Maryland Court of Appeals Judge **Mary Ellen Barbera**, Montgomery County Prosecutor **John McCarthy**, and Montgomery County Circuit Court Administrator **Pamela Harris**. Members of the delegation have been hosting Ukrainian and Russian Open World rule of law exchanges since 2001 via the Maryland/Leningrad Oblast Rule of Law Partnership, the U.S. District Court of Maryland, and the Maryland-Leningrad Sister State Committee.

Open World alumni hosted in Maryland helped plan the working visit, which took place in the city of Odessa, the regional capital. The main organizers were Deputy Head of the Odessa Region Court of Appeals **Vasyl Koval** and Odessa Region Administrative Court Judge **Serhiy Stefanov**, along with **David Vaughn**, chief of

party at the USAID Ukraine Rule of Law Project. Highlights of the delegation's visit included discussing Ukraine's court system and judicial issues with the head of the Odessa Region Court of Appeals, holding talks with the head of the Odessa Region Administrative Court and seeing firsthand how Ukrainian administrative courts operate, and taking an in-depth tour of the Odessa Law Academy.

The delegation's visit was planned to coincide with the Judicial Ethics Roundtable, a two-day event sponsored by USAID's Fair, Accountable, Independent, and Responsible (FAIR) Justice Project and the Council of Judges of Ukraine. (The five-year FAIR Justice Project is building institutional capacity to orient Ukraine's legal framework around defending citizens' rights.) Both Judge Bennett and Pamela Harris gave presentations at the roundtable.

The delegation also met with the region's governor, **Eduard Matveychuk**, to work on the future of the reemerging Baltimore-Odessa sister city relationship.

In September, Judge Bennett and the U.S. District Court of Maryland, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Towson-towne, will host a judicial delegation from Ukraine.

IN THE FIELD



Above: Rep. Jim Moran of Virginia (far right) meets NGO leaders from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, who were hosted in their sister city of Arlington, VA, in June by the Arlington Sister City Association.



Top right: At the Capitol Hill office of Sen. Michael Bennet (CO), legislative aide Grant Colvin (right) meets with a member of a May Tajikistani accountable-governance delegation bound for Boulder, sister city to Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe. In Boulder, the delegation began most days by gathering at the [Boulder Dushanbe Teahouse](#) (below), a gift from the citizens of Dushanbe to their sister city. Boulder's reciprocal gift, an Internet cafe in Dushanbe, is being revitalized thanks in part to a social media campaign spurred by the Open World delegation's facilitator. (Read more here: <http://bit.ly/NeSkSA>.) Boulder-Dushanbe Sister Cities hosted the Tajikistanis, who also met with Sen. Mark Udall's state constituent services director, Carter Ellison, during their exchange.

