



DELAWARE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
COURT



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RUSSIAN JUSTICES OF THE PEACE EXAMINE COURT PROCESSES IN DELAWARE

Wilmington, Delaware— Five Russian leaders participating in the Open World Program will spend December 12-20, 2009, examining Delaware's criminal and civil justice systems. The Delaware Justice of the Peace Court was selected to host the delegation due to its similarity in jurisdiction. Managed by the independent Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system.

The visiting delegates are Nikolay Ivanovich Antonov a Justice of the Peace in the Muyezerkiy Judicial District in the region of Karelia; Oksana Aleksandrovna Chernomordova a Justice of the Peace in the 13th Judicial District in the Leningrad region; Svetlana Aleksandrovna Mikheyeva a Justice of the Peace in the 10th Judicial District in the region of Karelia; Valentina Anatolyevna Smirnova a Justice of the Peace in the 71st Judicial District in the Leningrad region and Sergey Leonidovich Vinogradov a Justice of the Peace in the 56th Judicial District of the Leningrad region. Oksana Aleksandrovna Nosova from Roston-on-Don in the Rostov Oblast accompanies them as a facilitator.

While in Delaware, the delegates will observe court proceeding and case processing in the Justice of the Peace Court and the Family Court, meet with Delaware Governor Jack A. Markell, Supreme Court Chief Justice Myron T. Steele and the Justices of the Supreme Court, attend a one day educational program at Widener University School of Law, and meet with representatives of the Department of Justice and the Office of the Public Defender. The delegation will examine issues of customer service, technology in the courtroom, and improvements in high volume case processing.

“The Delaware Justice of the Peace Court is honored to have been selected to host this delegation through Open World and the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium”, said Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis. “We look forward to not only sharing a view of our case management and judicial processes, but also learning how our Russian counterparts perform the essential function of an initial jurisdiction court.”

Home stays will allow the Open World delegates to experience American family life. They will also take part in several cultural and community activities, including the Investiture of Newly Admitted Delaware Attorneys, a tour of the world renowned Longwood Gardens, and a visit to Lewes and Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

The Open World Leadership Center has awarded a grant to the Russian American Rule of Law Consortium of Colchester, Vermont to administer this and similar exchanges in 2009.

The U.S. Congress established Open World in 1999 to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and Russia. In 2003, Congress made all post-Soviet states eligible for the program. Thanks to Open World, some 14,000 current and future Eurasian leaders have experienced American civil society and have been exposed to new ideas and practices that they can adapt for use in their own work. Open World also promotes partnerships and continued communications between delegates and their American hosts and professional counterparts. Open World currently operates exchanges for political and civic leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

For more information, please contact Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis at 302-856-5871 or Maura Shelden, Open World Public Affairs Officer at 202-707-6197. For more information on Open World, please visit <http://www.openworld.gov>. For more information on the Delaware Justice of the Peace Court, please visit <http://www.courts.delaware.gov/courts/justice%20of%20the%20peace%20court>

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