

**U.S. Department of Justice Overseas Prosecutorial, Development and Training
(OPDAT) Program Held Two Workshops on Pre-Trial Detention Practices in Skopje
with the Honorable Richard G. Stearns from Boston, Massachusetts**

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial, Development and Training Program (DOJ OPDAT) in conjunction with the Judges' and Public Prosecutors' Associations of the Republic of Macedonia and the OSCE Monitoring Mission to Skopje during the week of March 31, 2008 in Skopje presented two two-day workshops on Pre-Trial Detention Practices. The workshops were attended by a total of 90 participants: judges, public prosecutors and attorneys-at-law from all over the country. There was a diversity of experiences and views presented both by the visiting and the national presenters and the participants.

The Honorable Richard G. Stearns, Federal Judge from the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, who visited Macedonia especially for this occasion, presented on the following topics: the best U.S. federal practices on detention and detention hearings in the U.S. Federal Criminal Process, the U.S. federal pre-trial services and alternative measures. Ms. Monica Macovei, Anti-corruption Advisor to the Government of Macedonia and European expert on human rights and Ms. Margarita Tzatzta Nikolovska, former Macedonian Judge to the European Court on Human Rights, discussed European and Macedonian pre-trial detention practices in light of the European Convention on Human Rights standards. Macedonian public prosecutor, judge and defense attorney presented and discussed national pre-trial detention practices. The topics presented generated a lot of interest among the participants and led to interesting discussions.

These workshops are part of the U.S. Government support to the Republic of Macedonia that contributes to strengthened criminal justice institutions, strengthened rule of law and respect for human rights, and enhanced capacity of criminal justice personnel to combat complex and transnational crime.

Judge Stearns also visited the President of the Kavadarci Basic Court, Lazar Nanev. Judge Nanev pioneered a computerized case management system for his court after he visited the US on a DOJ OPDAT study tour and viewed the computerized systems there in 2005. Judge Nanev continues to personally upgrade and maintain his court computer systems on a daily basis. Judge Nanev's ongoing project demonstrates how a single project can significantly improve efficiency in the judicial system and remain sustainable.



Honorable Richard G. Stearns and Judge Lazar Nanev in one of Kavadarci Basic Court courtrooms



(From left to right) Jovdat Mammadov, Deputy Head of OSCE Mission to Skopje Rule of Law Unit, DOJ OPDAT Macedonia Resident Legal Advisor Cynthia Lie, Macedonia Supreme Court Justice Agim Miftari, Monica Macovei, Anti-corruption Advisor to the Government of Macedonia and Margarita Tzatza Nikolovska, former Macedonian Judge to the European Court on Human Rights



Macedonian participants (judges, public prosecutors and attorneys-at-law) at the Pre-trial Detention Practices Workshops in which the Honorable Richard G. Stearns gave four presentations