

## **OPDAT/ICITAP support Macedonian justice system professionals to effectively implement international fair trial and human rights standards**

May 1-5, 2011

DOJ/OPDAT sponsored study visit to the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg on May 1-5, 2011, supported by DOJ/ICITAP and in conjunction with the Academy for Judges and Prosecutors, helped leading Macedonian legal practitioners **expand** their **understanding** of international fair trial standards and protection of human rights and freedoms. Experienced prosecutors, policemen, criminal judges, and defense attorneys highly benefited from direct sessions with judges from this court, and exchanged experience on prevention from torture, pre-trial detention, admissibility of evidence, the equality of arms, the rights of defendant, the right to an adversarial proceedings. Macedonian participants expressed eagerness to share the invaluable knowledge gained from this visit with their peers so as to prevent further violations of the European Convention on Human Rights by Macedonia. This event is part of the efforts by U.S. Government to support criminal justice system reform in Macedonia, particularly the introduction of the recently enacted Criminal Procedure Code.