

In the Field

MANCHESTER, NH – When the directors of the **Russian American Rule of Law Consortium (RAROLC)**, an Open World grantee, gathered in Manchester Aug. 16 for their annual meeting, one of their top agenda items was a proposal to admit Oklahoma and Ulyanovsk Region into their network of rule of law partnerships. (RAROLC helps support jurists in "partnered" U.S. states and Russian regions work together on developing Russia's legal institutions.) There in Manchester to make the case for expanding RAROLC was U.S. District Judge **Stephen P. Friot**, who had conducted a successful Open World exchange in Oklahoma City for five Ulyanovsk Region judges in 2007. Even before leaving the United States, his enthusiastic Ulyanovsk guests had expressed interest in partnering with their Sooner State counterparts, and once home they got even more of their colleagues excited about the idea, including the influential chairman of the regional council of judges. Judge Friot did the same on his end, recruiting an impressive list of Oklahoma jurists committed to being involved in the partnership and gaining the endorsement of the state's governor. Plans for the Oklahoma-Ulyanovsk partnership were firmed up in May, during an Open World alumni rule of law conference in Ulyanovsk that Judge Friot attended as a featured speaker. Says Judge Friot, "I am convinced that sustained relationships like the Oklahoma-Ulyanovsk Rule of Law Part-

nership, with the associated professional exchanges, will go far to help our two countries maintain a relationship based on the fundamental truth that our common interests and aspirations far outweigh any issues that would drive us apart." The RAROLC board was convinced: its members voted unanimously to accept the Oklahoma-Ulyanovsk Rule of Law Partnership into the consortium.



Ulyanovsk Regional Council of Judges Chairman Pavel Maslyukov (center), a co-founder of the Oklahoma-Ulyanovsk Rule of Law Partnership, welcomes fellow co-founder U.S. District Judge Stephen P. Friot (second from left) and (from left) Open World Program Manager Jeffrey Magnuson and Oklahoma state judge Douglas Gabbard to the Ulyanovsk Regional Courthouse in May 2008. Also shown is Ulyanovsk judge Yuriy Zhadnov.

Making a Difference

WASHINGTON, DC – The Open World Leadership Center's newest staff member, financial officer **Jane Sargus**, is an old hand at financial and budget management after spending 20-plus years working in the field at the Library of Congress. Her impressive career there included stints in the Budget Office, the Congressional Research Service, Library Services' Office of Operations, and the John W. Kluge Center for scholars. While working in these divisions, Sargus developed expertise in financial reporting and controls, budget analysis and justification, and gift and trust fund management, all skills that will serve the Center well. Her

major responsibilities in her new role are developing and overseeing the Center's annual budget and handling the financial management of the Open World international exchange grant program. Sargus has hit the ground running, as she had already worked on financial and audit matters at the Center in 2007/2008 on special assignment from the Library. Sargus says that it was her positive experience working with the Open World team as a "detaillee" that motivated her to apply for the budget officer opening. "It is a delight to work with Executive Director **John O'Keefe**, Program Administrator **Aletta Waterhouse**, and the

rest of the staff," says Sargus. "Their knowledge is phenomenal and their dedication infectious. My own commitment to public service has increased just from being around them." And everyone at Open World is equally enthusiastic about having Sargus on board. She can be reached at jsar@loc.gov.



Jane Sargus

Announcement

Next month the Center welcomes another country into the Open World Program: **Turkmenistan**. An inaugural delegation of four judges from this formerly isolated Central Asian nation arrives in Washington, DC, on Oct. 15. After a two-day group orientation at the **Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts** in Washington, DC, with Open World delegations from Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, the Turkmen judges will head for Bluefield, WV, for a rule of law program hosted by the **Center for International Understanding**. Executive Director **John**

O'Keefe recently met with Turkmenistan's ambassador to the United States, **Meret Orazov**, to discuss plans for future delegations from Open World's newest member country. O'Keefe says, "The people of Turkmenistan are entering a period of their history where real progress on educational, judicial, and other reforms is possible, but by no means certain. Open World hosts can explore with their Turkmen guests potential models to adapt to the Turkmen culture."