

Hosting Corner

RENO AND CARSON CITY, NV – With Kazakhstan having recently introduced jury trials, Open World and the **Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC)** put together an especially timely rule of law exchange in late May for three judges and a prosecutorial official from the Central Asian nation. The delegates got right to work on their first "program day," quizzing U.S. Magistrate Judge **Valerie Cooke** on jury selection and empanelment procedures, and on the role of magistrate judges in the trial process. Judge Cooke also briefed the four on reasons why a jury's decision might be appealed. The appellate process was again a focus when the delegation met with Nevada Solicitor General **Wayne Howle** (pic-

tured at right), who described his office's responsibility for conducting all litigation on behalf of the state in the **Nevada Supreme Court**, as well as his own experience arguing before the **U.S. Supreme Court**. Howle brought in Nevada extradition coordinator **Wendy Livermore** for expert Q and A on extradition procedures, in response to a special request from the delegates. Other trip highlights included a meeting with the state Supreme Court Chief Justice and a working lunch at the Governor's Mansion. Said NNIC Executive Director **Carina Black**, "Nevada's judicial resources are always interested in and highly enthusiastic about establishing dialogue with Open World participants—they con-

sider it an honor to meet and exchange ideas with their international counterparts."

National Grantee: Academy for Educational Development



Clockwise from left: Judge Daniya Kisikova, interpreter Nadya Klein, Nevada Solicitor General Wayne Howle, prosecutor Yerlan Baymukhametov, and Judges Temirzhan Nugmanov and Moryak Shegenov meet in Carson City in May.

In the Field

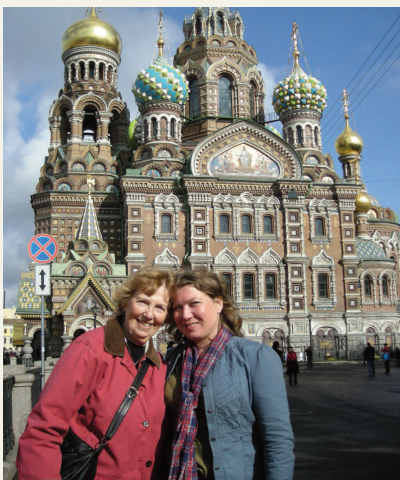
DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN – **Thomas Tait**, the president of the **Nevada Tourism Alliance**, met on May 27 in the Tajikistani capital of Dushanbe with Open World and State Department exchange program alumni for a brainstorming session on how to increase international tourism to Tajikistan. The two Open World alumni—one a top government tourism official, the other a private tourism op-

erator—had both met with Tait during their 2007 Open World exchange on environmental tourism to Reno, Nev. The U.S. Embassy arranged Tait's follow-up visit to Tajikistan. Tait previously served as the executive director of the **Nevada Commission on Tourism**, and since 1993 he has been sent by the State Department to numerous former Soviet and Eastern Bloc countries as an expert con-

sultant. His May 27 follow-up session with alumni looked at barriers to tourism, including visa restrictions, and ways to improve how Tajikistan is marketed to tourists. The **Northern Nevada International Center** hosted the two alumni's 2007 Open World visit to Reno and arranged their productive first meeting with Tait.

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Making a Difference



From left: host Joyce Benson of the League of Women Voters of Duluth (MN) with Open World alumna Yekaterina "Kate" Shuvalova in front of St. Petersburg's majestic Spasa-krovi Cathedral last year.

DULUTH, MN – When Open World participants enter host **Joyce Benson's** Duluth, MN, home, they discover an entire room devoted to mementoes of her 17 trips to Russia and Ukraine, including two reciprocal visits to Open World alumni. Her first trip to what was then the Soviet Union dates back to 1986, when, as a city council member, she was part of a Duluth delegation that traveled to Petrozavodsk to initiate one of the earliest U.S.-Russian sister-city relationships. This international focus has been a hallmark of Benson's professional and community work. Before retiring, she served as associate administrator of the Alworth Institute for International Studies at the **University of Minnesota-Duluth**, and she was **Sister Cities International's** Minnesota state coordinator

for 15 years. She also currently chairs the international relations committee of the **League of Women Voters (LWV)** of Minnesota. It is through the **national LWV** and the local Duluth chapter that Benson hosts for Open World. Her combination of international, League, and local-government experience makes her an ideal organizer for accountable governance exchanges, and she was recently honored for her work at the Center's Host Recognition Event. Says Benson, "Coordinating hosting programs for Open World is among the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. All of the participants have been exceptional people, and our League members and host families have gained invaluable information about how our guests live in their own society."