

THE STATE OF THE STATE SECRETS PRIVILEGE

Presented by WCL's Collaboration on Government Secrecy

November 18, 2009

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

(Reception at 5:00 pm)

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

One of the most controversial parts of the last presidential administration's secrecy regime was its highly aggressive use of the "state secrets privilege" to achieve virtual immunity from suit on national security grounds. This academic conference will gather the leading thinkers and practitioners in the field to explore the privilege's further development as we enter the next decade of its use. It will feature a keynote presentation by noted constitutional law scholar Louis Fisher of the Library of Congress, participation by representatives both of the Obama Administration and of the former Bush Administration, a luncheon speech, and panel discussions in the following subject areas:

- *Role of the Courts* -- a foundation discussion of the state secrets privilege's origin, development, and current status in the courts.
- *New Obama Administration Policy* -- a timely, critical examination of the Obama Administration's emerging position on the privilege and how it differs from the positions that were advanced in litigation during the Bush Administration.
- *Outlook for Proposed Legislation* -- an up-to-date view from Capitol Hill of the prospects for state secrets privilege reform by Congress.
- *Idealized View* -- a wide-ranging assessment of what, all things considered, the nature and scope of the privilege ought to be.

General Registration – no charge.

CLE Accreditation (4 credits) will be applied for -- *CLE Registration* - \$55.

To register, please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration.

For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, 202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu.

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