

TRANSPARENCY IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION: A First-Year Assessment

Presented by WCL's Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 20, 2010

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

(Reception at 5:00 pm)

**American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC**

Since January 20, 2009, the Administration of President Barack Obama has begun to keep his presidential campaign commitment to create "the most transparent administration in history," starting with his sweeping "Day One" transparency and FOIA policy memoranda. After creating high expectations for the full and prompt implementation of his new transparency policies, however, the Obama Administration and its Department of Justice have struggled greatly to do so -- which has been the cause of growing concern and even alarm in the openness-in-government community. This program, as a follow-up to CGS's January 2009 "Information Policy in the New Administration" conference, gathers leading experts on transparency issues together with representatives of the Obama Administration to focus on exactly what has been done, what has not been done, and what most urgently still needs to be done to make meaningful government transparency a reality.

8:15 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introduction -- Daniel J. Metcalfe, Executive Director, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law

9:15 a.m. Keynote Speech -- Robynn K. Sturm, Assistant Deputy Chief Technology Officer and Deputy Director, White House Open Government Initiative

10:00 a.m. Panel One: *Freedom of Information Act Policy* -- a review of governmentwide implementation of the Holder FOIA Memorandum.

Lucy A. Dalglish, Executive Director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; Thomas J. Fitton, President, Judicial Watch; Richard L. Huff, Director, American Society of Access Professionals, and former Director, Office of Information and Privacy, Department of Justice; David Sobel, Senior Counsel and Director, FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government Project, Electronic Frontier Foundation; and Thomas M. Susman, Director of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association (moderator)

11:30 a.m. Panel Two: *The New Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)* -- an inside look at OGIS's start-up operations and its plans for 2010.

Rick Blum, Coordinator, Sunshine in Government Initiative; *Lydia Kay Griggsby*, Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy; *Patrice McDermott*, Director, OpenTheGovernment.org.; *Miriam McIntire Nisbet*, Director, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration

1:00 p.m. Luncheon Presentation -- *Michael Isikoff*, Investigative Correspondent, *Newsweek*, and contributor to MSNBC

2:00 p.m. Panel Three: *The New Executive Order on National Security* -- a discussion of new Executive Order No. 13,526, with focus on both classification and declassification.

Meredith Fuchs, General Counsel, National Security Archive; *Regina A. Genton*, Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Policy, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; *William H. Leary*, Senior Director, National Security Council; *J. William Leonard*, former Director, Information Security Oversight Office, National Archives and Records Administration; and *Steven Aftergood*, Executive Director, Project on Government Secrecy, Federation of American Scientists (moderator)

3:30 p.m. Panel Four: *The Open Government Directive* -- an analysis of this long-awaited keystone of Obama Administration transparency policy, with attention to the breadth of its related technology initiatives.

Clint Hendler, Staff Writer, *Columbia Journalism Review*; *Alexander T. Hunt*, Chief, Information Policy Branch, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget; *Sean Moulton*, Director, Federal Information Policy, OMB Watch; *Burt Wides*, former Senior Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee, Chief Counsel to House Judiciary Committee, and Special Counsel to President Jimmy Carter; and *Gary D. Bass*, Founder and Executive Director, OMB Watch (moderator)

5:00 p.m. Reception

General Registration – no charge.

CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for -- *CLE Registration* - \$75.

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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