

# 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," beginning with his sweeping "Day One" transparency and FOIA policy memoranda. After creating high expectations for the full and prompt implementation of his new policy of transparency, however, the Obama Administration and its Department of Justice have greatly struggled 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. As the first of a series of such programs planned to be conducted by CGS, on January 20 of each year, it will feature presentations by key Administration officials and cover the following areas:

- *Freedom of Information Act Policy* -- a close review of governmentwide implementation of the Holder FOIA Memorandum of March 19, 2009
- *The New Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)* -- an inside look at OGIS's start-up operations and its plans for 2010 with Founding Director Miriam M. Nisbet
- *Revision of the Executive Order on National Security* -- a discussion of this major part of the new openness agenda, with focus on both classification and declassification
- *The "Open Government Directive"* -- an analysis of this long-delayed keystone of Obama Administration transparency policy with White House official Beth S. Noveck
- *Technology as a Transparency Tool* -- a consideration of this potent means to a vital end

*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](http://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](mailto:secle@wcl.american.edu).  
Major support for this CGS program has been provided by the Open Society Institute's  
Transparency and Integrity Fund and its National Security and Human Rights Campaign.