

Vaughn Declaration

Whereas, John D. Podesta began working with the Freedom of Information Act more than thirty years ago.

Whereas, he served as chief counsel to Senator Patrick Leahy on the Senate Judiciary Committee for more than a decade and was a principal legislative counsel responsible for the development and enactment of the 1986 FOIA Amendments.

Whereas, as a White House official during the Clinton Administration he coordinated Attorney General Janet Reno's October 1993 FOIA Memorandum, establishing the "foreseeable harm" standard by which agencies make discretionary disclosures of exempt information, and was singlehandedly responsible for the issuance of an unprecedented companion presidential memorandum on the FOIA as well.

Whereas, as Co-Chair of the Obama/Biden Transition Team he set heightened new transparency standards for a presidential transition and established the foundation for the Obama Administration's unprecedented attention to freedom of information and transparency from "Day One."

Therefore, John D. Podesta is singularly deserving of this recognition as recipient of the 2010 *Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award*.

It is hereby declared under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.