

TRANSPARENCY IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION A Second-Year Assessment

Presented by WCL's Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 20, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

(Reception at 5:00 p.m.)

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 striven 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 transparency policies, however, the Obama Administration and its Department of Justice have struggled to do so -- which has been the cause of continuing concern and even alarm in the openness-in-government community. This program, as a further 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

9:10 a.m. **Keynote Speech** -- *Steven P. Croley*, Special Assistant to the President, Domestic Policy Counsel, The White House

10:00 a.m. **Panel One: *The Open Government Directive*** -- an assessment of this year-old keystone of the Obama Administration's transparency policy, with attention to the breadth of its related technology initiatives.

Thomas S. Blanton, Director, National Security Archive; *Patrice McDermott*, Director, OpenTheGovernment.org; *Sean Moulton*, Director, Federal Information Policy, OMB Watch; *John Wonderlich*, Policy Director, Sunlight Foundation; and *Gary D. Bass*, Founder and Executive Director, OMB Watch (moderator)

11:20 a.m. Panel Two: *Freedom of Information Act Policy* -- a review of governmentwide implementation of the Holder FOIA Memorandum.

Josh Gerstein, Columnist, *Politico*; *Adina H. Rosenbaum*, Director, Freedom of Information Clearinghouse, Public Citizen Litigation Group; *David Sobel*, Senior Counsel and Director, FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government Project, Electronic Frontier Foundation; *Anne L. Weismann*, Chief Counsel, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, and President, American Society of Access Professionals; *Danielle Brian*, Executive Director, Project on Government Oversight (moderator)

1:00 p.m. Luncheon Presentation -- *Thomas J. Perrelli*, Associate Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (invited)

2:15 p.m. Panel Three: *Executive Order Pas de Deux* -- an inside look at implementation of both Executive Order 13,526 on national security classification and Executive Order 13,556 on "Controlled Unclassified Information."

William J. Bosanko, Director, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), National Archives and Records Administration; *Sharon Bradford Franklin*, Senior Counsel, The Constitution Project; *Michael German*, National Security Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; *Patrick D. Viscuso*, Associate ISOO Director, Controlled Unclassified Information Office, National Archives and Records Administration; and *Steven Aftergood*, Executive Director, Project on Government Secrecy, Federation of American Scientists (moderator)

4:00 p.m. Panel Four: *Data Review* -- a critical analysis of statistics that are used and sometimes abused to measure agency change and performance on transparency issues.

Pedro de Lencastre, Senior Research Assistant, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law; *Carol D. Leonnig*, National Staff Writer, *The Washington Post*; and *Miriam McIntire Nisbet*, Founding Director, Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), National Archives and Records Administration

5:00 p.m. Reception

General Registration -- no charge.

CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for -- *CLE Registration* - \$95.

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

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