

# FIRST ANNUAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY CELEBRATION

*Sponsored by the Program on Law and Government's  
Collaboration on Government Secrecy ("CGS")*

**March 17, 2008**

**9 am – 4 pm (registration at 8:30 am)**

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

In the United States, "Freedom of Information Day" is celebrated annually on March 16 (James Madison's birthday) or proximate business day, at the beginning of what is now known as "Sunshine Week." This program is the first annual celebration of Freedom of Information Day by WCL's new Collaboration on Government Secrecy ("CGS"), and this year it helps launch the "Sunshine Week" (March 17-21) of related activities by media and public interest groups. Panels of leading experts will discuss major issues of current importance to the openness-in-government community:

- The 2007 FOIA Amendments -- their development, oversight of their implementation, and prospects for further legislative activity during the 110th Congress
- The state secrets privilege -- its initial development, its use in recent litigation, and ongoing efforts toward potential legislative curtailment
- Pseudosecrecy -- the post-9/11 proliferation of agency "safeguarding" labels such as "For Official Use Only" and "Sensitive But Unclassified" information
- International transparency -- the dramatic growth of government openness worldwide, based largely on the FOIA as a model

Speakers will include the three principal congressional staff members for FOIA activity in the House and Senate; the government's leading appellate litigator of state secrets privilege cases prior to 2001; officials of the National Security Council and Department of Defense; and representatives of media and nongovernment organizations. The program also features a keynote address by WCL Professor *Robert Vaughn*, plaintiff in the seminal case of *Vaughn v. Rosen*; a luncheon speech by United States District Court Judge *Royce C. Lamberth*, former chief judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and soon to be chief judge of the District Court for the District of Columbia; and an additional special presentation.

**General Registration -- no charge. CLE - accreditation will be applied for (4.5 credits) - \$50**

**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,  
American University Washington College of Law**

**Phone: 202.274.4075; Fax: 202.274.4079; or [secle@wcl.american.edu](mailto:secle@wcl.american.edu)**

**For questions about program content, please contact Sarah Tobianski, [saraht@wcl.american.edu](mailto:saraht@wcl.american.edu)**