

# Second Annual Freedom of Information Day Celebration

Presented by the Collaboration on Government Secrecy

March 16, 2009

8:45 am – 5:00 pm

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 second annual celebration of Freedom of Information Day by the Washington College of Law's Collaboration on Government Secrecy, and this year it helps launch the "Sunshine Week" (March 15-21) of related activities by media and public interest groups. Panels of leading experts and distinguished keynote speakers will discuss major issues of current importance to the openness-in-government community, especially in light of the remarkable "Day One" freedom of information and information policy directives issued by President Obama.

This year, CGS is very pleased to announce that long-time FOIA champion Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will give this FOI Day program's luncheon keynote address. He also will be presented with the 2009 "Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award" by former Congressman and fellow member of the congressional "class of 1974" Thomas J. Downey (WCL class of 1980). The panels will address:

- Overclassification, Declassification, and Executive Order Change – an analysis of national security classification under existing Executive Order 12,958, as well as the prospects for its revision.
- "Bailing Out on Transparency" – a critical consideration of the openness limitations of the government's recent "TARP," financial industry bailout, and economic stimulus-related activities.
- "Born Digital But Preserved in Hard Copy?" – a discussion of E-Gov and records-management practices as vital foundations of all disclosure regimes, with emphasis on much-needed reforms.
- "CUI or See You Later" – an up-to-date look at the continuing murky world of "pseudosecrecy."
- An Early Assessment of the Obama Administration – in the two months since President Obama stunned the openness-in-government community and federal workforce alike with his strong pro-disclosure words and "Day One" transparency and FOIA memoranda, has that momentum carried forward or has it lagged, including as to implementation of the 2007 FOIA Amendments?

*General Registration* – no charge. CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for – *CLE Registration* - \$45  
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 National Security and Human Rights Campaign.