

# TRANSPARENCY IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION: A Second-Year Assessment

Presented by WCL's Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 20, 2011

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 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. As the second in a series of such assessment programs to be conducted by CGS on January 20 of each year, it will feature presentations by key Administration officials and include the following:

- *The "Open Government Directive"* -- an assessment of this year-old keystone of the Obama Administration's transparency policy with White House official Steven Croley
- *Freedom of Information Act Policy* -- a close review of governmentwide implementation of the Holder FOIA Memorandum of March 19, 2009
- *Data Review* -- a critical analysis of statistics that are used and sometimes abused to measure agency change and performance on transparency issues
- *Executive Order Pas de Deux* -- an inside look at implementation of both EO 13,526 on national security classification and EO 13,556 on "Controlled Unclassified Information"
- *White House "Visitor Logs"* -- an examination of the Obama Administration's actual policy for disclosing and withholding records of White House visitors
- *The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)* -- a glimpse into OGIS's first year of operation and its future plans with Founding Director Miriam M. Nisbet

*General Registration, no charge. CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for -- CLE Registration, \$95*  
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.