In a development that barely could have been envisioned by the authors of the Freedom of Information Act four decades ago, and with a force that has been accelerating around the globe, people in more than 85 nations of the world now enjoy the benefits of “government transparency” laws akin to the FOIA. In the United States, “Freedom of Information Day” is celebrated each year on or near March 16 (the birthday of James Madison), and now since 2002 members of the international transparency community around the world likewise have celebrated “International Right-to-Know Day” annually on September 28, a day marking their progress, commitment, and unity of purpose.

9:00 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m.  Welcome and Opening Remarks -- Daniel J. Metcalfe, Executive Director, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law

9:40 a.m.  Keynote Presentation -- Morton H. Halperin, Senior Advisor, Open Society Institute and Open Society Policy Center, and former Director of Policy Planning, Department of State

10:45 a.m.  Transparency Worldwide: A Survey of Recent Developments -- Scott Amey, General Counsel, Project On Government Oversight (POGO); Thomas S. Blanton, Director, National Security Archive; Fabiola Isabel Rivas, Senior Research Assistant, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law; and Thomas M. Susman, Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association (moderator)
12:15 p.m. Freedom of Information in South Africa: A live video-link exchange with Johannesburg -- David B. Hunter, Professor and Director, International Legal Studies Program, Washington College of Law; Sylvester Murray, Professor of Government and Public Administration, Savannah State University, Professor Emeritus, Cleveland State University, and Chairman, Africa Working Group, National Academy of Public Administration; and Professor Jonathan Klaaren, Dean, School of Law, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

1:00 p.m. Luncheon Presentation -- Maria Otero, Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Department of State.

2:00 p.m. Transparency Video -- presented by Catalina Reyes, U.S. Advocacy Officer, Publish What You Fund.


3:15 p.m. U.S. Global Transparency Leadership: The New Open Government Partnership -- Toby Mcintosh, Managing Editor, freedominfo.org, and Steering Committee Coordinator, Global Transparency Initiative; Caroline P. Mauldin, Special Assistant to Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, Department of State; Katherine McFate, President and CEO, OMB Watch; Isabel Munilla, Director, Publish What You Pay U.S.; and Anthony Richter, Associate Director, Open Society Foundations, and U.S. CSO Co-Coordinator, Open Government Partnership (invited).

General Registration -- no charge.
CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for -- CLE Registration, $95.
To register, please go to www.wcl.american.edu/sece/registration.
For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, 202.274.4075 or sece@wcl.american.edu.
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