TRANSPARENCY IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION: A Fourth-Year Assessment

Presented by WCL’s Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 17, 2013
9:30 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 these new transparency policies, however, the Obama Administration and its Department of Justice have struggled to do so -- which has led to growing concern and now even alarm in the openness-in-government community. This program, which further follows up on CGS’s initial January 2009 FOIA community 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 finally make meaningful government transparency a reality in a second presidential term. As the fifth in a series of eight such programs conducted by CGS on or near January 20 of each year, it will feature presentations by key Administration officials and include the following:

- **OGIS Successes** -- an assessment of the Office of Government Information Services’ successful discharge of its statutory mandate, and more, during its first three years
- “**Portal to Success**” -- an early look at the unique new “FOIAonline” portal launched by OGIS, EPA, and three other federal agencies to transform the handling of FOIA requests
- “**FOIA Regs or FOIA Dregs**” -- a critical review of the widespread failure of federal agencies to issue regulations required for full and proper implementation of the 2007 FOIA Amendments and the Holder FOIA Memorandum of March 2009
- **Defending the Justice Department** -- an opportunity to explain the seemingly inexplicable failure of the Department to successfully fulfill its longtime FOIA leadership role
- “**Transparency**” in its Broadest Sense -- a broad view of “transparency” as involving the means by which government information is made available for public use

General Registration, no charge.

CLE Accreditation (5 credits) will be applied for -- CLE Registration, $275

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, at 202.274.4075, or at secle@wcl.american.edu.

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