

**FOIA Community Conference**

**TRANSPARENCY IN THE  
OBAMA ADMINISTRATION  
A FOURTH-YEAR ASSESSMENT**

**Collaboration on Government Secrecy  
American University Washington College of Law**

**January 17, 2013**

**Speaker Biographies**

**AMY BENNETT**

Amy Bennett joined OpenTheGovernment.org as its Assistant Director upon receiving her Master's in Public Policy (MPP) from the Georgetown Public Policy Institute in May 2008. She received her B.A. from Tufts University in Political Science in 2001. After graduating from Tufts, she worked in the office of Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (May 2002-February 2005). While attending Georgetown, she worked as a Legislative Assistant in the Government Relations department of Drinker, Biddle & Reath, LLP (March 2006-April 2007), then as a Legislative Aide at Washington Strategic Consulting (May 2007-September 2007), and then she transitioned from government relations to the non-profit world to work as a Program Manager for the Alliance for Plasma Therapies (May 2007-June 2007).

**THOMAS S. BLANTON**

Tom Blanton is Director of the National Security Archive at George Washington University in Washington D.C. The Archive won U.S. journalism's George Polk Award in April 2000 for "piercing self-serving veils of government secrecy, guiding journalists in search for the truth, and informing us all." The *Los Angeles Times* (16 January 2001) described the Archive as "the world's largest nongovernmental library of declassified documents."

Tom served as the Archive's first Director of Planning & Research beginning in 1986, became Deputy Director in 1989, and became Director in 1992. He filed his first Freedom of Information Act request in 1976 as a weekly newspaper reporter in Minnesota; and among many hundreds subsequently, he filed the FOIA request and subsequent lawsuit (with Public Citizen Litigation Group) that forced the release of Oliver North's Iran-contra diaries in 1990. His books include *White House E-Mail: The Top Secret Computer Messages the Reagan-Bush White House Tried to Destroy* (New York: The New Press, 1995, 254 pp. + computer disk), which *The New York Times* described as "a stream of insights into past American policy, spiced with depictions of White House officials in poses they would never adopt for a formal portrait." He co-authored *The Chronology* (New York: Warner Books, 1987, 687 pp.) on the Iran-contra affair, and served as a contributing author to three editions of the ACLU's authoritative guide, *Litigation Under the Federal Open Government Laws*, and to the Brookings Institution study *Atomic Audit: The Costs and Consequences of U.S. Nuclear Weapons Since 1940* (Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 1998, 680 pp.). His articles have appeared in *The International Herald-Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *Slate*, the *Wilson Quarterly*, and many other publications. A graduate of Harvard University, where he was an editor of the independent university daily newspaper *The Harvard Crimson*, he won Harvard's 1979 Newcomen Prize in history. He also received the 1996 American Library Association James Madison Award Citation for "defending the public's right to know." Additionally, Tom is a founding editorial board member of [freedominfo.org](http://freedominfo.org), the virtual network of international freedom of information advocates, and serves on the editorial board of H-DIPLO, the diplomatic history electronic bulletin board and on the board of directors of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, among other professional activities.

## **RICK BLUM**

Rick Blum coordinates the Sunshine in Government Initiative, a coalition of media groups promoting open government policies and practices. The coalition actively supported passage of the 2007 amendments to the Freedom of Information Act that created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which is the first independent office designed to mediate FOIA disputes and recommend improvements. Rick and the coalition discovered the provision buried in the president's 2009 budget that would

have eliminated the ombudsman office before its creation. In the midst of high-profile stories about U.S.-run secret prisons, warrantless surveillance, and federal monitoring of international banking transactions, Rick helped media groups successfully explain why Congress should not write new laws criminalizing reporting based on unauthorized disclosures. Rick was the founding director of OpenTheGovernment.org, a broad coalition of journalists, labor, and free-speech and environmental advocates. There he launched the Secrecy Report Card, an annual report of quantitative indicators of secrecy and openness in the federal government. As a policy analyst at OMB Watch from 1997 to 2001, he worked with environmental groups, librarians, freedom-of-information advocates, and others in the 1999 fight to maintain public access to chemical accident risk management plans. Rick also has conducted research on the effects of the commercialization of science on environmental and public health protections. He holds a master's degree from Indiana University, where his studies focused on democratization efforts in Russia, and a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

### **DAVID BURNHAM**

David Burnham -- a writer, investigative reporter, and researcher -- is the co-founder and co-director of the [Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse \(TRAC\)](#). For the last three decades, he has specialized in the critical examination of numerous government enforcement bureaucracies including the New York Police Department, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Environmental Enforcement Agency, the Internal Revenue Service, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Justice Department.

A reporter with *The New York Times* from 1968 to 1986, Professor Burnham has written several books and numerous magazine articles. In 1989, he became the Washington-based co-director of TRAC, a data-gathering, research and data-distribution organization associated with Syracuse University, as well as an associate research professor at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. The goal of TRAC is provide the public and members of the oversight community -- reporters, public interest groups, congressional committees, scholars, and others -- with the comprehensive performance data they need to hold federal investigative and regulatory agencies accountable. TRAC has been supported by Syracuse University, the Rockefeller Family Fund, the Knight Foundation, the New York

Times Company Foundation, the Open Society Institute, and numerous news organizations, advocacy groups, scholars, and lawyers.

Among the stories Professor Burnham developed while with the *Times* in New York City was a police corruption series in the early 1970s that ultimately resulted in major governmental reforms and the movie *Serpico*. As a reporter in the paper's Washington bureau, he focused on privacy issues and the shortcomings of federal regulation, including those of the Atomic Energy/Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Karen Silkwood was on her way to give him information about the manufacture of faulty nuclear fuel rods by the Kerr Mcgee Corporation when she died in a mysterious car crash.

In August of 1997, *The Nation* devoted an issue to an article by Professor Burnham that challenged the basic management skills and investigative competence of the FBI. The article was based on comprehensive data obtained from the Justice Department by TRAC under the FOIA. ABC's *Nightline* broadcast a program on the article and TRAC's findings. His latest book, [\*Above the Law: Secret Deals, Political Fixes, and Other Misadventures of the U.S. Department of Justice\*](#), was published in January 1996 by Scribner. His investigative book on the Internal Revenue Service, *A Law Unto Itself: Power, Politics and the IRS*, was published in 1990. A third book, *The Rise of the Computer State*, was published in 1984. Over the years, Professor Burnham has received numerous professional honors, including the George Polk Award for Community Service, Long Island University, 1968; the Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellowship, 1987; the Best Investigative Book of 1990, Investigative Reporters and Editors, 1990; and the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, Bellagio, Italy, 1992.

## **LISA ELLMAN**

Lisa Ellman currently serves as Chief Counselor for the Open Government Partnership at the White House. She previously worked as Senior Counsel in the Office of Legal Policy at the Department of Justice, where she developed and implemented significant policy initiatives of high priority to the Department of Justice and the Obama Administration. From January-September 2009, she served as White House Legal Director in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. From November 2008-January 2009, she served as Deputy Agency Review Director for the Obama-Biden Transition Team. From March 2007-November 2008, she worked on the Obama presidential campaign, on the policy and paid media and polling strategy teams. Ms. Ellman previously practiced law at Mayer, Brown,

Rowe & Maw LLP in Washington, D.C. Ms. Ellman also has co-authored a book, *Are Judges Political? An Empirical Analysis of the Federal Judiciary*, published by Brookings Press in 2006 (co-authored with Cass R. Sunstein, David Schkade, and Andres Sawicki). She received her B.A. in History with High Honors from the University of Michigan, and her J.D./M.P.P. from the University of Chicago Law School/Harris School of Public Policy Studies.

### **JOSH GERSTEIN**

Josh Gerstein covers the White House and legal and national security issues for *POLITICO*. He joined this Web-oriented political news outlet just before President Barack Obama's inauguration and has reported extensively on how President Obama's pledge to close the Guantanamo Bay prison for war-on-terror captives went awry. Josh's articles have also explored how expectations that the Obama Administration would dramatically reform the legal architecture of the Bush Administration's anti-terrorism strategy have proven to be mistaken. Previously, he was the national reporter for the *New York Sun* and earlier was an on-air correspondent for *ABC News*, where he did tours at the White House and in Beijing. He's maintained a keen, lifelong interest in open government, with particular focus recently on secrecy in the legal system and leaks of classified information. He has pursued dozens of Freedom of Information Act requests, as well as three FOIA lawsuits, pro se. He received his bachelor's degree in government from Harvard and is the author of a Massachusetts law requiring college and university police departments to keep a public log of arrests and reported crimes.

### **LAUREN HARPER**

Lauren Harper is a research assistant with the National Security Archive, where she specializes in audits of agency FOIA practices, among other things. Most recently, together with her colleague Nate Jones, she conducted a comprehensive audit of agency implementation (or not) of the provisions of the 2007 FOIA Amendments through necessary updating of their FOIA regulations. Entitled "Outdated Agency Regs Undermine Freedom of Information," this governmentwide study showed that more than half of all federal agencies still had not updated their FOIA regulations since 2007 (including the Department of Justice) and that very few more of them had done so since the issuance of the Holder FOIA Memorandum in March

2009. Lauren also supplemented this research with two follow-up publications in December 2012.

### **JAMES V. HOLZER**

James Holzer is currently the Senior Director for FOIA Operations with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), specializing in both the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. He serves as an expert point of contact for both DHS Headquarters and DHS subcomponents. In addition, he oversees the collection, organization, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data needed for annual reporting, the development of policies, procedures, and rules to ensure continuing compliance with existing guidance. Prior to joining DHS, James served in the U.S. Air Force, separating after 13 years on active duty. He deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and to Afghanistan in 2007, participating in ground convoys for intel/fact-finding to remote villages, researching and writing analytical assessments related to improving DoD understanding of terrorist activities, motivations, and organizational associations. James also recently completed the requirements for his Doctorate of Management at the University of Maryland, University College. His dissertation examined strategy formulation in three federal agencies, providing preliminary insight into a range of behavioral strategies in the federal sector. He also holds a Master of Human Relations degree from the University of Oklahoma and a B.S. in Business from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

### **JOEY A. HUTCHERSON**

Joey Hutcherson currently is Deputy Director of Open Government at the Department of Commerce, where among other things he has most recently worked extensively in support of the development of FOIAonline in coordination with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) and the Environmental Protection Agency. He is the lead for Data.gov at Commerce and has developed the Department's internal processes for publishing information within the Open Government's Data.gov environment. In addition, he is working with multiple agencies at the departmental and bureau levels to improve information dissemination about Data.gov and the Open Government Initiatives, including building best practices and improving agency/sub-agency coordination. Previously, Joey served as Branch Chief of the Project Management Office, Office of the Chief Technology Officer, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, U.S. Department of State, where he was responsible for supervision and management of project managers who

managed IT projects for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. He has served as Senior Project Manager and Test Director at Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command within the Defense Personal Property Service Program Office, which was responsible for applications development and deployment worldwide. He also worked with the Intelligence Communities at USFK-J2, Seoul, Korea, and EUCOM-J2, RAF Molesworth, U.K., and has earned the following certifications: Telecommunications Project Management (TPM) and Project Management Professional (PMP). He served in the United States Navy from 1975 to 1985.

### **NATE JONES**

Nate Jones is the Freedom of Information Act Coordinator for the National Security Archive. He oversees the thousands of FOIA and Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR) requests and hundreds of FOIA and MDR appeals that the National Security Archive submits each year. He acts as liaison between Archive analysts and government FOIA officers, and he serves as the Archive's FOIA counselor to the public. He also is the editor of the Archive's blog and manages its social media. Nate authored the Archive's 2010 and 2011 FOIA Audits, *Sunshine and Shadows: The Clear Obama Message for Freedom of Information Meets Mixed Results* and *Glass Half Full: But Many Federal Agencies Lag in Fulfilling Obama's Openness Pledge*. He earned his M.A. in Cold War History from The George Washington University, where he wrote his thesis on -- and submitted FOIA requests about -- the 1983 "Able Archer" nuclear war scare.

### **ROSA M. KOPPEL**

Rosa M. Koppel has been the Solicitor of the Federal Labor Relations Authority since April of 2008. As the Solicitor, she serves as the FLRA's chief litigator, legal advisor, Designated Agency Ethics Official, and, of particular note, its Chief FOIA Officer, in which capacity she has participated in the recent development of FOIAonline, together with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Before becoming the FLRA's Solicitor, Rosa was the Deputy General Counsel of the Merit Systems Protection Board and, before that, Assistant Director of Litigation at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. In these agencies, she was responsible for FOIA appeals and defending FOIA litigation. She is a graduate of New York University's Washington Square College and its School of Law. (And she also is the spouse of previous CGS speaker John Koppel.)

## **PATRICE McDERMOTT**

Patrice McDermott is Executive Director of [OpenTheGovernment.org](http://OpenTheGovernment.org), a coalition of more than seventy consumer and good-government groups, environmentalists, journalists, library groups, labor, and others united to make the federal government a more open place in order to make the public safer, strengthen public trust in government, and support our democratic principles. The coalition and its staff have played an instrumental role in every positive change of the past several years for government openness. OpenTheGovernment.org promotes and amplifies the change by serving as informal advisors to the White House and to several agencies on issues of concern to our community and the public (such as the Open Government Directive and the high-value data sets on Data.gov, the Executive Order on Classified National Security Information, the initiatives of the White House related to sensitive but unclassified information, implementation of the 2007 FOIA amendments, and issues of electronic records management).

Dr. McDermott joined OpenTheGovernment.org as Director in July 2006, after more than four years as the Deputy Director of the Office of Government Relations at the American Library Association (ALA) Washington Office. At ALA, she was the lead lobbyist on the USA PATRIOT Act, federal privacy issues, and issues of access to government information, particularly in the post-September 11th environment. She joined ALA in December 2001, after having served for eight years as the senior information policy analyst for OMB Watch. While she was at OMB Watch during the 1990s, her work included co-authoring two studies of the implementation of the E-FOIA Amendments of 1996, and coordination of the non-profit openness community's efforts in stopping the enactment of what would have been the equivalent of an official secrets act in the U.S. Previously, she worked for the National Archives and Records Administration.

Dr. McDermott was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame in 2001. She is a frequent speaker on public access and e-government issues, has testified at congressional hearings on these issues and others, and is the author of "Who Needs to Know? The State of Public Access to Federal Government Information" (Bernan 2007). She was awarded her doctorate from the University of Arizona in political science, an M.A. in political science from Brown University, and she received an M.Ln. in library and information management from Emory University.

## DANIEL J. METCALFE

Dan Metcalfe joined the faculty of the Washington College of Law in 2007 as a Faculty Fellow in Law and Government upon retiring from a career in government service that began at the Department of Justice more than 40 years ago. He now is both an adjunct professor at WCL and executive director of the school's Collaboration on Government Secrecy. A 1976 graduate of the National Law Center at George Washington University, where he was a law review editor and attended on a full academic scholarship, he worked at the Justice Department both as a teenage intern during college and as a law clerk in the Office of the Attorney General during law school. In 1981, after a judicial clerkship and serving as a Justice Department trial attorney, he was appointed to the position of founding director of the Department's Office of Information and Privacy (OIP). For more than a quarter-century in that position, he guided all federal agencies on the governmentwide administration of the Freedom of Information Act, directly supervised the defense of more than 500 FOIA and Privacy Act lawsuits in district and appellate courts, testified before Congress and authored Attorney General FOIA memoranda for successive administrations, and met with representatives of nearly 100 nations and international governing bodies as they considered the development and implementation of their own government transparency laws. He became a career member of the Senior Executive Service in 1984, the youngest Justice Department attorney then and since to hold such a position, and he is the author of several publications, most recently *Amending the FOIA: Is it Time for a Real Exemption 10?*, 37 Admin. & Reg. L. News 16 (Summer 2012); *From FOIA Service to Lip Service: The Unexpected Story of White House Visitor Logs*, 36 Admin. & Reg. L. News 3 (Spring 2011); *The Nature of Government Secrecy*, 26 Gov't Info. Quarterly 305 (2009); and *Sunshine Not So Bright: FOIA Implementation Lags Behind*, 34 Admin. & Reg. L. News 5 (Summer 2009).

In 2010, he was appointed as a member of the World Bank's Access to Information Appeals Board, an independent tribunal empowered to make final decisions on appeals taken under the Bank's new worldwide information disclosure policy, together with board members from India and France holding final authority to order the public disclosure of World Bank records. In 2009, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Inaugural Sino-American Dialogue on Rule of Law and Human Rights in China (followed by further dialogues in Xiemen and Beijing in 2010, and New York in 2011), and he has given dozens of presentations on international transparency around the world. He also holds positions as an Honorary Senior Research

Fellow at University College London, as a consultant to the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS), and as a contributing editor of the *Administrative Law & Regulatory News* publication of the American Bar Association's Section of Administrative Law. Most recently, he was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

### **KIRSTEN MITCHELL**

Kirsten Mitchell is a facilitator with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the FOIA Ombudsman's office located at the National Archives and Records Administration. Before joining OGIS in 2010, she spent two years at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and a year at the Sunshine in Government Initiative, a coalition of media groups that worked to gain passage of the OPEN Government Act of 2007, which amended the FOIA and created OGIS. A former journalist, most recently with the New York Times Co., Kirsten frequently used state and federal records to shine a light on how government operates. Her involvement in a federal press freedom case in the late 1990s fueled her interest in government transparency issues. Kirsten earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Mary Washington College and her Master of Arts degree in journalism and public affairs from American University. She earned a certificate in federal workplace mediation in 2011 from Northern Virginia Mediation Service, an affiliate of the George Mason University School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, and she is a member of the American Society of Access Professionals.

### **SEAN MOULTON**

Sean Moulton is Director of Information Policy at the Center for Effective Government (CEG, formerly OMB Watch), where he focuses on increasing government transparency with special attention to environmental information and right-to-know issues. One of his first jobs was as Environmental Researcher and Data Manager for the Council on Economic Priorities (CEP), manipulating and analyzing environmental information that is disseminated under the policies he now advocates. Prior to joining OMB Watch, Sean honed his lobbying and policy analysis skills as the Tax Policy Analyst at Friends of the Earth. His work experience also includes several years as a research fellow with the Environmental Protection Agency in the Industry Sector Policy Division. Recent priority work at CEG for Sean has included coordinating nationwide opposition to EPA's cutbacks to the Toxic Release Inventory and overseeing the development of FedSpending.org, a groundbreaking Web site that allows users to easily search and browse

trillions of dollars in federal spending. For years, OMB Watch also operated the Right to Know Network (RTK NET), a Web site that provides public access to almost a dozen environmental databases. Sean will be helping to bring lessons learned from FedSpending.org to a redesign of the environmental database functions on RTK NET. He received a Master's of Public Policy degree from the University of Maryland and has a B.A. in Economics and English.

### **MIRIAM M. NISBET**

Miriam Nisbet three years ago returned from Paris to accept a career Senior Executive Service appointment as Founding Director of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the FOIA ombudsman and policy office created by the 2007 FOIA Amendments. During the two previous years, she was Director of the Information Society Division of UNESCO in Paris, and she also served on the Obama Transition Team. Prior to that, she was Legislative Counsel at the American Library Association from 1999 to 2007, where she was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Hague Conference on Private International Law representing libraries, and she worked at NARA from 1993 to 1999, where she first held the senior-level position of Special Assistant to the Archivist of the United States and then Special Counsel for Information Policy. She was a staff attorney at the National Association of Attorneys General during 1977-1978, before joining the Department of Justice, where she worked from 1978 to 1993. At the Justice Department, she served for nearly a dozen years as the Deputy Director of the Office of Information and Privacy (OIP), in connection with which she also held a senior leadership position as part of the national continuity-of-government team for several years. She is a member of the American Bar Association and of the American Law Institute, and she also is a long-time member of the American Society of Access Professionals, serving as its President and as a member of its Board of Directors. Representing libraries, she was President of the Americans For Fair Electronic Commerce Transactions (AFFECT).

### **KATHLEEN M. RAY**

Kathy Ray has served as the Department of Transportation's FOIA Officer since 2003. As Departmental FOIA Officer, Kathy provides leadership and direction to the Department's 12 components, develops formal and informal FOIA guidance, conducts monthly meetings with DOT-wide administrative

and legal FOIA contacts, and oversees preparation of the FOIA annual report and the Chief FOIA Officer's report. She conducts reviews of the components' FOIA programs, makes recommendations for improvement, and monitors implementation activity. Kathy also serves as the FOIA Officer for the Office of the Secretary for Transportation; in this capacity, she oversees the work of a FOIA team and personally handles some of the more complex, controversial, and sensitive requests. Prior to her current position, Kathy managed the FOIA programs in two components within the Department of Transportation -- the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (2001-2003) and the Federal Highway Administration (1999-2001).

### **DANIEL SCHUMAN**

Daniel Schuman is the Sunlight Foundation's policy counsel and director of the Advisory Committee on Transparency. He works to develop policies that further Sunlight's mission of catalyzing greater government openness and transparency. An expert on the U.S. Congress, Daniel regularly works with congressional and executive branch staff to craft transparency and ethics legislation and policies. He directs the Advisory Committee on Transparency, a project of the Sunlight Foundation that educates policymakers on transparency-related issues, problems, and solutions and shares ideas with members of the Congressional Transparency Caucus. Daniel has served on many task forces, notably including the American Bar Association Administrative Law Section's Lobbying Reform Task Force. He regularly speaks and writes about transparency and technology issues, and he has appeared on NPR and C-SPAN and been cited by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other media outlets. Daniel graduated cum laude from Emory University School of Law and has worked for Congress as a Legislative Attorney for the Congressional Research Service, as well as for a variety of non-profits as both counsel and director of communications.

### **MARK TAPSCOTT**

Mark Tapscott is the Executive Editor of *The Washington Examiner* and a member of *The Examiner* Newspapers' national editorial board. He also is proprietor of Tapscott's Copy Desk blog, author of the long-running "Behind the Wheel" automotive column, and proprietor of the Tapscott Behind the Wheel blog. Before joining *The Examiner* in 2006, he was director of the Center for Media and Public Policy at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., where he worked from October 1999 and founded the founda-

tion's widely praised Database 101/201 Computer-Assisted Research and Reporting Boot Camps at the National Press Club. More than 200 editors, reporters, producers, and researchers representing virtually every major news organization have graduated from the CARR boot camps since 2000. He continues serving as Visiting Journalism Fellow at the Heritage Foundation and was voted Conservative Journalist of the Year for 2008 by the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

Mr. Tapscott also was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame in March 2006 and has been recognized by the National Press Foundation for his contributions to journalism education. He has testified before committees of the Senate and House of Representatives on FOIA and other openness-in-government issues, and he has appeared on FOX News and CNN on these issues and others as well. He is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Media Bloggers Association and an advisor to NewsTrust.net. He also has been recognized by the National Press Foundation for his contributions to journalism education.

Prior to his Heritage Foundation tenure, Mr. Tapscott was a managing editor for The Journal Newspapers from 1995 until 1999 and before that, he was Washington editor of *Defense Electronics* from 1991 to 1994. His journalism career began as a general assignment reporter at *The Washington Times* in 1985, where he ultimately advanced to business editor, national editor, and, finally, assistant managing editor for night news. He started writing the "Behind the Wheel" column at *The Washington Times* in 1985 and was a founding member of the Washington Automotive Press Association that year. Before his journalism career, Mr. Tapscott was Assistant Director for Public Affairs of the Office of Personnel Management and publications director at the Republican National Committee during the Reagan Administration, following his work in the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign of 1980. A 1972 graduate of Oklahoma State University, he was also press secretary to a U.S. senator and two U.S. congressmen between 1977 and 1980.

### **CLAUDIA A. TROTCH**

Claudia Trotch is a Dean's Fellow/research assistant for the Collaboration on Government Secrecy who even though only a 2L at WCL is now serving for her third semester in that capacity. She also is a junior staffer on the Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law, as well as a Marshall-Brennan

Constitutional Law Fellow. Prior to law school, she gained extensive experience in the publishing world and also worked for two years as Placement Director for a company in San Francisco. Claudia holds a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley.

### **ANNE L. WEISMANN**

Anne Weismann is Chief Counsel for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a non-profit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting ethics and accountability in government. CREW uses the law as a tool to force officials to act ethically and lawfully and to bring unethical conduct to the public's attention. As chief counsel, Anne has been responsible for many precedent-setting cases on behalf of CREW, focusing particularly on transparency in government. Prior to joining CREW, Anne served as deputy chief of the Enforcement Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission, where she had responsibility for all of the Bureau's telecommunications matters. Before that, she worked in the of the Department of Justice, where for many years she served as an assistant branch director with supervisory responsibility over banking litigation, housing litigation, and from 1995 through 2002 government information litigation. Prior to that she worked in the Solicitor's Office of the Department of Labor.

### **CORINNA ZAREK**

Corinna Zarek is an Attorney-Advisor at the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which assists Freedom of Information Act requesters and agencies with resolving disputes, reviews agencies' FOIA compliance, and serves as a general FOIA ombudsman. Previously, she was the Freedom of Information Director at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, where she assisted journalists with open records and open meetings issues at the federal and state levels and wrote about those issues for the organization's publications. Corinna also practiced with a law firm in Washington, D.C., specializing in administrative law, and she previously wrote for *The Des Moines Register*. She received her B.A. and J.D. from the University of Iowa. Corinna sits on the board of directors for the D.C. Open Government Coalition and Iowa Watch, an Iowa-based investigative reporting organization. She also teaches a media law class at the American University School of Communication.