

TRANSPARENCY IN THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION A Third-Year Assessment

Presented by WCL's Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 20, 2012

9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

(Reception at 5:00 p.m.)

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.

8:45 a.m. **Registration**

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

9:40 a.m. **Keynote Speech: "From Aspiration to Hard Reality"**

Franklin S. Reeder, Senior Obama/Biden Transition Team Member and former Director, White House Office of Administration

10:30 a.m. **Panel One: *The Open Government Status Report* -- a critical review of the Obama Administration's September 2011 report of its open government policy successes and difficulties**

Amy Bennett, Assistant Director, OpenTheGovernment.org; *Josh Gerstein*, Columnist, *POLITICO*; *Nate Jones*, FOIA Coordinator, National Security Archive; *John Wonderlich*, Policy Director, Sunlight Foundation; and *Patrice McDermott*, Executive Director, OpenTheGovernment.org (moderator)

- 11:45 a.m. Panel Two: “Do the Bucks Stop Here?” -- an assessment of the extent to which increased funding constraints now threaten to curtail open government initiatives across the executive branch**
- Gary D. Bass*, Executive Director, Bauman Family Foundation; *Lucy A. Dalglish*, Executive Director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; *Elizabeth Goitein*, Director, Liberty and National Security Project, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law; *Daniel Schuman*, Director, Advisory Committee on Transparency, and Policy Counsel, Sunlight Foundation; and *Sean Moulton*, Director, Federal Information Policy, OMB Watch (moderator)
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Presentations -- Christopher Vein**, Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer, Executive Office of the President, and *Lisa Ellman*, Senior Counsel, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget
- 2:15 p.m. Panel Three: “CUI or See You Later, Part II” -- an inside view of the progress made to date and the prospects for success in harmonizing safeguarding labels under the rubric “Controlled Unclassified Information”**
- Gavin Baker*, Federal Information Policy Analyst, OMB Watch; *John P. Fitzpatrick*, Director, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO), National Archives and Records Administration; *Michelle Richardson*, Legislative Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; *Patrick D. Viscuso*, Associate ISOO Director, Controlled Unclassified Information Office, NARA; and *Sharon Bradford Franklin*, Senior Counsel, The Constitution Project (moderator)
- 3:45 p.m. Panel Four: White House “Visitor Logs” -- an examination of the Obama Administration’s policy for disclosing and also withholding records of White House visitors, as rejected in *Judicial Watch, Inc. v. United States Secret Service*, No. 09-2312 (BAH) (D.D.C. Aug. 17, 2011) (appeal pending)**
- Kristen E. Callahan*, Senior Research Assistant, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law; *Thomas J. Fitton*, President, Judicial Watch; *Michael Isikoff*, National Investigative Correspondent, NBC News; and *Anne L. Weismann*, Chief Counsel, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and President, American Society of Access Professionals
- 5:00 p.m. Reception**

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.
For further information, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing
Legal Education, 202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu.
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Transparency and Integrity Fund and its National Security and Human Rights Campaign.