In the United States, Freedom of Information Day is celebrated on or near the March 16 birthday of James Madison, considered the “Founding Father of Freedom of Information,” as part of what during recent years has become known as “Sunshine Week.” This program is the seventh annual celebration of Freedom of Information Day held by the Washington College of Law’s Collaboration on Government Secrecy and this year it is part of an expanded celebration of Sunshine Week (March 15-22), a project of the American Society of News Editors (ASNE) and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, among related activities by media and public interest groups. Leading experts will discuss matters of current importance to the openness-in-government community, including in an annual “legislative outlook” session featuring key congressional staff from all corners of Capitol Hill moderated by 2008 FOIA Legend Award recipient Thomas M. Susman, a session on the increasingly vital subject of what can be viewed as “surveillance secrecy,” and sessions dealing with the need for reform of the Privacy Act and with other emerging issues in national security classification.

CGS also is pleased to announce that former NBC News legal reporter and George Washington University Emeritus Professor of Media and Public Affairs Carl Stern, who also served as the Department of Justice’s Director of Public Affairs, will give the program’s keynote address and will be presented with the 2014 “Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award” in recognition of his long FOIA-related career, including as a highly successful FOIA requester. Washington College of Law Dean Claudio M. Grossman will make this year’s award presentation.

General Registration, no charge.

CLE Registration (5 credits will be applied for), $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.