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 fifth annual celebration of Freedom of Information Day held by the Washington College of Law’s Collaboration on Government Secrecy, and this year it celebrates Sunshine Week (March 11-17) principally among related activities by media and public interest groups. Professor Susan B. Long, Co-Director of the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, will give this program’s keynote address and will be presented with the 2012 “Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award,” in recognition of her career as a uniquely successful FOIA requester and FOIA litigant over the course of more than four decades. As last year’s FOIA Legend Award recipient, Alan B. Morrison, Founding Director of Public Citizen Litigation Group, will present this year’s award.
David B. Burnham, Co-Director, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, Syracuse University, and former Investigative Reporter, New York Times; Jeffrey Light, National Lawyers Guild; Kelly B. McClanahan, Executive Director, National Security Counselors; Drew E. Shenkman, National Media Practice Team, Holland & Knight; and Mike German, ACLU National Security Policy Counsel (moderator)

1:00 p.m.  Luncheon Address: “FOIA Over the Decades, From Ford to Obama”

Richard L. Huff, FOIA Instructor and Co-Founder, Office of Information and Privacy (OIP), Department of Justice (1976-2005)

2:15 p.m.  Panel Three: Legislative Outlook -- a comprehensive view of FOIA activity in the 112th Congress from all four corners of Capitol Hill

Krista Boyd, Minority Counsel, House Government Reform and Oversight Committee; Lydia Kay Griggsby, Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy; Matthew L. Johnson, Counsel to Senator John Cornyn for Senate Judiciary Committee; Tegan N. Millspaw, Research Analyst, House Government Reform and Oversight Committee; and Thomas M. Susman, Director of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association (moderator)

3:45 p.m.  Panel Four: Is Exemption 3 Out of Control? -- a critical review of existing agency use of twice as many Exemption 3 statutes as actually qualify

Asheesh S. Bhalla, Senior Research Assistant and Webmaster, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law; Rick Blum, Coordinator, Sunshine in Government Initiative; Jennifer LaFleur, Director of Computer-Assisted Reporting, ProPublica; Ginger P. McCall, Director, Open Government Project, Electronic Privacy Information Center; and Adina H. Rosenbaum, Director, FOI Clearinghouse, Public Citizen Litigation Group

5:00 p.m.  Reception

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