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 sixth annual celebration of Freedom of Information Day held by the Washington College of Law’s Collaboration on Government Secrecy, and this year it anchors an expanded Sunshine Week among related activities by media and public interest groups. Leonard Schaitman, a 46-year FOIA veteran who has served as the federal government’s principal appellate litigation supervisor for FOIA cases since 1973, will give a keynote address and will be presented with the 2013 “Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award,” in recognition of his unparalleled career shaping the development of the law through litigation and promoting its proper governmentwide administration. The inaugural recipient of the FOIA Legend Award, Thomas M. Susman, will present the award this year.

8:45 a.m.  Registration and Continental Breakfast

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

9:40 a.m.  Award Presentation -- Thomas M. Susman, Director of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association, and 2007 “FOIA Legend Award” recipient

Keynote Address -- Leonard Schaitman, Assistant Director, Appellate Staff, Civil Division, Department of Justice

10:15 a.m.  Panel One: Milner Two Years Later -- a critical review of the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s decision in Milner v. Department of the Navy

William E. Bordley, Associate General Counsel, United States Marshals Service, Department of Justice; Jennifer Brown, Senior Research Assistant, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law; James V. Holzer, Senior Director for FOIA Operations, Department of Homeland Security; William T. Kammer, Chief, Office of Freedom of Information, Department of Defense; and Jennifer LaFleur, Director of Computer-Assisted Reporting, ProPublica

11:30 a.m.  Panel Two: Legislative Outlook -- a comprehensive view of FOIA activity in the 113th Congress from all four corners of Capitol Hill

Krista Boyd, Minority Counsel, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; Lydia Kay Griggsby, Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy; Tegan N. Millspaw, Professional Staff Member, House Committee on
Oversight and Government Reform; Nathan J. Hallford, Republican Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee; and Thomas M. Susman, Director of Governmental Affairs, American Bar Association (moderator)

1:00 p.m. Luncheon Address -- James W. Conrad, Jr., Chairman, Section of Administrative Law & Regulatory Practice, American Bar Association

2:15 p.m. Panel Three: Current FOIA Litigation -- a survey of high-visibility current FOIA litigation cases and what can be learned from them

Ginger P. McCall, Director, Open Government Project, Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC); James F. Peterson, Senior Attorney, Judicial Watch; David Sobel, Senior Counsel, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF); Nathan Freed Wessler, Staff Attorney, Speech, Privacy & Technology Project, American Civil Liberties Union; and Anne L. Weismann, Chief Counsel, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) (moderator)

3:45 p.m. Panel Four: Freedom of Information Today -- a wide-ranging discussion of the extensive Sunshine Week report issued by the Center for Effective Government

Steven Aftergood, Executive Director, Project on Government Secrecy, Federation of American Scientists; Gavin Baker, Federal Information Policy Analyst, Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch); Robert S. Becker, Freedom of Information Chair, D.C. Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists, and Member, Board of Directors, D.C. Open Government Coalition; Elizabeth Goitein, Co-Director, Liberty and National Security Program, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law; and Sean Moulton, Director, Federal Information Policy, Center for Effective Government (moderator)

5:00 p.m. Reception

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.