SIXTH ANNUAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY CELEBRATION

Collaboration on Government Secrecy
American University Washington College of Law

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Speaker Bios

STEVEN AFTERGOOD

Steve Aftergood is a senior research analyst at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS), a non-profit national organization of scientists and engineers concerned with issues of science and national security policy that was founded in 1945 by Manhattan Project scientists. He directs the FAS Project on Government Secrecy, which works to reduce the scope of government secrecy and to promote reform of official secrecy practices. An internationally recognized expert on national security classification, he writes Secrecy News, an e-mail newsletter (and blog) that reports on new developments in secrecy policy for more than 10,000 subscribers in media, government, and among the general public. In 1997, Steve was the plaintiff in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Central Intelligence Agency that led to the declassification and publication of the total intelligence budget ($26.6 billion in 1997) for the first time in 50 years. In 2006, he won a FOIA lawsuit against the National Reconnaissance Office for release of unclassified budget records.

Steve is an electrical engineer by training (B.Sc., UCLA, 1977) and has published research in solid state physics. He joined the FAS staff in 1989 and has authored or co-authored papers and essays in Scientific American, Science, New Scientist, Journal of Geophysical Research, Journal of the Electrochemical Society, and Issues in Science and Technology on topics including space nuclear power, atmospheric effects of launch vehicles, and government information policy. From 1992-1998, he served on the Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board of the National Research Council. For his work on confronting government secrecy, Steve has received the James Madison Award from the American Library Association (2006), the Public Access to Government Information Award from the American Asso-
ciation of Law Libraries (2006), and the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award from the Playboy Foundation (2004). He also is a member of the Collaboration on Government Secrecy’s Advisory Board.

GA VIN BAKER

Gavin Baker works in the Federal Information Policy program at the Center for Effective Government (CEG, formerly OMB Watch) as a Federal Information Policy Analyst. He researches government transparency and public access to information, including e-government, the Freedom of Information Act, information quality issues, and scientific integrity in public policy. Previously, Gavin researched copyright and Internet policy at the American Library Association. He also has served as the assistant editor of Open Access News, a newsletter devoted to raising awareness about the importance of open access to information. His devotion to promoting access to scientific information comes from his time as an outreach fellow at the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition. Gavin holds B.A. in political science from the University of Florida, where he was elected to the student government senate, and he currently is studying toward his M.S. in Library and Information Studies at Florida State University.

ROBERT S. BECKER

Robert Becker is a solo-practitioner lawyer whose practice includes advising writers, editors, photographers, and others in the news media about access to government proceedings and records, libel, invasion of privacy, and protecting confidentiality. For nine years, he was Assistant Director for Publications and a Staff Attorney at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and before that he was a newspaper reporter and editor. He has been the Society of Professional Journalists’ D.C. Pro Chapter First Amendment/FOI Chair for more than 20 years and he also serves as Government Relations Committee Chair and Board Member for the D.C. Coalition on Open Government. He has helped draft major open government legislation for the District, including the 2000 amendments to the D.C. Freedom of Information Act. As the Coalition’s government relations chair, he worked on the 2010 Open Government Meetings Act, and bills to strengthen the Open Government Office and the FOI Act. He received the D.C. Pro Chapter’s Distinguished Service Award in 2003 and the D.C. Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers’ Kenneth R. Mundy Lawyer of the Year Award in 2011. He regularly addresses groups of foreign journalists and government officials visiting the United States on access to government information and
has undertaken training projects in Ethiopia, Morocco, Argentina, and Uruguay on issues related to press freedom.

**KRISTA BOYD**

Krista Boyd serves as the Deputy Director of Legislation and Counsel for the Democratic staff of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, where she most recently collaborated with the committee’s majority staff on critical oversight of the Justice Department’s government-wide role in FOIA administration. Her oversight and legislative responsibilities include issues related to transparency, government operations, and the regulatory process. She assisted with drafting and negotiating legislation to improve the transparency of the federal government including bills strengthening the Freedom of Information Act, improving the transparency of federal advisory committees, improving access to presidential and federal records, and the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act, which President Obama signed into law on November 27, 2012. Krista previously served as Counsel for United States Senator Max Cleland. She is a graduate of Emory University School of Law and Florida State University.

**JENNIFER BROWN**

Jennifer Brown is a Senior Research Assistant for the Collaboration on Government Secrecy. A fourth-year part-time student at WCL, she now is in her fifth semester as a CGS Dean’s Fellow and works full-time for a federal agency as she completes her legal studies. During her time in law school, she has been awarded the Marcy C. Panzer & Manny D. Pokotilow Scholarship, as well as three scholarships from the American Bar Association Joint Committee on Employee Benefits. Prior to attending law school, Jennifer obtained a Master of Science in Law & Society degree (with focus on Jurisprudence) from American University’s School of Public Affairs. She holds a double Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology and Philosophy with minors in Applied Ethics and Religion from the University of Florida.

**JAMES W. CONRAD, JR.**

James (Jamie) Conrad has practiced law in Washington D.C. for 27 years, helping organizations accomplish their goals in the federal regulatory process. With 14 years of experience at the American Chemistry Council and 13 years practicing privately on his own and at major national law firms, he has a broad and sophisticated perspective on how to achieve results and defend interests in that environment. Mr. Conrad is an expert in the field of
environment, health & safety, in which he specializes in how science is used to support regulation and policy. He also focuses on homeland security, particularly in the areas of chemical facility security and information protection. Through the years, he has also worked across a wide range of other administrative law subjects, leading to his becoming Chairman of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association, and this work has included regulatory compliance counseling; participating in all stages of the rulemaking process; strategic advocacy to shape agency policy; permitting and other governmental approvals; supporting and challenging government actions in federal courts; and negotiating and defending enforcement cases.

Mr. Conrad has a long track record helping private entities engage with government agencies in innovative projects that offer mutual benefits. He also has extensive legislative experience, working with congressional staff to educate them, guide oversight, and draft and negotiate legislative language and legislative history, in both the authorization and appropriations context. He graduated in 1985 with high honors from the National Law Center at George Washington University, where he was a member of the law review and the Order of the Coif. He received his B.A. and the Department Prize in Philosophy from Haverford College in 1981.

ELIZABETH GOITEIN

Elizabeth (Liza) Goitein co-directs the Brennan Center for Justice’s Liberty and National Security Program, which seeks to advance effective national security policies that respect constitutional values and the rule of law. Before joining the Brennan Center, Liza served as counsel to Senator Feingold, Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and as a trial attorney in the Federal Programs Branch of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice. She is the lead author of the Brennan Center’s report entitled, Reducing Overclassification Through Accountability. Her writing has been featured in major newspapers, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the Philadelphia Inquirer, and she has appeared on national television and radio shows, including the PBS NewsHour, MSNBC’s Up With Chris Hayes, and National Public Radio’s On The Media and To the Point. Liza graduated from Yale Law School in 1998 and she clerked for the Hon. Michael Daly Hawkins on the Court of Appeals for the
Ninth Circuit. She also is the newest member of the Collaboration on Government Secrecy’s Advisory Board.

NATHAN J. HALLFORD

Nathan Hallford serves as Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee to Ranking Member Charles E. Grassley. Prior to his work for Sen. Grassley, he served as a law clerk to United States Bankruptcy Judge Thomas Bennett in Birmingham, Alabama, and before that as Counsel to Senator Jeff Sessions on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts.

WILLIAM T. KAMMER

Will Kammer has been working in the Freedom of Information Act and declassification fields since 1991. He has served in various management assignments with the Office of Freedom of Information (OFOI), Department of Defense, since October 1998, was selected as Chief of OFOI in August 2005, and was named Chief of the Defense Freedom of Information Policy Office in January 2006. He has taught courses on the FOIA for the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and other government agencies, and for the American Society of Access Professionals. In March 2006, he was given the annual Outstanding FOIA Officer Award by the Department of Justice’s Office of Information and Privacy (OIP).

Prior to joining OFOI, Will served as a FOIA action officer in the Joint Staff from 1991-1995 and was responsible for developing and implementing the Joint Staff Automatic Declassification plan in 1996. He was the principal declassifying official for the Joint Staff Automatic Declassification program from 1996-1998. Will began his career with the Department of Defense in 1984, serving as an Ammunition Surveillance Specialist with the Department of the Army and as an Investigator with the Defense Investigative Service prior to joining the Joint Staff in 1991.

JENNIFER LaFLEUR

Jennifer LaFleur is ProPublica’s director of computer-assisted reporting (CAR). She was the CAR editor starting in 2003 for the Dallas Morning News, where she worked on the newspaper’s investigative team. She has directed CAR at the San Jose Mercury News and at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and was the first training director for the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE). She has won awards for her coverage of disability,

**GINGER P. McCALL**

Ginger McCall is Director of the Open Government Project at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC). She works on a variety of issues at EPIC, including consumer protection, open government requests, amicus curiae briefs, and national security matters. She litigates EPIC’s Freedom of Information Act lawsuits and is a co-editor of *Litigation Under the Federal Government Laws 2010.* Ginger has co-authored several amicus curiae briefs on privacy issues filed in the Supreme Court of the United States. She has been invited to speak on privacy and open government issues in a variety of academic and conference venues, including the 2009 Computers, Freedom, and Privacy Conference, the Internet Governance Forum USA 2009 Conference, and the New England Consortium of State Labor Relations Agencies’ 11th Annual Conference. She also has provided expert commentary for local, national, and international media, including NPR, MSNBC, and Al Jazeera. Ginger is a graduate of Cornell Law School and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh with a B.A. in English Literature. While in law school, she interned at the American Civil Liberties Union in Pittsburgh and at EPIC. She also was the president of the Cornell Law School National Lawyers Guild and was awarded Cornell’s Freeman Prize for Civil and Human Rights.

**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 Atto-
ney General FOIA memoranda for successive administrations, and met
with representatives of nearly 100 nations and international governing bod-
ies 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 publica-
tions, 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 Imple-

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 informa-
tion 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.

TEGAN N. MILLSPAW

Tegan Millspaw is a Professional Staff Member for Chairman Issa on the
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. She joined the
Committee in January 2011 and works on transparency policy, federal
financial management, and government organization. She formerly served
as FOIA Program Manager at Judicial Watch. Tegan is a graduate of
George Washington University (M.P.S., Legislative Affairs, 2011) and Alle-
SEAN MOULTON

Sean Moulton is the Director of Information Policy at the Center for Effective Government (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 the Center for Effective Government (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 new Web site that allows users to easily search and browse trillions of dollars in federal spending. For years, CEG has 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.

JAMES F. PETERSON

James F. Peterson, an attorney with broad experience in complex litigation, is a senior member of Judicial Watch’s legal team. His breadth of knowledge and experience have contributed greatly to Judicial Watch’s success as he has played a key role in some of Judicial Watch’s most significant cases. These include Judicial Watch’s case before the Supreme Court concerning Vice President Cheney Energy Task Force documents (Judicial Watch v. Nat’l Energy Policy Dev. Group) and many of Judicial Watch’s groundbreaking lawsuits seeking to compel the enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws. Most recently, he has worked closely with the Arizona State Legislature in its legal defense of Arizona’s “S.B. 1070” immigration enforcement law. Prior to joining Judicial Watch in 2002, Mr. Peterson was a member of the litigation practice of a large national law firm in Washington, D.C., representing business clients in federal and state courts and administrative proceedings. He also was in the litigation department of a major national trade association, representing the industry in complex tax and administrative litigation. Mr. Peterson is a graduate of the George
Mason University School of Law, where he was the Articles Editor of the school’s Civil Rights Law Journal, and he received his undergraduate degree from Kent State University in Ohio. He is an active member of the Federalist Society and other conservative organizations, as well as a member of the bars of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and numerous federal courts, including the Supreme Court.

**LEONARD SCHAITMAN**

Leonard Schaitman joined the Appellate Section (now Appellate Staff) of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice in 1966, shortly after the FOIA was enacted. He became a supervisory attorney (Assistant Director) in that office in 1973 and has served continuously in that capacity ever since. A graduate of Columbia Law School, he clerked on the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and was an associate at a New York City law firm for several years prior to joining the Justice Department. At the Justice Department, Mr. Schaitman has personally handled, reviewed, and consulted on hundreds of FOIA cases over the course of the past four decades. His focus has been on litigation in the courts of appeals and the Supreme Court. In addition, he served on the Justice Department’s Freedom of Information Act Committee, which gave advice to agencies on the proper administration of the Act during its earliest years. He received the Attorney General’s Award for Outstanding Service in Freedom of Information Act Administration in 2004.

**DAVID SOBEL**

David Sobel is Senior Counsel at the Washington office of the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), where he directs its FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government (FLAG) Project. He has handled numerous cases seeking the disclosure of government documents on privacy policy, including electronic surveillance, encryption controls, and airline passenger screening initiatives, and he has been an especially keen observer of the course of Justice Department FOIA litigation policy during the Obama Administration. He served as co-counsel in the challenge to government secrecy concerning post-September 11 detentions and participated in the submission of a civil liberties amicus brief in the first-ever proceeding of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review. He was co-editor of the 2002 and 2004 editions of *Litigation Under the Federal Open Government Laws*, and he is a recipient of EFF’s Pioneer Award (2003) and the American Library Association’s James Madison Award (2004). David formerly was counsel to the non-profit National Security Archive, and in 1994 he co-
founded the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), where he directed FOIA litigation and focused on government surveillance and the collection of personal information. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Florida College of Law.

**THOMAS M. SUSMAN**

Tom Susman is Director of the Governmental Affairs Office of the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C. Before accepting that position in 2008, he was a partner in the Washington Office of Ropes & Gray LLP, where his work included counseling, litigation, and lobbying on access to government information and privacy, in addition to his general legislative and regulatory practice. Tom has testified frequently on FOIA reform before Congress and authored a number of works on information and privacy. He advised Shanghai and other Chinese jurisdictions on open government information, wrote a chapter on Access to Documents in the European Union for an ABA publication, co-authored a BNA portfolio on business information, and taught classes and courses on the FOIA to government lawyers, government access professionals, journalists, and law students. He has also been involved in a number of freedom of information cases at the state and federal levels and before foreign tribunals. A former Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Judicial College and President of the District of Columbia Public Library Foundation, he is Founding President of the D.C. Open Government Coalition, a Life Member of the American Law Institute, on the Board of the National Conference on Citizenship, and on the steering committee of OpenTheGovernment.org.

Before joining Ropes & Gray, Tom served on Capitol Hill as general counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee and various subcommittees; prior to that he worked in the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice. He graduated from Yale University and received his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School. Among his many honors and distinctions, including receipt of the American Library Association’s James Madison Award and membership in the First Amendment Center’s Freedom of Information Hall of Fame, perhaps foremost is his receipt of the Collaboration on Government Secrecy’s inaugural “Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award” at CGS’s First Annual Freedom of Information Day Celebration in March 2008.

**ANNE L. WEISMANN**

Anne Weismann currently serves as chief counsel for Citizens for Respon-
sibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), a non-profit, non-partisan 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 government information litigation. Prior to that she worked in the Solicitor’s Office of the Department of Labor.

NATHAN FREED WESSLER

Nate Wessler is a staff attorney with the ACLU’s Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, where he handles cases involving both free speech and privacy issues, including FOIA suits. He previously served as a legal fellow in the ACLU’s National Security Project, where he was involved in litigation seeking transparency and accountability for targeted killing and challenging unlawful detention at the U.S. prisons in Bagram and Guantanamo. Nate is a graduate of Swarthmore College and New York University School of Law, where he was a Root-Tilden-Kern scholar. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Hon. Helene N. White, United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.