Vaughn Declaration

Whereas, Professor Carl Stern was one of the most pre-eminent national television journalists of his time and more than 40 years ago was the very first television newsman to use the Freedom of Information Act.

Whereas, he personally brought such cases as Stern v. Richardson, 367 F. Supp. 1316 (D.D.C. 1973), which involved FBI "COINTELPRO" records, and Stern v. SBA, 516 F. Supp. 145 (D.D.C. 1980), which involved civil rights compliance records -- winning both of those cases.

Whereas, he most significantly brought the case of Stern v. FBI, 737 F.2d 84 (D.C. Cir. 1984), which involved records of FBI wrongdoing and which because he prevailed in it became a leading precedent on law enforcement privacy issues that still stands to the present day.

Whereas, as Director of Public Affairs at the Department of Justice for more than three years, he worked hand-in-hand with Attorney General Janet Reno toward the development and implementation of sound FOIA policy.

Whereas, he is in a rare category persons who managed during his career to sit on “both sides of the fence” as to government openness -- sometimes seemingly at the same time -- but at heart is still that pioneering investigative journalist who wants the government to stop covering things up.

Therefore, Professor Carl Stern is singularly deserving of this recognition as recipient of the 2014 Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend Award.

It is hereby declared under penalty of perjury, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the foregoing is true and correct.