

INFORMATION POLICY IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION

Presented by the Collaboration on Government Secrecy

January 29, 2009

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC

After eight years of what is widely viewed as the most secrecy-laden presidential administration in history, there is much anticipation about how fully and quickly change will come to the areas of government transparency in particular and information policy more generally. The Obama Administration comes into power with high expectations for greatly increased government openness but at the same time confronts new challenges and a confluence of competing priorities that are unprecedented in nature. This program will focus on exactly what the new Administration can do, and in what order of priority, to assure all concerned that an era of secrecy will now be replaced with a new era of transparency.

8:30 am **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

9:00 am **Welcome and Introduction:** *Professor Daniel J. Metcalfe, CGS*

9:15 am **Keynote Speaker:** *Linda D. Koontz*, recently retired Director of Information Management Issues, Government Accountability Office

9:45 am **Panel One: Transparency Policy Recommendations** -- A compilation and analysis of Freedom of Information Act-related proposals

Speakers: *Gary D. Bass*, Founder and Executive Director, OMB Watch; *Rick Blum*, Coordinator of the Sunshine in Government Initiative; *Danielle Brian*, Executive Director, Project on Government Oversight; *Lucy A. Dalglish*, Executive Director, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; and *Meredith Fuchs*, General Counsel, National Security Archive

11:00 am Break

- 11:15 am **Panel Two: Broader Information-Policy Recommendations** -- Extended coverage of proposals made on information-policy issues generally
- Speakers:** *Thomas Devine*, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project; *Sharon Bradford Franklin*, Senior Counsel, The Constitution Project; *Michael German*, National Security Policy Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union; *Patrice McDermott*, Director, OpenTheGovernment.org; and *Ari Schwartz*, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Center for Democracy and Technology
- 12:30 pm **Luncheon Speaker:** *Gary M. Stern*, General Counsel of the National Archives and Records Administration
- 2:00 pm **Panel Three: View From Inside of Government** -- A presentation of the internal government perspective during a first presidential year
- Speakers:** *Steven Garfinkel*, former longtime Director, Information Security Oversight Office; *Lydia K. Griggsby*, Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy; *Matthew L. Johnson*, Counsel to Senate Judiciary Committee Member John Cornyn; *William H. Leary*, Senior Director, National Security Council; *J. William Leonard*, recently retired Director, Information Security Oversight Office; and *Thomas M. Susman*, Director of Government Affairs, American Bar Association (moderator)
- 3:15 pm **Survey of Change Priorities** -- An on-site consensus prioritization of policy changes, to be formally delivered to the Obama Administration
- Speakers:** *Wendell Cochran*, Director, Journalism Division, American University School of Communication; *Hannah Bergman*, Jack Nelson Legal Fellow, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press; and *Celisse A. Pinkney*, Senior Research Assistant, Collaboration on Government Secrecy, Washington College of Law

General Registration – no charge.

CLE Accreditation (5 credits will be applied for) – CLE Registration - \$35

To register, please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration

**For further information about registration, please contact: Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education, American University Washington College of Law,
202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu**