

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 has come into power with high expectations for greatly increased government openness, but at the same time it faces new challenges and a confluence of competing priorities that are unprecedented in nature. Even with its remarkable “Day One” actions, much remains to be done. This program focuses on exactly what the new Administration can do, and in what order of priority, to assure all concerned that an era of secrecy will be replaced with a new era of transparency as efficiently as possible.

8:30 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am Welcome and Introduction: *Daniel J. Metcalfe*, Executive Director, 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 *David Sohn*, Senior Policy Counsel, 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: *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; *Franklin S. Reeder*, Obama Transition Team Member and former Director, White House Office of Administration; and *Thomas M. Susman*, Director of Governmental 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.

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