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and



# A Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1974 FOIA Amendments

and

## Career Fair

November 1, 2024

GW Law Building, George Washington University

**ENTRANCE:** 716 20<sup>th</sup> Street, NW (look for the intercom to get buzzed in)

GW Law students can enter at [2000 H Street](#)

(Street parking is extremely limited; for more information on garages located on campus, visit:

<https://business-services.gwu.edu/visitor-parking>)

### **Jacob Burns Moot Court Room (L 101) (This event is being recorded.)**

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|----------------|--|
| 9:00-9:30 am   | Program Check-in and Coffee – Dee Kelly Lounge   |
| 9:30-9:45 am   | Welcome, Announcements and Introductions– <b>Ryan Mulvey</b> , ASAP President  |
| 9:45-10:45 am  | <p><b>The Importance of Transparency in a Democratic Society</b><br/> Transparency is at the foundation of our democracy, promoting accountability and allowing for an informed citizenry that can actively participate in the democratic process at all levels. Panelists will discuss the impact of transparency and the effects it has had on the democratic process.</p> <p>Panelists:<br/> <b>Alan B. Morrison</b>, Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest &amp; Public Service at, George Washington University Law School<br/> <b>David Cuillier</b>, Director of the Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications<br/> <b>Lauren Harper</b>, Daniel Ellsberg Chair on Government Secrecy, Freedom of the Press Foundation</p> |
| 10:45-11:00 am | Stretch Break  |

- 11:00-12:00 n **Media and Transparency**  
Congress enacted the FOIA with journalists in mind, emphasizing the need for prompt access to requested documents. Listen to journalists explain how they use the FOIA, the extent to which it has helped government accountability, and where it has fallen short.  
Panelists:  
**Nate Jones**, *The Washington Post*  
**Katie Townsend**, *Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press*  
**Charlie Savage**, *The New York Times*
- 12:00-1:00 pm Lunch (Light lunch will be available) – Dee Kelly Lounge
- 1:00-2:15 pm **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1974 FOIA Amendments – A Look Behind the Curtain**  
Overshadowed by Watergate, the passage of the 1974 FOIA Amendments was not an easy “fix” to the Freedom of Information Act. Although President Ford was inclined to sign the legislation, he met with opposition within his own Administration. Tom Susman, who played an integral part in crafting the 1974 Amendments, pulls back the curtain with a behind-the-scenes look at the forces that supported and opposed the Amendments. He is joined in a fireside chat-style session with Miriam Nisbet, whose legal career started in 1978 with the US Justice Department’s inaugural Office of Privacy and Information Appeals, implementing the newly amended FOIA for the government. Miriam became the first FOIA ombudsman for the US government in 2009.  
Panelists:  
**Thomas Susman**, *Strategic Advisor for Governmental Affairs and Global Programs for the American Bar Association*  
**Miriam Nisbet**, *former Director of the Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration*
- 2:15-2:30 pm Stretch Break
- 2:30-3:30 pm **The Future of FOIA**  
Panelists will discuss the problems and solutions that technology poses and share differing perspectives as to what the future holds for accessing documents under the FOIA.  
Panelists:  
**Ryan P. Mulvey**, *Policy Counsel, Americans for Prosperity Foundation*  
**Jason R. Baron**, *Professor of the Practice, University of Maryland College of Information*  
**Anne Weismann**, *Adjunct Professor, George Washington University Law School*  
**Sean O’Neill**, *Chief of Staff, Office of Information Policy, U.S. Department of Justice*
- 3:30 pm Closing Remarks