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A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 FOIA Amendments

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Career Fair

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Jason R. Baron is a professor of the practice in the College of Information at the University of Maryland. His research interests involve practical applications of artificial intelligence, including in providing public access to government records.

During his 33 years in government service, he served as the first appointed director of litigation at the National Archives and Records Administration, and before that as a trial attorney and senior counsel at the Justice Department. In those capacities, Mr. Baron acted as lead counsel on landmark lawsuits involving the preservation of White House email, and also played a leading role in improving federal electronic recordkeeping policies. Prior to his current faculty appointment, he served as Of Counsel in the e-discovery and information governance practice at Faegre Drinker LLP.

Mr. Baron currently is serving his third two-year term on the FOIA Advisory Committee, as co-chair of the Implementation Subcommittee. In prior terms on the Committee, he has co-chaired a Modernization Subcommittee, and a Records Management Subcommittee. He is a past co-chair of the D.C. Bar's E-discovery and Information Governance Committee, a past co-chair of The Sedona Conference's Working Group on Electronic Document Retention and Production, formerly a member of the board of directors of ARMA International, and for seventeen years served as an advisory board member to the Georgetown School of Law Advanced E-Discovery Institute.

Among his awards while in federal service, Mr. Baron was a recipient of the Justice Tom C. Clark Outstanding Government Lawyer Award given by the Federal Bar Association. He is also the only government lawyer to have received the international Emmett Leahy Award for his achievements in records and information management. He is the author of over 100 publications on recordkeeping and related subjects, and served as lead editor of the book "Perspectives on Predictive Coding and other Advanced Search Methods for the Legal Practitioner," published by the American Bar Association.

In connection with various recordkeeping controversies, Mr. Baron has appeared on multiple occasions on CNN, as well as on MSNBC, NBC News, Good Morning America, and NPR's All Things Considered. He has been quoted in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and in dozens of other national and international media outlets.

Mr. Baron received his B.A. *magna cum laude* with honors from Wesleyan University, and his J.D. from Boston University School of Law.

David Cuillier is director of the Joseph L. Brechner Freedom of Information Project at the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, which has provided research and education in government transparency since 1977 and currently coordinates national Sunshine Week.

He has served as president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition and the Society of Professional Journalists. During the past two decades, he has taught more than 12,000 journalists, students and citizens on how to acquire public records, and is co-author of "The Art of Access: Strategies for Acquiring Public Records" and "Transparency 2.0: Digital Data and Privacy in a Wired World." He is serving his third term on the National Archivist's FOIA Advisory Committee, and he has testified three times before Congress regarding FOIA. Cuillier started his career as a newspaper reporter and editor in the Pacific Northwest, before earning his doctorate in communication in 2006 at Washington State University.

Lauren Harper is Freedom of the Press Foundation's first Daniel Ellsberg Chair on Government Secrecy, a position established to honor and continue the legendary whistleblower's fight for secrecy reform. Harper joins FPF after a decade fighting excessive government secrecy with Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, the National Security Archive. There she served as public policy director and helped historians, journalists, and the public win the declassification of historically significant government documents. She holds a master's in public policy and a master's in Middle Eastern studies, both from the University of Chicago.

Nate Jones is the award-winning FOIA director for *The Washington Post*, where he works with reporters to target documents to request, appeal and sue for. He works with reporters to obtain local, state and federal records and to think strategically about public records in all formats. He gives FOIA training sessions and advises reporters on how to write, refine and track requests, navigate delays and overredactions, and overcome other bureaucratic resistance. He is also author of the "Revealing Records" column which describes The Post's battles for public records. He has served two terms on the Federal FOIA Advisory Committee and holds a JD from the University of the District of Columbia. He previously was the director of the FOIA Project for the National Security Archive, where he used FOIA to write a book on the 1983 Able Archer nuclear war scare.

Education: Lewis and Clark College, BA in history ; George Washington University, MA in history; University of the District of Columbia, JD

Honors and Awards: member of the team which won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, 2024; Investigative Reporters and Editors Freedom of Information Award, 2023; News Leader Association First Amendment Award, 2023; National Press Club Michael A. Dornheim Award, 2023; member of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, 2022.

Professional Affiliations: fellow at the National Security Archive; currently serving as secretary for the American Society of Access Professionals, and a member of Investigative Reporters and Editors

Alan B. Morrison is the Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest & Public Service at GW Law. He is responsible for creating pro bono opportunities for students, bringing a wide range of public interest programs to the law school, encouraging students to seek positions in the non-profit and government sectors, and assisting students find ways to fund their legal education to make it possible for them to pursue careers outside of traditional law firms.

For most of his career, Dean Morrison worked for the Public Citizen Litigation Group, which he co-founded with Ralph Nader in 1972 and directed for over 25 years. His work involved law reform litigation in various areas including: open government, opening up the legal profession, suing agencies that fail to comply with the law, enforcing principles of separation of powers, protecting the rights of consumers, and protecting unrepresented class members in class action settlements.

He has argued 20 cases in the Supreme Court, including victories in *Goldfarb v. Virginia State Bar* (holding lawyers subject to the antitrust laws for using minimum fee schedules); *Virginia State Board of Pharmacy v. Virginia Citizens Consumer Council* (making commercial speech subject to the First Amendment); and *INS v. Chadha* (striking down over 200 federal laws containing the legislative veto as a violation of separation of powers).

He currently teaches civil procedure and constitutional law, and previously taught at Harvard, NYU, Stanford, Hawaii, and American University law schools. He is a member of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and was its president in 1999–2000. Among other positions, he served as an elected member of the Board of Governors of the District of Columbia Bar, a member and then senior fellow of the Administrative Conference of the United States, a member of the American Law Institute, and a member of the Committee on Science, Technology & Law of the National Academy of Science. He is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, served as a commissioned officer in the US Navy, and was an assistant U.S. attorney in New York.

Ryan P. Mulvey has worked as policy counsel at Americans for Prosperity Foundation since December 2019. He previously worked as Counsel as Cause of Action Institute (2013-2019) and continues to volunteer in that position. Ryan's practice touches on various aspects of government oversight, civic engagement, and administrative and constitutional law. He regularly lectures on government transparency matters and litigates cases under the Freedom of Information Act and Administrative Procedure Act. Ryan has helped to prosecute state public records requests, too, and provided amicus support at various levels of state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court, on various matters. As a policy expert, he regularly advises congressional staff about FOIA reform and cutting-edge transparency issues.

Ryan is admitted to the practice of law in New York State, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition to his work at AFPF, Ryan is the president of the American Society of Access Professionals and a contributor at FOIA Advisor.

Miriam Nisbet was the founding Director of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the federal Freedom of Information Act ombudsman. Created by the 2007 amendments to

the Freedom of Information Act and placed within the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), OGIS is charged with providing mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and federal agencies and with improving FOIA administration. Miriam retired in November 2014. She previously worked for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the American Library Association, NARA, and the US Department of Justice. She is a member of the Bars of the District of Columbia and North Carolina. Miriam is a past president of the American Society of Access Professionals.

Education: UNC-Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina School of Law

Sean O’Neill was named as the Chief of Staff for the Department of Justice’s Office of Information Policy (OIP) in April 2021. In this capacity, Mr. O’Neill assists OIP’s Director with the management of all OIP operations, including OIP’s efforts to process FOIA requests on behalf of the Department’s leadership offices, its adjudication of DOJ administrative FOIA appeals, its defense of FOIA litigation against the Department’s senior leadership offices, and OIP’s agency-oversight, budget, policymaking, and other activities. Mr. O’Neill also currently serves as a member of the Technology Committee of the Chief FOIA Officers Council, with a specific interest in artificial intelligence. Mr. O’Neill was previously the Chief of the Administrative Appeals Staff from 2012 through 2019 after serving as an attorney-advisor on OIP’s Appeals Staff. Mr. O’Neill is a 2006 graduate of the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University in Arlington, VA. He received his B.A. in Political Science from Brigham Young University in 2002.

Charlie Savage, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, is a Washington correspondent for the New York Times. He specializes in national security and legal policy issues and is a frequent FOIA litigant. Originally from Fort Wayne, Indiana, Savage graduated from Harvard College and earned a master’s degree from Yale Law School. He began his reporting career at the Miami Herald in 1999, moved to the Washington bureau of the Boston Globe in 2003, and then to the Washington bureau of the New York Times in 2008. He is the author of two books: *Takeover* (2007), is an investigative history of the Bush administration’s efforts to expand presidential power after the 9/11 attacks, and *Power Wars* (2015), an investigative history of national-security legal policymaking during the Obama administration.

Thomas M. Susman is the American Bar Association’s Strategic Advisor for Governmental Affairs and Global Programs. He assumed that role after retiring in 2018 as the Director of the Governmental Affairs Office and Associate Executive Director of the American Bar Association, a position he held since May 2008.

Prior to joining the ABA, he was a partner in the Washington Office of Ropes & Gray LLP for 27 years. There his work included counseling, litigation, and lobbying on a wide range of regulatory, antitrust, healthcare, lobbying, ethics, and information law issues.

Before joining Ropes & Gray, Tom served on Capitol Hill for over 11 years. He was Chief Counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure and General Counsel to the Antitrust Subcommittee and to the Senate Judiciary Committee. In 1974, Tom was the principal Senate staff responsible for drafting and advancing the 1974 FOIA Amendments.

He is a nationally recognized expert on lobbying, freedom of information, and administrative law. Tom co-edits the *Lobbying Manual*; served as an adjunct professor at The American University’s

Washington College of Law; and chairs the Ethics Committee of the National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics. He has also written, taught, and lectured both in the U.S. and abroad on transparency, access to government information, and administrative law; he received the American Library Association's "Champion of Public Access" award in 2009 and the Collaboration on Government Secrecy's "Robert Vaughn FOIA Legend" award in 2008, and is Founding President of the D.C. Open Government Coalition.

Tom is a member of the American Law Institute, was Chairman of the National Judicial College Board, and was president of the District of Columbia Public Library Foundation. He is a graduate of Yale University and received his J.D. from the University of Texas Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the Texas Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. Tom is also a member of the American Society of Access Professionals and previously served on the board as treasurer.

Katie Townsend is the Reporters Committee's deputy executive director and legal director. She oversees the Reporters Committee's legal services portfolio — including its litigation, vetting/pre-publication review, and amicus practices — and supervises the legal work of the Reporters Committee's team of staff attorneys and legal fellows.

Townsend joined the Reporters Committee as its first Litigation Director in 2014. Prior to joining the Reporters Committee, she was a litigation associate in the Los Angeles office of Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, where she specialized in media and entertainment litigation. Prior to joining Gibson Dunn, Townsend spent a summer in the Washington, D.C., office of Levine, Sullivan, Koch & Schulz LLP.

In May 2014, Townsend was named a "Rising Star" — one of the nation's top media and entertainment attorneys under the age of 40 — by Law 360. She was recognized in 2015 as a Washington, D.C., "Rising Star" by The National Law Journal and, that same year, was named part of the "Next Gen - Hollywood's Up-and-Coming Execs 35 and Under" by the Hollywood Reporter.

Townsend is a 2007 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was a member of the editorial board of the Virginia Law Review. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Florida in 2004 with a B.A. in English and a B.S. in broadcast journalism. While pursuing her undergraduate degrees, she worked as a reporter and news producer for a local AM news radio station.

Admitted to practice in California, New York, and Washington, D.C.

Anne Weismann is an Adjunct Professor at George Washington University Law School co-teaching the Public Justice Advocacy Clinic. She also acts as outside litigation counsel for non-profit organizations and individuals seeking to bring greater accountability to the federal government. Previously she served as Chief Counsel and Chief FOIA Counsel for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a non-profit organization committed to identifying, analyzing, and deterring unethical government conduct. On behalf of CREW Ms. Weismann has handled a wide range of high-profile litigation from lawsuits seeking public access to White House visitor records and opinions of the Office of Legal Counsel to a lawsuit seeking to compel President Trump to comply with his recordkeeping obligations under the Presidential Records Act. She previously served as the Executive Director of Campaign for Accountability, a non-profit organization that uses research, litigation, and communication to hold those who act at the expense of the public accountable for their actions.

Before entering the non-profit arena, Ms. Weisman served as the Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Bureau for the Federal Communications Commission and as an Assistant Branch Director at the Department of Justice, where she oversaw the Department's government information litigation.

Ms. Weismann has received numerous honors for her transparency work, including induction into the FOIA Hall of Fame, is a frequent lecturer on transparency and ethics issues, and has testified numerous times before Congress on transparency issues. Ms. Weismann is a past president of the American Society of Access Professionals. She received her BA Magna Cum Laude from Brown University and her JD from George Washington Law School.