



ASAP FOIA/Privacy Act Training Workshop

September 5-7, 2012

Sofitel Hotel – Chicago, Illinois

Speaker Bios

Richard L. Huff, as a member of the Senior Executive Service, served as one of two co-directors of the Office of Information and Privacy since the Office's creation in 1982 until his retirement in 2005. He was the official designated by the Attorney General to act on all administrative appeals from denials under the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act of 1974 by Department of Justice components. (The Department averaged over 3000 such administrative appeals each year.) He litigated and supervised FOIA cases at the district and appellate level and has testified before Congress on the implementation of the 1996 Electronic FOIA Amendments and on the interface between the FOIA and the Privacy Act. For twenty-three years he oversaw the development of the "Freedom of Information Act Guide & Privacy Act Overview," the Department of Justice's 1100-page treatise that was updated and distributed every other year to more than 22,000 recipients. He has also published several legal articles, including "A Preliminary Analysis of the Implementation of the Freedom of Information Reform Act." Mr. Huff came to the Department of Justice in 1976 after serving seven years on active duty in the Army; during his last reserve assignment he was assigned to the Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School where he taught FOIA and Privacy Act subjects to military graduate students. He is now a retired colonel in the Army Reserve. Since retiring Mr. Huff has made one-, two-, and three-day training presentations for the Departments of Justice, Army, Commerce, and Homeland Security, as well as for the American Society of Access Professionals and the Graduate School, United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Huff received a B.A. from Stanford, an M.A. from St. Mary's University, a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of the Law, and a Master of Laws from Georgetown University.

William Kammer is the Chief, FOIA Division, Department of Defense. Mr. Kammer has been working with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Declassification fields since 1991. He has served with the Department of Defense Directorate for Freedom of Information and Security Review (DFOISR) since October 1998, and was named Chief, FOIA Division in February 2000. While at DFOISR, he has developed and implemented FOIA policy, and managed the OSD/JCS FOIA program. Prior to joining DFOISR, Mr. Kammer served as a FOIA action officer in the Joint Staff from 1991-1995, and was responsible for developing and implementing the Joint Staff Automatic Declassification plan in 1996. He was the principal declassifying official for the Joint Staff Automatic Declassification program from 1996-1998. Mr. Kammer has been with the Department of Defense since 1984, serving as an Ammunition Surveillance Specialist with the Department of the Army, and as an Investigator with the Defense Investigative Service prior to joining the Joint Staff in 1991. Mr. Kammer served for two years as Director for the American Society of Access Professionals from 2003-04. He currently serves as vice president. He also serves as an Instructor for ASAP, Department of Defense, Department of Justice and other federal agencies. He is the recipient of the 2006 DOJ FOIA Officer of the Year Award.

Joel D. Miller is an Assistant General Counsel in the FOIA Litigation Unit of the Office of the General Counsel of the FBI where he has been since July of 2004. He came to the Bureau after a 30-year career as an Army Judge Advocate. Mr. Miller currently serves as a director on the ASAP Board.

Ramona Branch Oliver is the Director of the Office of Information Services (OIS), within the Office of the Solicitor at the US Department of Labor. Under her leadership, OIS is the newly established focal point for the coordination of FOIA program improvement efforts at DOL, providing agency-wide oversight, leadership and guidance to ensure compliance with FOIA, particularly to increase the quality, and timeliness of FOIA responses; reduce the backlog of pending FOIA requests; and review the effectiveness of each agency component's FOIA processes in order to benchmark best practices, and make recommendations for programmatic improvements. Prior to joining DOL, Ms. Oliver provided leadership for the FOIA, Privacy Act, and PII Awareness programs at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Ms. Oliver has lectured on FOIA and Privacy Act for many Federal agencies and private organizations. She has been a member of ASAP for over 10 years and served on the ASAP board as a Director.

Frederick J. Sadler is the Director of the Division of Freedom of Information, for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), in the Office of the Commissioner, where he is responsible for administration of the Agency's FOIA and Privacy Act programs. Prior to assuming this position, Fred served as the Agency's Denials and Appeals Officer, where he was responsible for overseeing and preparing responses to all requests which required issuance of either a denial or an appeal. Fred is also an accredited CIPP/G (Certified Information Privacy Professional, for Government), under the International Assoc. of Privacy Professionals. Fred has also served as the FOI officer in two component offices within the FDA, which dealt with medical devices and biologic products. Fred assists with FOIA-related litigation, and has served on various agency working groups dealing with disclosure related issues, to include "Re-engineering" the FOIA process for the agency. In addition to the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service, Fred has received numerous awards and commendations. Fred provides FOI training for FDA, has been a speaker for the Dept. of Justice's FOI training conferences, and is a frequent speaker at the American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP). Fred served as ASAP's President in 2005-2006, and has been with the FDA for 33 years.

Charlene Wright Thomas serves as the Senior Advisor on Privacy Policy for the U.S. Department of State. She is responsible for providing executive level leadership and management oversight of the Department's privacy program and represents the Department on a wide variety of domestic and international privacy issues. Before coming to the Department, Charlene was the Deputy Privacy Advocate for the Internal Revenue Service where she was responsible for integrating privacy safeguards into the IRS' automated systems. She also served at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Information and Privacy, working with staffs of successive Attorneys General in responding to FOIA and Privacy Act requests. As a past president of the American Society of Access Professionals, Charlene continues to provide guidance and training across the government. Charlene graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Maryland.

Anne Weismann serves as Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington's Chief Counsel. Prior to joining CREW, Ms. Weismann served as Deputy Chief of the Enforcement Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission, where she had responsibility for all of the Bureau's telecommunications matters. Before that, she worked in the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, where she served as an Assistant Branch Director with supervisory responsibility over banking litigation, housing litigation and, from 1995 until 2002, all government information litigation. This included litigation under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Federal Advisory Committee Act and statutes governing federal and presidential records. Prior to that, she worked in the Solicitor's Office at the Department of Labor. Ms. Weismann currently serves as a president on the ASAP Board.