



ASAP FOIA-Privacy Act Workshop September 7-9, 2022

Speaker and Moderator Bios

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 (DOL). Under her leadership, OIS is the newly established focal point for the coordination of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act program improvement efforts at DOL. 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 is a recognized expert in the access community and over the course of her career she has lectured on FOIA, Privacy Act and Records Management for many Federal agencies and private organizations. She has participated in ASAP since 1996 and served on the ASAP Board, as a director from 2005-2009. She also served as a member of the Federal FOIA Advisory Committee from 2014 - 2016.

Stacy Ekis has been a FOIA Officer with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Office since 2019. In previous roles she has also served as an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Program Manager and Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator. In her roles, she has been an advisor in EEO program management as well as a focus on advancements in technology (API, PowerBI, automation, video self-help) to simplify and streamline work processes. She recently gave an interview to GovCIO on the positive impact of automation on FOIA processing times. She is also currently a committee member on the Chief FOIA Office Council (CFOC) Technology Committee where her focus is on improving 508 compliance. Stacy holds a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

Dennis Ellsworth is the executive director of the Missouri Sunshine Coalition, a nonprofit group that is a member of the National Freedom of Information Coalition. The state coalition promotes awareness and education about the Missouri Sunshine Law and its provisions for making government transparent and accessible to the state's citizens. Mr. Ellsworth is the immediate past executive editor of the St. Joseph (Mo.) News-Press. He also previously was the editor of the San Angelo (Texas) Standard-Times and assistant managing editor of The Wichita (Kan.) Eagle. He is a graduate of the University of Kansas and a former Knight Ridder Fellow in the Visiting Journalists Program at Duke University.

Karen Finnegan Meyers retired from Federal service in January 2020 and returned to the FOIA world in December 2021. From 2016 to 2020, she served as the Director of the Executive Services Directorate (ESD), Washington Headquarters Services, in the Department of Defense. In this role, she oversaw a Directorate that provided knowledge management, information security and graphics services to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. ESD also executed legally mandated programs implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Federal Records Act. Ms. Meyers has also served as the Chief of the Programs and Policies Division in the Office of Information Programs and Services at the Department of State managing five program areas that provided guidance and support to the State Department's Bureaus, Offices and Posts on a variety of information access and knowledge management matters, including FOIA policies, procedures and training, FOIA litigation and appeals, special document productions to Congress, other investigatory bodies, and in civil and criminal discovery, and the implementation of Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information. Ms. Meyers also served as the first Deputy Director of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). Ms. Meyers's career also includes serving as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the FOIA Staff of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, as an Assistant General

Counsel in the Office of the General Counsel at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and as an Attorney Advisor in the Justice Department's Office of Information Policy. She has served as the Department of Defense representative on NARA's National Historical Publications and Records Commission, and as the State Department's representative on the legislatively mandated FOIA Advisory Committee. Ms. Meyers is a long time ASAP member and currently chairs ASAP's Certification Committee.

Ryan Mulvey is Policy Counsel at Americans for Prosperity Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization committed to educating Americans to be advocates for freedom and real change. In that role, Ryan works on various legal policy issues, especially government transparency at the federal and state levels. He also volunteers as Counsel at Cause of Action Institute, where he has specialized in FOIA practice since 2013. As an attorney, Ryan has extensive experience with FOIA litigation and amicus work at the district court, appellate, and Supreme Court levels; as a policy expert, he has advised congressional staff about FOIA reform and researches cutting-edge FOI issues. In his personal time, Ryan helps run FOIAadvisor.com, a free, online resource on all things FOIA. He is a graduate of the University of San Diego (BA) and Boston University (JD/MA). Ryan currently serves as ASAP president, 2021-2022.

Ginger Quintero-McCall recently returned to the nonprofit sector where she is the Legal Director at Demand Progress. Ms. Quintero-McCall has worked as both a government open records attorney and an attorney for the requester community. Most recently on the federal government side, she served as Deputy Associate Chief Counsel for Information Law at the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, where she oversaw the agency's information law-related response to Covid-19. She was formerly an Attorney Advisor at the Department of Labor, where she worked on public records, information law, and privacy issues. There she defended the Department against Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuits, commented on the Department's FOIA regulations, and commented on proposed FOIA legislation. Ms. Quintero-McCall also served as Oregon's first Public Records Advocate - leading an independent office that provided mediation and training on public records requests. Prior to her work in government, she was the Associate Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), a public interest research center, where she directed the Center's Open Government Program. Ms. Quintero-McCall managed EPIC's FOIA litigation and worked on a variety of related issues, including consumer privacy protection, international privacy law, and national security matters. Ms. Quintero-McCall has twice served on the FOIA Federal Advisory Committee, where she has led two subcommittees dedicated to researching and proposing improvements on the implementation of the FOIA. She was recently reappointed to the Committee for another term. Ms. Quintero-McCall has also taught a course on the Law of Open Government at Georgetown University Law Center. She co-edited *Litigation Under the Federal Government Laws 2010*, has been published in the *New York Times*, and has co-authored several friend-of-the-court briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. Quintero-McCall graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh and received her law degree from Cornell Law School. She is barred in Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia. Ms. McCall served as ASAP vice president in 2015-2016 and has served on the board several times.

Michael Sarich is the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Director. Mr. Sarich joined the VHA FOIA Office in the spring of 2018. Prior to joining the VHA FOIA Office, Mr. Sarich worked for the Social Security Administration (SSA) where he handled FOIA litigation issues, significant FOIA cases, and led a major rewrite of SSA FOIA Regulations in accordance with the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016. Mr. Sarich is a class of 2011 Presidential Management Fellow (BLM), has worked in the Irish Parliament and served three terms on his hometown's city council. Mr. Sarich is a United States Army veteran who served in Korea, Germany, Texas, and Maryland. Mr. Sarich is raising two boys in partnership with his wonderful wife Angela, enjoys climbing, kayaking, surfing, and is a frequent patron of the arts. Mr. Sarich is a member of Maryland's Bar, holding a Juris Doctor, a Master's in Public Management, and a Government and Politics degree from the University of Maryland. As they say in College Park, he is a "Terp for Life." Mr. Sarich is dedicated to meeting the needs of the requester community and is honored to be able to assist those he's served with in the defense of our nation as the VHA's FOIA Director.

Kellie Robinson Ms. Robinson serves as the Chief, Requester Liaison Division, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Program Manager and FOIA Public Liaison, for the Department of State. She is responsible for ensuring

that the Department ‘s policies and procedures are established and that they comply with FOIA, FOIA Amendments, Executive Orders, case law, and government-wide policy changes. She works to improve awareness of FOIA programs and policies throughout the State Department developing training curriculums and then training staff through briefings and sessions about different aspects of the FOIA, updates or changes to FOIA policy or law, any update, or changes to the Department’s FOIA policies or procedures, and any other relevant FOIA matters. She is an advisor to senior leadership, the Department bureaus and offices and other federal agencies on all matters related to FOIA processing and policy matters at the Department. Assisting in the resolution of disputes between the requester and the Department acting as a conduit between the public and the Department, especially when there are issues with FOIA requests and/or the FOIA process. Currently she is an American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) member. She is a Certified Information Privacy Professional/Government through the International Association of Privacy Professionals and a member of the Protocol and Diplomacy International/Protocol Officers Association.

Alina M. Semo has served as the Director of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the FOIA Ombudsman, at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), since December 2016. In that capacity, she chairs the FOIA Advisory Committee; co-chairs the Chief FOIA Officers Council along with the Director of the US Department of Justice Office of Information Policy, a body created by the FOIA Improvement Act of 2016; and recently became an *ex officio* member of the Chief Data Officers Council. Prior to joining OGIS, Ms. Semo was NARA’s Director of Litigation in the Office of General Counsel. Before joining NARA, Ms. Semo created and led the FOIA Litigation Unit in the Office of the General Counsel at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was involved in litigating some of the most significant post-9/11 cases involving FOIA. Ms. Semo began her federal government career as a U.S. Department of Justice trial attorney, and later senior counsel, in the Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division, and worked as an associate at Hopkins & Sutter (now Foley & Lardner) in Washington, D.C. Ms. Semo holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law School; she is licensed in the District of Columbia and Maryland. Ms. Semo has served on the ASAP Certification Committee and has been a long-time ASAP member.

Gunita Singh - Gunita Singh is a staff attorney for the Reporters Committee where she works on litigation, policy, and amicus work, primarily around state and federal freedom of information laws while also helping reporters and news organizations with records requests. Gunita received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree from Boston University where she studied political science and graduated *magna cum laude*. She recently co-authored chapter alongside Adam Marshall in *COVID-19: The Legal Challenges* (Carolina Academic Press, 2021) titled “Access to Public Records and the Role of the News Media in Providing Information About COVID-19.” Her other Writings include *Prioritizing the Public’s Right to Know in a Pandemic* (Wake Forest Journal of Law & Policy, 2022). Gunita also serves on the board of directors at LION Publishers. Previously, she was an attorney at the DC-based government transparency organization Property of the People where she used the Freedom of Information Act to foster transparency and accountability of government institutions. She is licensed to practice in California and the District of Columbia.