

## 2009 FOI conference set for March 13

### News release

First Amendment Center Online staff  
02.06.09

WASHINGTON — The 11th annual National FOI Day Conference will be held on Friday, March 13, in the Freedom Forum's Newseum.

The theme of this year's conference, hosted by the First Amendment Center, is "Freedom and Information: Looking Back and Looking Forward."

The program will include legal scholars, lawyers and journalists discussing the state of freedom of information after the Bush administration and its prospects in the Obama administration.

David Vladeck, a Georgetown University law professor, will speak on "The Last Eight Years: Freedom of Information in the Bush Era." Meredith Fuchs, general counsel for the National Security Archive, will moderate a discussion afterwards with the following commentators: Mike German, national-security expert, American Civil Liberties Union, Mark Tapscott, editorial-page editor, The Washington Examiner, Richard A. Samp, chief counsel for the Washington Legal Foundation, and Professor Rena Steinzor of the University of Maryland School of Law.

The FOI Day Conference, which brings together access advocates, government officials, lawyers, librarians, journalists, educators and others, is presented in association with Sunshine Week, the American Library Association and OpenTheGovernment.org.

The conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at noon. It will be at the Knight Conference Center at the Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., 7th floor. (Use the Sixth Street entrance.)

Ronald K.L. Collins, First Amendment scholar, said, "We as a nation may be at a turning point when it comes to open government. Of course, that remains to be seen. Meanwhile, we need to assess where we've been and where we're going so far as freedom of information is concerned. This year's FOI conference addresses just such concerns."

- There is no charge to attend, but because space is limited, participants must register individually in advance. To register for the 2009 National FOI Day Conference, you must: Send an e-mail to [ahampton@freedomforum.org](mailto:ahampton@freedomforum.org)

Its offices on the Vanderbilt campus are located in the John Seigenthaler Center.

**Contact:**

Ron Collins, 202/292-6292