

SPEAKERS LIST

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS ON ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION

[AG/RES. 2514 (XXXIX-O/09) and AG/RES. 2607 (XL-O/10)]

Date: December 13, 2010
Simón Bolívar Room
Washington, D.C.

- **Karina Banfi, Regional Alliance for the Freedom of Expression and Access to Information**
Ms. Banfi is the Executive Director of the Regional Alliance for Freedom of Expression and Information. The Alliance comprises twenty four leading civil society organizations from eighteen countries of the Americas. She also coordinates regional programs for the Trust for the Americas, organization affiliated with the Organization of American States (OAS) and headquartered in Washington, D.C. She develops training activities for NGO's and journalists, as well as incidence actions regarding Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Latin America and the Caribbean. Previously, she worked with declassified documents of the U.S. Department of the State in the National Security Archive (NSA, George Washington University) regarding the last Argentinean dictatorship and the violation of human rights. In Argentina, she was a researcher at the Ministry of Justice. She investigated the irregularities in the trial about the international terrorist attack against AMIA (Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina). This investigation included the use of declassified documents of the Intelligence Secretariat. As a consultant of the Argentinean Anticorruption Bureau and the World Bank, she participated in the draft of a bill about witnesses' and complaining parties' protection in cases of corruption.
- **Catalina Botero, Rapporteur for Freedom of Thought and Expression, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**
Dr. Botero Marino was elected in 2007 by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to serve as the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression. She worked previously as Auxiliary Magistrate in the Constitutional Court of Colombia since 2005. She has held a number of posts, including: National Director of the Office for the Promotion and Dissemination of Human Rights, in the Office of the People's Defender of Colombia; Director of the Consultancy for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law at the Social Foundation; adviser for the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Nation; and professor and researcher at the Law School of the Universidad de los Andes. She received her law degree in 1988 at the Universidad de los Andes and did postgraduate studies at that university, as well as in Madrid, Spain, at Universidad Complutense, the Center for Constitutional Studies and the Universidad Carlos III.
- **Luis Castro Joo, Minister Counselor, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Peru**

Mr. Luis Castro Joo is Minister Counselor with the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, currently Director of International Trade Negotiations, and Free Trade within the General Directorate of the World Traded Organization and International Economic Negotiations. During his diplomatic career, Mr. Castro Joo was Alternate Representative of Peru to the Organization of American States, where he oversaw the topic of access to information.

- **Raúl Ferrada, Director General, Council for Transparency, Chile**

Mr. FERRADA CARRASCO is Director General of the Chilean Council on Transparency, a lawyer from the University of Diego Portales and has a Masters in business law from the University of Adolfo Ibañez. He has a long professional career in the public sector with 13 years of experience in the Superintendence of Isapres and the Superintendence of Health, in a wide array of regulatory topics, supervision, control, taxes and conflict resolution. During which time he filled various posts, including Chief Legal Counsel and Director of the Client Affairs, was elected via public contest to the position of High Public Director for health insurance funds in 2006 and in assumed the position as Director General of the Council o Transparence in March of 2009.

- **Issa Luna Pla, Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Juridicas, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico**

Issa Luna Pla is a researcher at the UNAM Legal Research Institute and has a doctorate in the right to information from Western University, Sinaloa, Mexico and a master in human rights from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, UK. Luna Pla has been a researcher in the Program on Comparative Media Law and Policy (PCLMP), Oxford University (Great Britain). Her published books include *El Derecho de Acceso a la Información Pública*, UIA-Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Mexico 2002; *Agenda Setting de los Medios*, UIA-Western University, Mexico 2003; *Movimiento social del derecho de acceso a la información pública en México*, Instituto de Investigaciones Jurídicas, UNAM, Mexico, 2009. She has collaborated with civil society organizations in Mexico advocating the right to information. Among the activities that Luna has participated in are the Global Media Assistance Strategies conference organized by the World Bank, USAID, and the PCMPL, held in Paris, France, 2001. Luna Pla has written numerous articles in specialized journals and prestigious newspapers.

- **María Marván Laborde, Commissioner, Federal Institute of Access to Information and Data Protection, Mexico**

Ms. Marvan is one of the present Information Commissioners of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information (IFAI). She was appointed by the President of Mexico on November the 8th, 2002 and ratified to her post on September 2006. Her work at IFAI has been focused on the impulse and enforcement of the Right of Access to Information, the promotion of Transparency and Accountability and the protection of personal data. Mrs. Marván has a PhD on Sociology by the New School for Social Research of New York. She developed her career as a researcher and professor at the University of the State of Guadalajara. She is currently a professor of the course: *Democracy and Transparency* at ITAM. Maria Marvan is author of several articles and has worked as an editor of the *Milenio*, *Siglo 21*, and *Público* newspapers. Among the different posts that Mrs. Maria Marván has been placed, the following are noteworthy: Counselor at the

Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) in the state of Jalisco and Counselor and member of the governing body for the National Institute for Women.

- **Lisa Lui, Lead Counsel, Information Policy, Legal Vice-Presidency, The World Bank**

Ms. Lui is the head of the World Bank's Information Policy Unit, which oversees and manages all advisory and regulatory aspects of the World Bank's Policy on Access to Information (AI). The unit also serves as the secretariat for the mechanisms established under the AI Policy to consider appeals against decisions of the World Bank to deny public requests for information. Ms. Lui joined the World Bank in 1996, and has served as counsel on corporate administrative matters, operational policies, and lending portfolios for member countries. Prior to joining the World Bank, Ms. Lui served as an attorney advisor with the United States Department of Labor.

- **Laura Neuman, Access to Information Project Manager and Associate Director of the Americas Program, The Carter Center**

Laura Neuman is Associate Director for the Americas Program and the Access to Information Project Manager for the Carter Center. She directs, develops and implements the Center's transparency projects, including projects in Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, Liberia, and China and at the hemispheric level in the Americas. She most recently organized and managed the International Conference on the Right to Public Information for more than 125 participants from 40 countries and the follow-on Americas Conference on the Right of Access to Information. Ms. Neuman edited six widely distributed guidebooks on fostering transparency and preventing corruption, has been published in a number of books and paper series, and has presented at numerous international seminars relating to access to information legislation, implementation and enforcement. Ms. Neuman is a member of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue task force on transparency an International Associate to the Open Democracy Advice Center, South Africa, and has served as a consultant to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and a number of governments. Ms. Neuman also has led and participated in international election monitoring missions throughout the Western hemisphere. Prior to joining The Carter Center in August 1999, she was senior staff attorney for Senior Law at Legal Action of Wisconsin. She is a 1993 graduate of the University of Wisconsin law school.

- **María del Carmen Palau, Specialist, Department of State Modernization and Good Governance, OAS**

- **Melanie Pustay, Director of the Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, USA**

Melanie Ann Pustay is the Director of the Office of Information Policy (OIP) of the Department of Justice. OIP has statutory responsibility for encouraging agency compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). As the Director of OIP, Ms. Pustay is responsible for developing policy guidance for agency personnel on all issues related to implementation of the FOIA, including guidance on President Obama's FOIA Memorandum and Attorney General Holder's FOIA Guidelines. She is the editor-in-chief of the Department of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act, which is a comprehensive legal treatise addressing the FOIA that

is published every two years. She oversees OIP's FOIA Counselor Service as well as OIP's extensive training program and regularly provides lectures on current issues pertaining to the FOIA. Ms. Pustay also provides advice to the litigating divisions of the Department of Justice in connection with FOIA cases that have become the subject of litigation, manages the Initial Request and Administrative Appeals staffs of OIP, and supervises the defense of FOIA litigation cases handled directly by OIP.

Before becoming Director, Ms. Pustay served for eight years as Deputy Director of OIP, where she was responsible for the Department's responses to access requests made to the Department's Senior Leadership Offices. Beginning in 2003 and continuing today, she has worked extensively with government officials in China, Argentina, and Chile, as well as with numerous other countries, and the Organization of American States, to assist those officials in implementing openness-in-government initiatives.

Ms. Pustay has extensive FOIA litigation experience and has argued cases before the District Court for the District of Columbia and the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, including handling a case involving access to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's official and confidential files. She was responsible for the Department's senior leadership compliance with the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, which required the federal government to make records of President Kennedy's assassination publicly available.

Ms. Pustay was given primary responsibility for drafting Executive Order 12,600, which established procedures to provide notice to businesses when their information is sought under the FOIA. Ms. Pustay has received the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for her role in providing legal advice, guidance, and assistance on records disclosure issues. She graduated from American University's Washington College of Law where she served on Law Review.

• **Marc Rotenberg, Executive Director and President, Electronic Privacy Information Center, Adjunct Professor Georgetown University Law Center**

Professor Rotenberg is president of the Electronic Privacy Information Center. Professor Rotenberg frequently testifies before Congress on emerging civil liberties issues. In 2003, he testified before the 9-11 Commission on "Security and Liberty." Professor Rotenberg has also written many amicus briefs on privacy and civil liberties for federal and state courts, including two briefs for the Supreme Court in the 2008 term (*Flores-Figueroa v. US* and *Herring v. US*). He is the editor (with Daniel J. Solove and Paul Schwartz) of *Information Privacy Law* (Aspen Publishing, 2006), the editor (with Phil Agre) of *Technology and Privacy: The New Landscape* (MIT Press 1998), *The Privacy Law Sourcebook: United States Law, International Law and Recent Developments* (Epic, 2005), and is on the editorial boards of "BNA Electronic Commerce and Law" and "Computer Law and Security Reporter." Professor Rotenberg is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and has served on advisory panels for the American Bar Association Section on Criminal Justice, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Science, UNESCO, and the OECD. He chairs the ABA Committee on Privacy and Information Protection. He is also former chair of the Public Interest Registry, which manages .ORG domain. He received his A.B. from Harvard and J.D. from Stanford.

- **David Stewart, Member, Inter-American Juridical Committee**

Mr. Stewart joined the faculty of Georgetown University Law Center in September 2008 as a Visiting Professor of Law. He teaches courses in Public International Law, International Criminal Law, Foreign Relations Law, Treaties and the Constitution, International Conflicts of Jurisdiction, Human Rights, and Private International Law. Before retiring after nearly 33 years with the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Stewart served as a career member of the Office of the Legal Adviser. His last position was Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law, heading the office that coordinates the U.S. role in the negotiation and implementation of treaties and other international efforts to unify and harmonize private law, including through participation in multilateral organizations such as UNCITRAL, UNIDROIT, the OAS and The Hague Conference on Private International Law. A graduate of Princeton University and the Yale Law School, Mr. Stewart received an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from New York University as well as an M.A. in International Relations from the Yale Graduate School. Mr. Stewart was elected to membership in the Inter-American Juridical Committee (term to run 2009-12). He is a member of the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of International Law*, the American Law Institute and the Executive Committee of the ABA's Section of International Law. He also serves as a Vice- President of the American Branch of the International Law Association. Mr. Stewart co-edited the *Digest of U.S. Practice in International Law* for the years covering 1989-2003 (seven published volumes), coauthored (with Judge Thomas Buergenthal and Professor Dinah Shelton) the *Nutshell on International Human Rights* (4rd ed. 2009), and is working (with Georgetown University Law Center Profs. Luban and O'Sullivan) on a new textbook on *International and Transnational Criminal Law*, to be published in 2009.

- **John Wilson, Principal Legal Officer, Department of International Law**

Mr. Wilson is Senior Legal Officer with the Department of International Law, of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs at the Organization of American States. On behalf of the General Secretariat, Mr. Wilson has coordinated the drafting of legislative and procedural recommendations for OAS Member States and political bodies on access to information and data protection, has coordinated a study on best practices on access to information, and is currently coordinating the drafting of a model law and implementation guide on the topic. In other duties within the OAS, Mr. Wilson coordinates the drafting of treaties and other instruments on private international law. Prior to joining the OAS, Mr. Wilson coordinated legal reform efforts in Latin America for an NGO affiliated with the University of Arizona College of Law, his alma mater.