

Sunshine Week 2008 Webcast

"Government Secrecy: Censoring Your Right to Know"

March 19, 2008, 1 – 2:30 PM (EDT)

**Participate in person at the National Press Club in Washington DC,
or Online Anywhere**

Registration now open: click [here](#) to register. Registration ends March 7, 2008.

What?

I. The Secret Executive – What Can Congress and the Public Do?

Confirmed Speakers: [Ann Beeson](#), Director of U.S. Programs at the Open Society Institute and previously Associate Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, [Mickey Edwards](#), Director of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership and former Republican member of Congress from Oklahoma for 16 years (1977-92), and [John Podesta](#), President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for American Progress, Chief of Staff to President William J. Clinton from October 1998 until January 2001, and formerly in senior staff positions in Congress, will discuss executive branch power and secrecy, congressional rights and responsibilities, and the role of the press in combating government secrecy. Patrice McDermott, Director of [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), will moderate the discussion.

II. Citizen Self-Help: Finding the Information You Need

We will be visiting and talking with creators of web sites that help the public avoid having to file official requests or go to offices and meetings to learn what our government is doing. These sites make hard-to-find government information – federal, state and local – easy for the public to find and use and may inspire you to do likewise. The sites include Sunlight Foundation, Center for Responsive Politics/[OpenSecrets.org](#), [OpenCongress.org](#), [FedSpending.org](#), and [EveryBlock](#). Greg Elin, of Sunlight Labs at the Sunlight Foundation, will moderate this segment.

A quick report will be given, as well, on an initiative to develop a 21st Century Right-to-Know agenda and recommendations for the next President and Congress.

In each segment, opportunities will be available for audience questions from all participants.

Where?

The event will be held in the Holeman Lounge of the National Press Club in Washington, D.C and webcast to sites around the country. A satellite downlink option will be available for a fee.

We're inviting you to host a program in your community! Participants are encouraged to show the national program and plan local programs tailored to open government issues in their communities.

Audience members at all sites viewing the live event will have an opportunity to call in (using any telephone) and email questions to our live panels. We will answer as many questions as time permits.

When?

The event will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008 1:00pm- 2:30pm (EDT). Once registered, sites may access the archived webcast for about one month after the program. If you are not able to show the program live, please consider showing it at a later date! It will also be up on the [OpenTheGovernment.org](#) website and be available by DVD.

How?

You will be able to watch the webcast for free! We request that you [register](#) to do so.

The cost -- [for the satellite downlink option](#) -- is \$250 per site. All sites are required to pay this fee even if showing the program at a later date, to help us underwrite our costs.

If you have questions please contact: [Chris Green](#), Program Associate,
OpenTheGovernment.org, cgreen *at* openthegovernment.org.

Sunshine Week is March 16-22, 2008. Visit www.sunshineweek.org to learn more about Sunshine Week.