

PANEL ON SF 278 & RELATED RECORDS
PUBLIC ACCESS ISSUES
13th Annual Government Ethics Conference
New York City, NY

10:15–11:45 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, 2004

Presenters: William E. Gressman, Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of General Counsel & Legal Policy, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917 (Tel.: 202-482-9245; FAX: 202-482-9237); Judith F. Means, Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (Tel.: 202-482-0387; FAX: 202-482-2552); and Elaine Newton, Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel & Legal Policy, U.S. Office of Government Ethics, Suite 500, 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20005-3917 (Tel.: 202-482-9265; FAX: 202-482-9237).

Arrival & Introduction (10:15–10:20 a.m.)

Presentations (10:20–11:45 a.m.)

- M Ethics in Government Act Public Access Issues (Mr. Gressman)
- M Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act Issues (Ms. Means)
- M Application of All Three Laws to Certain Ethics Documents (Ms. Newton)

Summary: In this session, the panelists will explain how copies of SF 278 Public Financial Disclosure Reports and other covered records are made available to public requesters in accordance with the special access procedures of the Ethics in Government Act and the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) executive branch regulations. The panelists will also address the handling of other ethics-related materials, including Privacy Act coverage and access requests under the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, the session will present OGE's revised executive branchwide Privacy Act system of records for SF 278s and other name-retrieved ethics program records (OGE/GOVT-1) as well as briefly note the new General Records Schedule 25 for Ethics Program Records, including SF 278s.

Attendees' questions and comments are welcome throughout the presentations.