



The Centre for Freedom of Information is a joint venture between the School of Law, University of Dundee and the Scottish Information Commissioner.

**Spring 2010 PROGRAMME
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION:
THE USA EXPERIENCE**

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2010

***The Symposium Hall, Surgeon's Hall, The Royal College of Surgeons, Nicolson Street,
Edinburgh EH8 9DW***

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| 17:30 | Arrival and registration |
| 18:00 | Welcome and general introduction from Chair

Professor Janet McLean,
Professor of Law and Governance, Dundee Law School |
| 18:10 | Keynote address – <i>'Lessons from America'</i>

Professor Dan Metcalfe, Washington College of Law |
| 18:50 | Response – <i>'The Scottish experience'</i>

Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner |
| 19:10 | Audience questions to speakers |
| 19:50 | Closing remarks

Professor Alan Page, Co-Director, Centre for FOI |
| 20:00 | Drink reception in the Symposium Hall foyer |
| 21:00 | Close |

About the speakers at this seminar:

Professor Janet McLean - Chair

Janet McLean was appointed Professor of Law and Governance at Dundee Law School in 2006. She was previously Associate Professor at The University of Auckland Faculty of Law, where she served as Deputy Dean in 1999-2001. She held visiting fellowships at The Australian National University (2001) and the University of Dundee (2005) and was the George P. Smith Distinguished Visiting Professor at Indiana University at Bloomington in 2003. She has acted as an advisor to the NZ government, serving on the Legislation Advisory Committee and on a ministerial inquiry into Human Rights Protection in New Zealand (2000). She has contributed to the work of the World Health Organisation in the Western Pacific. Professor McLean is widely published across public law topics including in human rights, the nature of the executive, privatisation, judicial review and the effect of international law in domestic courts.

Professor Daniel J Metcalfe

Dan Metcalfe joined the faculty of Washington College of Law in 2007 as a Faculty Fellow in Law and Government upon retiring from a career in government service that began at the US Department of Justice in 1971. He is now an Adjunct Professor at Law as well as Executive Director of the school's Collaboration on Government Secrecy. After a judicial clerkship and serving as a Justice Department trial attorney, he was appointed as a founding director of the Department's Office of Information and Privacy in 1981. For more than 25 years, he guided all US federal agencies on the government-wide administration of the US Freedom of Information Act, supervised the defence of more than 500 FOIA and Privacy Act lawsuits in district and appellate courts, and met with representatives of nearly 100 nations and international governing bodies considering the development and implementation of their own government transparency laws. He became a career member of the Senior Executive Service in 1984, the youngest Justice Department attorney then and since to hold the position, and has been named an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at University College London. Professor Metcalfe has spoken recently in Washington DC and London on the first year of the Obama administration and reflected on how well it has lived up to its early promises to create *'the most transparent administration in history'*.

Professor Alan Page

Alan Page was appointed Professor of Public Law in Dundee School of Law in 1985. He was previously a senior lecturer in the Department of Public Law (1981-85), and a lecturer at the Universities of Wales Cardiff (1975-80) and Westminster (1974-75). He was appointed Dean of the School in 2006, having previously been Head of the Department of Law (2004-2006 and 1985-95), Dean of the Faculty of Law (1986-89) and Head of the Department of Public Law (1981-86). He has acted as a specialist adviser - to the Scottish Parliament's Subordinate Legislation Committee (2004-06), the House of Lords and House of Commons Joint Committee on Financial Services and Markets (1998-99), and the House of Commons Select Committee on Scottish Affairs (1993-97); and to the European Union, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the United Nations in respect of many of the 'transition' countries of central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Advanced Legal Studies and an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the Constitution Unit, University College London.

Kevin Dunion OBE, Scottish Information Commissioner

Kevin Dunion was appointed as Scotland's first Information Commissioner in 2003 and was re-appointed on February 2008 for a second and final term of office, which expires in 2012. Since freedom of information legislation came into effect in Scotland in 2005, the Commissioner has issued over 900 decisions on whether information should be released. Some have been high profile, such as ordering the release of surgical mortality rates for every surgeon in Scotland; disclosure of the individual expenses of MSPs; and telling a health authority to reveal the full contents of a £2.1 billion hospital contract with a private company. The Commissioner has hosted visits by the Chief Commissioner for India, the Slovenian Information Commissioner, the Assistant Information Commissioner of Canada, and a delegation from China. He has also advised on the Malawi Access to Information Bill and the Carter Center's programme on access to information in Jamaica, and is currently contributing to the development of an international Implementation Assessment Tool for FOI. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Kevin was a prominent campaigner for freedom of information, and also worked as Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth Scotland, and Chair of Friends of the Earth International.

About the Centre for Freedom of Information

The Centre for Freedom of Information was established in February 2009 as a joint venture between Dundee Law School, University of Dundee and the Scottish Information Commissioner. Our aim is to provide conceptual space to reflect on and discuss current FOI issues and practice. We will build the Centre to become a central point for the development of research into FOI issues, in particular modelling decision making and examining bureaucratic culture.

The seminar programmes and forthcoming research and study programmes are designed to provide opportunities to transfer knowledge and gain further learning, with access to expertise from specialists in constitutional and civil law, FOI practitioners and the Commissioner's office.

Kevin Dunion, Scottish Information Commissioner and Professor Alan Page, Dean, School of Law, are Co-Directors of the Centre for Freedom of Information.



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How to register to attend this seminar

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – THE USA EXPERIENCE

6PM – 8PM (followed by drinks reception until 9pm)

WEDNESDAY 24 MARCH 2010

The Symposium Hall, Surgeon's Hall, The Royal College of Surgeons, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh EH8 9DW

Name _____
Organisation _____
Address _____
(for invoice if applicable) _____
Tel _____
Email _____
Purchase Order Number _____
(if known)

All cheques made payable to University of Dundee

- I will attend the seminar only – I enclose a cheque for £17.00
- I will attend the seminar and drinks reception - I enclose a cheque for £17.00
- I will attend the seminar only - I enclose a Purchase Order No
- I will attend the seminar and drinks reception – I enclose a Purchase Order No
- I will attend the seminar and drinks and enclose a cheque for £10.00*

**special reduced rate for unwaged, students and voluntary organisations*

Terms of booking

Please note, by returning this form and reserving a place you are making a firm booking. Bookings must be made on the enclosed form. Refunds will not be possible after 15th March 2010.

Completed forms to be returned to:

Ms D Hendry, Dundee Law School, University of Dundee, Dundee, DDI 4HN or via email to: centrefoi@dundee.ac.uk by Monday 15 March 2010 (please note that early booking is advised).