



Law Library E-Newsletter The Book Docket

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Sunshine Week 2007: March 11-17

By Mary Paige Smith,

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For the third consecutive year, Sunshine Week activities took place throughout the country on March 11-17, 2007. As described on their [website](#), "Sunshine Week is a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants included print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, schools and others interested in the public's right to know. Sunshine Week is led by the American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) and is funded by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation of Miami."

Sunshine Week has its roots in Florida. The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors began organizing Sunshine Sundays in 2002, in response to efforts by some Florida legislators to create numerous exemptions to the state's public records law. Encouraged by Florida's success, journalists in several other states created similar programs. In June 2003, the ASNE sponsored a national Freedom of Information Summit in Washington, D.C. With the aid of a Knight Foundation grant, the first Sunshine Week was held in 2005.

Highlights of Sunshine Week 2007 included:

MONDAY, MARCH 12: CLOSED DOORS, OPEN DEMOCRACIES?



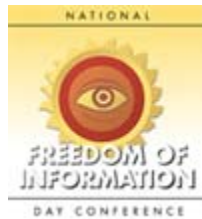
[OpenTheGovernment.org](#) and other participating groups hosted the second annual dialogue on open government and secrecy, "Closed Doors, Open Democracy?"

The program looked at access to government information, including the impact of suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety.

Held at the National Press Club, EST, the forum was web cast to sites around the country, which were encouraged to show the national program and plan local programs tailored to open government issues in their communities. Audience members at all sites will had an opportunity to call in and e-mail questions to the program.

Event sponsors are: [American Association of Law Libraries](#), [American Library Association](#), [Association of Research Libraries](#), [League of Women Voters](#), [National Coalition Against Censorship](#), [National Freedom of Information Coalition](#), [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), [Special Libraries Association](#), [Sunshine Week](#), and [Union of Concerned Scientists](#).

FRIDAY, MARCH 16: NATIONAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DAY



The ninth annual [First Amendment Center National FOI Day Conference](#) was held at the National Press Club. The conference brought together access advocates, government officials, lawyers, librarians, journalists, educators and others to discuss access to government information and the public's right to know. Sunshine Week is a co-sponsor of the event, which is held in cooperation with the American Library Association, [OpenTheGovernment.org](#) and the Coalition of Journalists for Open Government.

More than a dozen nationally known speakers and presenters appeared on the program and the agenda included discussions of government secrecy, publication of classified information and access priorities for the coming year. The American Library Association presented its annual James Madison awards and new reports and publications were released. As the conference agenda was finalized, program details were announced on the [First Amendment Center Web site](#).

For more events and information, see the [Calendar of Events](#) on the Sunshine Week website.

Faculty & Staff Publications

Anthony Chase: *Alternatives to the One Big Chop: Periodizing American (Legal) History*, Presented at 2007 Annual American Studies Association of Scotland at the University of Edinburgh, (March, 2007).

Phyllis Coleman: *Those Dreadful Liability Releases: Well, They Aren't Ironclad*, 21 Undercurrent 14 (2006).

Debra Curtis: *In a Case, In a Book, Will They Take a Second Look? Critical Reading in the Legal Writing Classroom*, 41 Willamette L. Rev. 293 (2005), cited in 58 Baylor L. Rev. 893 (2006).

Rob Gregg: *Official Communication, Official Consequences: A Look at Garcia v. Ceballos*, ABA Section of Litigation employment & Labor Relations Law Vol .5 No. 2 (Winter 2007).

Judith Karp: *In a Case, In a Book, Will They Take a Second Look? Critical Reading in the Legal Writing Classroom*, 41 Willamette L. Rev. 293 (2005), cited in 58 Baylor L. Rev. 893 (2006).

Gail Levin Richmond: FEDERAL TAX RESEARCH: GUIDE TO MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES (7th ed. Foundation Press 2007).