

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference

November 16, 2011

Sidley Austin LLP  
1 S Dearborn St  
Room 37N11  
Chicago, IL 60603  
312-853-7301

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Facilitator



## **THERESA AMATO (Theresa.amato@gmail.com)**

After a federal court clerkship in Manhattan, Chicago native Theresa Amato, ran the Freedom of Information Clearinghouse in Washington, DC at Public Citizen Litigation Group from 1991-1993. There she argued several high profile cases against the U.S. government for withholding access to public records, including a case against the Office of the Vice President. Amato contributed to *Litigation Under the Federal Open Government Laws* and trained thousands of lawyers, journalists, and citizen activists in U.S. transparency laws, often providing comments on draft information, media access, and Internet governance laws around the world.

Amato, the current executive director of Citizen Works, is the founder, former executive director of, and current board president of the Citizen Advocacy Center, an 18-year-old award-winning organization in the western suburbs of Chicago. In the 90s she regularly helped citizens have a participatory role in Illinois governance for eight years at the local, county and state levels.

Amato was graduated with honors from Harvard University in 1986, and from the New York University Law School in 1989, where she was a Root-Tilden Scholar. She has received multiple awards for her public interest lawyering, including being named on the cover of *The American Lawyer* at age 32 as one of the future leaders of the legal profession as one of the country's 45 young lawyers (under 45) whose vision and commitment are changing lives. For the 1998-1999 term, Harvard Law School named Amato a Wasserstein Public Interest Law Fellow for her outstanding dedication to public interest law. In 1999 and 2000, respectively, Amato received both the NYU Law and Loyola University School of Law Public Service Awards.

In the fall of 2002, Amato was selected to be a fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, where she led a seminar entitled "Mobilizing for Justice: How to Take on the System and Make a Difference." She has lectured/guest taught at several schools. She has also run two national presidential campaigns (2000, 2004), and is the author of *Grand Illusion, the Myth of Voter Choice in a Two-Party Tyranny* (The New Press, NYC, 2009), which is considered by the publisher of *Ballot Access News* to be the best book on ballot access ever written.

Amato has also appeared on/in many major national and international media outlets including the *BBC*, *NPR*, *CNN*, *CSPAN*, *CSPAN 2*, *CSPAN Book TV*, *CBS*, *MSNBC*, *FOX*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*. Her writings have been published in the *New York University Law Review*, *The National Civic Review*, *The Stanford Law & Policy Review*, *The Harvard Law Record*, *The Kansas City Star*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Yale Journal of International Law*, among other publications. In June 2011 she became an *On Leadership* roundtable contributor at the *Washington Post*.

Amato is licensed to practice law in Illinois, New York, and Washington, D.C, and lives with her spouse Todd Main and two daughters in Oak Park, IL. She has served as a former co-president of the Oak Park- River Forest League of Women Voters, and as the executive director of the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Ron P. Baiman (rbaiman@ctbaonline.org)** is the Director of Budget and Policy Analysis at CTBA. Prior to joining CTBA, Ron was a Research Economist for the Illinois Department of Employment Security where he analyzed and reported on state labor market, and state revenue collection, data. Before this he worked as a researcher at Loyola University's Center for Urban Research and Learning, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs of the University of Illinois, and the Center for Urban Economic Development at University of Illinois at Chicago, where he researched topics such as Wal-Mart's impact on local economic development, the impact of Illinois minimum wage increases, Chicago Living Wage Ordinances, and exit polls from the 2004 Presidential election. Ron has received research grants from the Russell Sage Foundation and from the Woods Fund of Chicago, and has taught classes on international and regional economics at the University of Chicago, DePaul University, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Roosevelt University where he was an Assistant Professor of Economics. He has also published papers on regional, public, and international political economics in a number of peer reviewed journals; co-edited a book: Political Economy and Contemporary Capitalism that received the Choice award for "Best Academic Title" in 2000; and has served on the Editorial Board of the Review of Radical Political Economics for many years. Ron holds a Ph.D., and an M.A. with Honors, both in Economics from the New School for Social Research in New York City, He did graduate work in Mathematics at the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated "very good" (Magna Cum Laude) with a B.Sc. in Mathematics and Physics from Hebrew University, Israel.

**Clark Bell (cbell@mccormickfoundation.org)** manages a \$6 million annual journalism grantmaking portfolio for the McCormick Foundation. The goal of his program is to boost civic engagement by strengthening the quality of journalistic content, enabling audiences to better understand the value of news and fostering an open and free environment for journalism to thrive. The Foundation's investment in journalistic rights supports enhanced government transparency and access to public information. Before joining McCormick in 2005, Bell held reporting and editing positions with Crain Communications, Dallas Times Herald, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Daily News and Des Moines Register.

**Natalie Brouwer Potts (npotts@kentlaw.edu)** is the Executive Director of the Center for Open Government, housed at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. She litigates state FOIA, OMA and taxpayer cases against public bodies to advance transparency and accountability in Illinois government. In addition, she teaches the Open Government Clinic at Chicago-Kent, and is now in her third year as a full-time professor at the law school. She received her B.A. from the University of Chicago and her J.D. from Cornell Law School. She is a member of the Board of Governors for the Chicago Council of Lawyers and is licensed as an attorney in Illinois and the District of Columbia.

**Don Craven (don@cravenlawoffice.com)** is general counsel to the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois News Broadcasters Association, the Illinois Broadcasters Association, and in those capacities is engaged in litigation on access and transparency issues across the state, and is involved in the legislative process on those same issues. In 1986 Mr. Craven joined his father, James C. Craven, in practice in Springfield, and his practice from 1986 to 1989 concentrated on media issues and voting rights litigation on behalf of Black and Hispanic communities in Illinois and California. He has been a member of the ISBA Assembly, and is a member of the ISBA Committee on Legislation and the task force on the Unauthorized Practice of Law.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Mary Dixon (mdixon@aclu-il.org)** has served as the Legislative and Chapter Director for the ACLU of Illinois since June of 1992. Her Legislative Director duties include testifying before Illinois House and Senate committees, bill analysis, working in coalition to advance or defeat legislation, drafting affirmative legislation and amendments, and coordination with legislators and staff on an array of issues, including criminal and juvenile justice, HIV/AIDS, racial justice, LGBT equality, reproductive rights and First Amendment freedoms.

Prior to working for the ACLU of IL Ms. Dixon worked for six years as an Assistant Public Defender in Kane County, Illinois. She is a member of the Illinois Bar, a graduate of Purdue University and Valparaiso School of Law.

**Stephen Franklin (steve@chicagoistheworld.com)** is president of the Chicago Headline Club, which has undertaken a major look at the FOIA situation for journalists in the last year. A former Chicago Tribune reporter, and Pulitzer Prize runner-up, he is the ethnic news media project director for the Community Media Workshop. He has trained journalists in Egypt and Saudia Arabia and currently teaches at the University of Illinois and Columbia College, Chicago.

**Joe Germuska (joe@germuska.com)** is a news applications developer at the Chicago Tribune. In this role, he helps reporters analyze and publish data from government bodies, obtained both via FOIA request and from public data repositories.

**Shawn Healy (shealy@mccormickfoundation.org)** is resident scholar and director of professional development for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Civics Program. He serves as the Foundation's internal resource for knowledge on civic education and engagement, and leader of teacher professional development programs. Shawn plays a key role in the Civics Program's work in the areas of advocacy and public policy, serving as a chair of the Illinois Civic Mission Coalition, and leading the state's Democracy Schools Initiative. Shawn is currently a doctoral candidate within the Political Science Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago specializing in political socialization. Shawn's interest in transparency centers on its capacity to empower citizens to engage effectively with their government, a perfect complement to his work in strengthening schools' commitments to civic learning.

**David D. Hiller (dhiller@mccormickfoundation.org)** has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation since 2009. The Foundation, which focuses on fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens, has a long history of promoting better government, freedom of the press and other First Amendment Rights, and civic engagement. Prior to joining the Foundation, David spent twenty years in the media business at Tribune Company, where he served in a variety of positions including general counsel, head of strategy and development, president of Tribune Interactive, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, and publisher of the Los Angeles Times. David's earlier career included serving as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court, Special Assistant to Attorney General William French Smith in the Justice Department, and working as a partner in the Sidley Austin law firm. David currently serves on the boards of the Chicago History Museum, The Field Museum, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, the Metropolitan Planning Council, and Roosevelt University. He is a member of the Chicago Council of Global Affairs, the Commercial Club of Chicago, and the Economic Club of Chicago.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Dana Heupel (heupel.dana@uis.edu)** is executive editor of *Illinois Issues* magazine. Before being named to that position in January 2008, he covered Illinois state government for GateHouse News Service and Copley News Service. He also has served as city editor of the (Springfield) *State Journal-Register*, the *Fresno* (Calif.) *Bee* and the (Fort Wayne, Ind.) *Journal-Gazette*, and assistant city editor for the *Indianapolis Star*. Among various honors, he conceived and coordinated a newspaper series on the relationship between campaign contributions and Illinois state contracts that won the national George Polk Award for Political Reporting, and he was named Illinois Associated Press Member of the Year for coordinating a statewide open records project.

**Maryam Judar (mjudar@citizenadvocacycenter.org)** as a community lawyer at the Citizen Advocacy Center, answers legal questions from the community, assists community groups in organizing around issues of public concern, works with educators to promote hands-on civic education, mentors interns at the center, monitors local government, engages in public policy advocacy, and manages current projects including in the arenas of the First Amendment, campaign finance, redistricting, the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, and civic education. Maryam clerked for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in the chambers of the Honorable Edward C. Prado after graduating from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. Previously she worked as a managing attorney for a health rights advocacy center utilizing a grass roots as well as systemic approach to solving community members' health care problems. Maryam interned at and worked with organizations representing plaintiffs in cases involving wage and hour claims, access to reproductive health care education and services, international human rights, slavery and human trafficking, employment discrimination, jail conditions and consumer protection.

**Brian Imus (brian@illinoispirg.org)**, as the Illinois PIRG state Director, is responsible for coordinating policy development, research and legislative advocacy for the organization. Mr. Imus has testified before state legislative committees on a variety consumer rights, good government and public health issues and authored several reports on a wide range of public interest issues. Prior to joining Illinois PIRG, Brian worked on two campaign finance reform ballot initiatives in Oregon and California. Illinois PIRG's ability to promote public interest policies benefits from increased government transparency and accountability. For example, Illinois PIRG's Tax and Budget program has focused on an analysis of state budget transparency, policies that increase accountability in the budget-making process and analysis of Chicago's TIF Sunshine Ordinance.

**Paula Lawson (pjlawson1@comcast.net)** is the Campaign Finance Reform Issue Specialist for the League of Women Voters of Illinois, LWVIL. She has served as LWVIL President, VP for Issues and Action, Treasurer and Budget Committee Chair. Paula was a Census Enumerator for the 2010 Census. She is a former Executive Director of the United Way of Glencoe and has served as a board member and secretary of the United Way of the North Shore Glencoe Chapter. Paula worked on a state senate and school board nominating committee campaigns. Paula enjoys her family, her book club of 30+ years and practices yoga.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation



# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Janet Liao (jliao@mccormickfoundation.org)** is a program officer for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation Journalism Program. Janet joined the Foundation in 2009, and assists grantees with project implementation and monitoring and solicits and evaluates new journalism grant proposals. She guides grantmaking in content quality, audience development and journalistic rights. The Foundation's investment in journalistic rights supports enhanced government transparency and access to public information. Prior to joining the McCormick Foundation, Janet worked at a publishing firm as editor and project manager of customized media projects, including magazines, advertorials, webcasts and online videos for Fortune 500 companies and associations. Janet serves on the board for Chicago Women in Philanthropy.

**Jamie Loo (jloo@mccormickfoundation.org)** is the online resources producer for the Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Civics Program. The Civics Program's goal is to provide opportunities for youth to gain the knowledge, skills and experiences they need to be civically engaged throughout their lives. Open government and quality journalism are vital components of a thriving democracy, and Jamie works to infuse these ideas into the Web resources she creates and promotes to support civic education in the classroom. Prior to joining the Foundation, Jamie covered city government, politics and did multimedia reporting for the South Bend Tribune in South Bend, Ind. She has a master's degree in print journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

**Rita McLennon (rmclennon@bettergov.org)** in her position of Chief Operating Officer administers the day-to-day operations of the BGA and manages the BGA's revenue development activities. With more than 30 years of nonprofit administration and development experience, Rita most notably served for 16 years as executive director of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law. Rita also served as Director of Development for the New York Legal Assistance Group, National Center for Youth Law, and the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago.

**Emily Miller (emiller@bettergov.org)** shapes and directs the public policy and advocacy agenda for the Better Government Association. She comes to the BGA after four years working in Illinois politics and policy. Miller entered Chicago politics by working as a campaign staffer in the hotly contested aldermanic races of 2007. Moving on to the realm of policy analysis and advocacy, Miller became the Staff Attorney and Health Care Advocate for the Illinois Public Interest Research Group. Working side by side with non-profits, state agencies, and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, Miller helped to shape and pass meaningful health insurance consumer protections in Illinois. Before coming to the BGA, Miller spent a year with the Government Relations Communications team at SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana. Miller earned her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**David Morrison (david@ilcampaign.org)**, Deputy Director of ICPR, supervises ICPR's research, writing and website content and lobbies on behalf of ICPR's reform agenda. His articles have appeared in *Chicago* magazine, the *Loyola Consumer Law Reporter*, and *Women Building Chicago 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary* (Indiana University Press, 2000), in addition to letters and opinion pieces in *Harpers* magazine, the *New York Times*, and numerous Illinois newspapers. He has been a registered lobbyist in either Illinois or Connecticut for over 15 years. He holds a M.A. in American History with a concentration in Nineteenth Century legal and social history and is a member of the Organization of American Historians and the American Society for Legal History, serving on the Local Arrangements Committee of the ASLH in 2000. Before coming to ICPR, he was the Research Director of the Coalition for Consumer Rights in Chicago and, prior to that, an associate at the lobbying firm Gallo Government Relations in Hartford, Connecticut.

**Mary Frances O'Connor (mfoconnor@bettergov.org)** manages media and communications for the BGA and Mr. Shaw. She's an award-winning news and documentary producer. Her production background includes six years with Bill Kurtis Productions where she worked as a supervising producer and producer on the Primetime Emmy-nominated documentary series *Cold Case Files*. She's a graduate of DePaul University in Chicago and the Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Daniel X. O'Neil (doneil@cct.org)** is the Executive Director of the Smart Chicago Collaborative, a civic organization devoted to making lives better in Chicago through technology. Prior to Smart Chicago, O'Neil was a co-founder of and People Person for EveryBlock, a neighborhood news and discussion site serving 16 cities, where he was responsible for uncovering new data sets through online research and working with local governments. O'Neil has worked in many areas of the open data/ open government movement. He has helped draft open data ordinances, advised candidates on policy, and help write the 8 Principles of Open Government Data.

**Laurel O'Sullivan, J.D., (losullivan@donorsforum.org)** is Vice President of Public Policy at Donors Forum, providing leadership and overseeing advocacy efforts to promote public policies that strengthen the philanthropy and nonprofit sector. A current focus is directing the Donors Forum's *Public/Nonprofit Partnership Initiative* for the past 3 years to forge a stronger cross-sector partnership between the nonprofit, philanthropy and government while working to bring strengthen the state's budget and contracting processes. As a public policy advocate, Laurel has a passion for promoting accountability, transparency and inclusiveness within the systems that support and sustain the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. Her multi-faceted background in advocacy includes having served as Counsel and Staff Attorney for Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, National Resources Defense Council, and the Alliance for the Great Lakes in Illinois. She also practiced law with Terris, Pravlik and Millian in Washington, D.C., litigating on behalf of nonprofit citizen groups. Laurel is a member of the National Council of Nonprofits' Public Policy Committee, the Regional Forum of Association's Policy Committee, the Department of Human Services, Social Services Advisory Council and the Executive Committee for Illinois Partners for Human Services. Laurel earned a B.A. with Honors in Political Science from Northwestern University and a J.D. with Honors for Chicago-Kent IIT College of Law.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation

# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Terry Pastika (tpastika@citizenadvocacycenter.org)** has been with the Center since 1999 and has been recognized nationally and statewide for her work in building democracy. She has organized the Center's three suburban Civic Fairs which brought together more than 150 community organizations and civic leaders, coordinated the Citizen Training Corps program which was recognized regionally and nationally and launched the a hands-on youth civic education program.

Additionally, Ms. Pastika has provided legal assistance to more than 100 community groups in how to use the law and basic civic skills to resolve issues of public concern, make government more accountable, transparent and accessible government at every level, and/ or remove anti-democratic or illegal policies. Ms. Pastika speaks on democracy topics such as the First Amendment, open government laws, TIF, home rule, election laws, campaign finance, and community empowerment. She has authored several law journal articles and co-author of the Center's 2009 Midwest regional study on FOIA and OMA. She has also participated in statewide reform initiatives that include TIF, ethics, campaign finance, and anti-SLAPP legislation. Most recently she was part of the Illinois Attorney General's to reform Illinois' FOIA. Ms. Pastika was graduated from Marquette University in 1992 and Creighton University School of Law in 1997. She is a member of the California, Nebraska and Illinois Bar.

**Andy Shaw (ashaw@bettergov.org)** is an award-winning Chicago journalist who spent 37 years covering local, state and national politics, business, education, and day-to-day news at the City News Bureau of Chicago, Chicago Sun-Times, NBC 5 and ABC 7. After taking a short break to "recharge his batteries," Shaw joined the BGA in June 2009 as Executive Director. He was named President and CEO in 2011. During his tenure, Shaw has reorganized the BGA expanding its agenda to include investigations, advocacy and civic engagement in an effort to promote transparent, efficient and honest government throughout Illinois.

Prior to joining ABC 7, Shaw was an education reporter, and then the editorial director at NBC 5, where he won numerous awards, including two local Emmys. He was named "Journalist of the Year" by the Chicago Headline Club in 2007, and received a Lifetime Achievement Award the following year from the Chicago Journalists' Association. He currently comments on BGA topics during "Watchdog Wednesday" segments at 10:20 a.m. Wednesday on WBBM News radio 780.

Shaw was born in Chicago and raised in suburban Evanston. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. His hobbies include running, cycling, reading, crossword puzzles, golf and traveling with his family.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation



# Illinois Government Transparency Conference Attendees:

**Michael A. Silver (Michael-silver@northwestern.edu)** was appointed executive director of the new Knight News Innovation Lab at Northwestern University, which is managed jointly by Northwestern's engineering and journalism schools, in July 2011. He is best known for a 22-year career at Tribune Company, where was a leader in its pioneering interactive initiatives in a variety of strategic and operational roles. Earlier in his career, Silver was a newspaper reporter and TV reporter and producer in Florida. Prior to joining the Lab, he was executive director of The Newspaper Consortium, where he managed large industry-wide sales and technology agreements with Yahoo! and Monster. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and holds an M.S. from the School of Journalism at Columbia University and an MBA from Stanford University.

**Dick Simpson (simpson@uic.edu)** is a Professor and Head of the Political Science Department at University of Illinois at Chicago, as well as the Director of the Political Science's Preparing Future Faculty Program. He has published numerous studies of elections, urban politics, voting patterns of elected officials, local government, public policy, and government budgeting. He was elected as Alderman of the 44<sup>th</sup> ward in 1971 for two terms before retiring in 1979. During his time in office, he pushed to end salary discrimination in the city budget for women holding the same jobs as men, a City Council resolution urging Illinois passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, programs to help the homeless and extending senior citizen public transportation hours among others. He also served on the transition teams that advised Chicago Mayors Jane Byrne and Harold Washington, Cook County Clerk David Orr, State's Attorney Jack O'Malley, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and Cook County Board President Todd Stroger. He helped shape their positions on ethics, fair hiring practices, citizen participation, and efficient, effective local government. He has served as a consultant for campaigns for candidates and testified on legislation before the City Council, State Legislative, and Congressional committees. His public service has been recognized from many civic organizations including the City Club of Chicago, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Independent Voters of Illinois – Independent Precinct Organization, Lakeview Shelter Team, and Clarence Darrow Community Center.

**John M. Sirek (jsirek@mccormickfoundation.org)** directs the Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Civics Program. The Civics Program supports civic engagement and learning opportunities for youth in Illinois and funds a range of local good governance initiatives. John is a board member of Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement, City Year Chicago and Campus Compact. He is also a Serve Illinois Commissioner and advisory committee member of the Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning at DePaul University.

November 16, 2011

Sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation