



# Homeland Security

The Privacy Office  
Department of Homeland Security  
Privacy Office Workshop Series  
Transparency and Accountability:  
The Use of Personal Information Within the Government  
April 5, 2006

## OFFICIAL WORKSHOP TRANSCRIPT

Horizon Ballroom  
Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20004

### OPENING REMARKS

Maureen Cooney  
Acting Chief Privacy Officer  
Chief Freedom of Information Act Officer

MS. KAVANAUGH: Let's get started. Hello, welcome, I'm Kathleen Kavanaugh with the Department of Homeland Security Privacy Office. I'm the workshop coordinator, so if you have any questions or concerns about this or future workshops you can come see me. If it's a complaint I'll probably pass you off to somebody else, just so you know.

I'm up here to do a couple housekeeping notes before we get started. We are going to have a coffee break which is going to be back there at 10:45. It will be a 15-minute break.

The restrooms and the telephones are located outside the door, go to the left, go outside those double glass doors, they're right there on the right.

We're going to break for lunch at 12:30 and we reconvene at 2:00. Lunch is not provided but there are several options here in this building. There's a food court downstairs that if you haven't been to it it's pretty cool as food courts go, my opinion. There's a deli and a Quiznos right outside as if you're on your way to the Metro, there's a sit down and get waited on restaurant called Arias, it's Italian, outside, right outside in the

## DHS Privacy Office: Official Workshop Series

April 5, 2006 Official Transcript

courtyard area. And then Pennsylvania Avenue, lots of restaurants out there.

So if you have any questions about any of that you can come see any of us from the Privacy Office and we can come and help you with that.

There will be a question and answer period at the conclusion of each of the panels. The microphone right there in the middle, if we could ask you to come up to the microphone to ask your question because we have it hooked up to the transcriber. We're going to have a transcription, the full transcript of the conference is going to be on our website, [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy). Give us a few weeks for that and that will be up and running.

And there are full biographies of each of the panelists in your folder so we won't go through those at the conference. If you want to read those they're in there.

If we could ask you to please turn off your cell phones so we don't disturb the conference, and quite frankly they're doing nothing more interesting on the phone than is going to be up here.

So with that we'll get started. Let me introduce Maureen Cooney. She is the Department of Homeland Security Acting Chief Privacy Officer and Chief Freedom of Information Officer.

MS. COONEY: Good morning. I'm finding it's hard to follow Kathleen.

We really welcome everyone here today. I'm so thrilled to be able to welcome you to what is the Privacy Offices second public workshop. The important issue we are looking at today is transparency and accountability, and how those can be advanced through public notices to individuals, through privacy notices and through the Freedom of Information Act.

So I'm thrilled to welcome you today. And it's so nice seeing this first panel and just thinking how lucky I am to be working in this state to see good friends, former colleagues from both the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Trade Commission, just thrilled. And really such great experts.

We thank and value everyone who's participating today as panelists or in the audience. For many of you you're from other federal government agencies. I see several people who I recognize clearly from DHS, and I'm thrilled that you're joining us this morning.

## DHS Privacy Office: Official Workshop Series

April 5, 2006 Official Transcript

And I also welcome any members of the public who saw our notice in the Federal Register or otherwise received a notice of this workshop. Your input into the programs at the Department of Homeland Security are so very important, that's why we're doing these programs to hear what the public is thinking and to incorporate that into our policymaking on privacy issues.

So I thank all of you for being here and for being in active dialogue with us on this program.

I'd also particularly like to thank my office, but also my colleagues in the international community who've joined us here today. Some of you may know that there is a major international conference in Washington on privacy, and so we have the great benefit of having wonderful visitors. I hope you will feel very comfortable to participate in sort of the public dialogue today, and we welcome you here.

I am going to keep my remarks short because I really think we have a lot to learn from these fabulous panelists.

Again, I thank you for being here and I look forward to this dialogue.

Thank you.