

## *Dispute Resolution Webinar*

### Dispute Resolution's Impact on the FOIA Framework

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 – 10:30 a.m. to noon  
Sponsored by the Interagency ADR Working Group

Open Government is on everyone's minds these days and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a key component -- not to mention the original Open Government law (FOIA was first passed in 1966). FOIA also can be a contentious arena for requesters and agency personnel alike. Preventing or resolving disputes that arise in the FOIA context, and avoiding litigation, is a natural. To that end, Congress recently created a federal office – the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), within the National Archives and Records Administration – to provide mediation services to FOIA requesters and federal agencies, as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation.

OGIS, in collaboration with NARA's Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, presents a short introduction to how Dispute Resolution (DR) and FOIA are offering a common meeting ground. How does OGIS work with requesters? How can agencies use OGIS's services and how can they use DR skills at the earlier possible time to make the FOIA process go more smoothly? What kinds of cases has OGIS handled in the past three years? Where are the opportunities for DR practitioners and for FOIA professionals? What are the barriers to this emerging area of DR?

Presenters: OGIS staff, including Director Miriam Nisbet, along with the Director of NARA's RESOLVE Alternative Dispute Resolution program, Jean Whyte

Instructions for participating in the webinar will be available on the OGIS web site at

<https://ogis.archives.gov/news-and-events.htm>