



www.archives.gov/ogis

Karen M. Finnegan, OGIS Deputy Director – karen.finnegan@nara.gov

National Archives and Records Administration

accountability
through
transparency
= democracy

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA): the original Open Government law

“the [FOIA] . . . is the most prominent expression of a profound commitment to ensuring an open Government.”

President Barack Obama

FOIA concept is simple:

- anyone can ask for records of executive branch agencies
- agencies must release records or explain why information is withheld
- if dissatisfied, may file an appeal
- then file a lawsuit

2007 OPEN Government Act

- OGIS created
- Dispute resolution
- Customer service
- Executive responsibility

OGIS: The FOIA Ombudsman

- Resolve FOIA disputes
- Review FOIA compliance in agencies
- Recommend policy changes

OGIS: The FOIA Ombudsman

- Resolve FOIA disputes
- Review FOIA in agencies
- Recommend policy changes

Advocate for FOIA

FOIA *online*

<http://FOIAonline.Regulations.gov>

one place to submit requests

track progress

communicate with agency

search other requests

access previously released documents

file appeals

leadership
+
commitment =
culture change

Contact OGIS:

www.ogis.archives.gov

OGIS@nara.gov

+1 202 741 5770

blogs.archives.gov/foiablog

improvefoia@nara.gov