

Critical Insights in the Law and Law Practice: Ethical and Moral Responsibility

A discussion in four parts

This four symposia series is sponsored by The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law. All programs will be held at the National Press Club, **529 14th Street, NW, 13th Floor** in Washington, D.C., during 2009-2010 and are open to legal practitioners, the media and the public. Registration is free but seating is limited; RSVP's are required.

TO RSVP, CONTACT PATTY DAVILA – Davila@law.edu or call 202-319-6126.

Monday, September 21 – 5-6:30 p.m.

“Classified Matters and Professional Challenges to Attorneys in the Legislative and Executive Branches,” *conceived and introduced by Michael F. Noone, Research Ordinary Professor, The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.*

The rules governing legal ethics and professional responsibility are relatively straightforward. They govern an attorney's relationship with a client, with the courts, and with fellow attorneys. There are clearly understood penalties for disregarding them.

But what of the government lawyer who practices in the field of national security or intelligence? Who is the client for an attorney whose work may be classified? How do rules of loyalty and confidentiality, for example, apply in that context? What are the professional and moral implications of legal practice within sensitive or national security issues?

There is very little literature or guidance on the topic. Professor Noone has assembled some outstanding experts to shed light on this seldom-considered corner of legal practice.

Frederick Hitz will introduce the topic by talking about the current oversight statute, its goal of transparency as well as its ambiguities. Hitz served as Inspector General of the CIA from 1990 until May 1998. He is best known for his role in investigating the CIA's involvement in the alleged cocaine trafficking in the U.S. during the Reagan administration.

L. Britt Snider will talk about the issues from the standpoint of a lawyer in the executive branch. Snider was formerly inspector general at the Central Intelligence Agency. In that role, he was responsible for managing audits, inspections, evaluations and investigations. He served as the staff director of the 9/11 Congressional Inquiry before his resignation in 2002. Snider is the author of “The Agency and the Hill: *CIA's Relationship with Congress, 1946–2004.*”

Mike Sheehy will share the perspective of a legislative branch expert who served the House of Representatives for more than thirty years as an attorney specializing in intelligence matters. He left congressional service in 2009 and is currently an executive vice president for McBee Strategic Consulting, which represents defense contractors.