

## **Miriam McIntire Nisbet**

In September 2009, Miriam Nisbet became the first Director of the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the US National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS is the Freedom of Information Act ombudsman office created by the 2007 FOIA Amendments, charged with providing mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and the Executive Branch agencies and with improving the US government's administration of the FOIA. In addition to establishing OGIS, Miriam represented the National Archives at the Administrative Conference of the United States; the International Council on Archives; the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions; the US National Commission for UNESCO; and the International Conference of Information Commissioners. She was chair of the FOIA Advisory Committee, established by NARA in 2014 as one of the US government's commitments under its National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership. Miriam retired from NARA in November 2014.

Miriam previously served for two years at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris as Director of the Information Society Division, in UNESCO's Communication and Information Sector. From 1999 to 2007, Miriam was Legislative Counsel for the American Library Association in ALA's Washington Office, working primarily on copyright and other intellectual property issues raised by the digital information environment. She was Special Counsel for Information Policy, National Archives and Records Administration, from 1994 to 1999, where she advised the Archivist of the US, other NARA officials and federal agency officials on legal issues concerning the Federal Records Act, Presidential Records Act, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy Act, Presidential Recordings and Materials Preservation Act, John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act, and the Executive Order on national security information.

Prior to joining the National Archives, Miriam had served since 1982 as the Deputy Director of the Office of Information and Privacy, US Department of Justice. In that position, Miriam was responsible for final action on initial requests (approximately 800 per year) under the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act for records of the Offices of the Attorney General, Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, Policy Development and Public Affairs. She also supervised and conducted defense of numerous lawsuits, on behalf of various US government agencies, under the access statutes in federal district court and courts of appeals and provided training and guidance on FOIA interpretation, policy and administration to attorneys and paralegals government wide.

Miriam received a BA degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a JD degree from the University's School of Law. She is a member of the Bars of the District of Columbia and North Carolina and was elected in 2005 to the American Law Institute. She taught as an Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies during the academic year 2013-14. Miriam received the Sunshine in Government Award in 2014 and the American Society of Access Professionals President's Award for Distinguished Public Service in 2013.