

Biographical Note – Paul M. Wester, Jr.

Paul M. Wester, Jr. is the first Chief Records Officer for the U.S. Government. David Ferriero, the Archivist of the United States, named Mr. Wester to this position effective March 13, 2011.

As the Chief Records Officer, Mr. Wester leads records management throughout the Federal Government, with an emphasis on electronic records. He is responsible for issuing Federal records management policy and guidance; liaising with Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the U.S. Congress, and other stakeholders on records management issues; and serving as an ombudsman between agencies and the Archivist to ensure that NARA and the agencies it serves meet their statutory mandates and records management requirements.

Mr. Wester played a leading role in developing the Presidential Memorandum on Managing Government Records that was issued by the Obama Administration in November 2011 and the subsequent implementing directive from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Archivist of the United States in August 2012. These policy documents advance the current administration's larger Open Government goals associated transparency, participation, and collaboration.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Wester served as the Director of Modern Records Programs in the National Archives and Records Administration's Office of Records Services – Washington, DC. In this position, Mr. Wester was responsible for the overall management and performance of NARA's agency-facing activities in the Washington, DC area. Mr. Wester also directed NARA's National Records Management Program, coordinating the activities of headquarters and regional records management staff in support of NARA's overall strategic plan.

Mr. Wester holds an undergraduate degree in history and Master of Arts and Master of Library Science degrees from the University of Maryland. In 2013, he was named the Distinguished Archives Alumnus of the Year by the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland. In 2014, Mr. Wester received the Executive Leadership Award in Government-wide Records Management from the Association for Federal Information Resources Management.

Mr. Wester is also an Adjunct Instructor University of Maryland's the College of Information Studies, teaching graduate-level classes in records and information management, and the leadership and management of cultural institutions.