



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over Twenty Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities

PRESS ADVISORY

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IT AND PRIVACY – THE KEY ACTION REALMS

January 13, 2014 – Washington, D.C. Dialogue on Diversity in the first of a 2014 public policy series, presents its sixth annual Internet Data Privacy Colloquium, January 22nd at the Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center in Washington. Expert speakers will explore four realms of action in which electronic communication, or information technology, plays an essential facilitating role and where the by-product of this is a an often fearsome flock of perils to the value of privacy for users of these high-tech instruments – and often third parties who are standing too near the action. **FRANK TORRES**, Director of Consumer Affairs for Microsoft, the day's host, and one of the chief national experts on the puzzles of privacy in both their legal and economic aspects, appears as keynote speaker.

- The first of topic focuses on the mind-boggling volumes of data swept up, ferreted out, and otherwise acquired by all manner of commercial entities. The data treasuries of thousands of companies, devised to keep tabs on their customers' doings, have clearly invited analysis for insights into that which makes the customer tick. If the stakes in the game are the way in which bits of discretionary funds get shunted around, one may conclude the harm is small. But if the same data is sought by governmental agencies, the stakes may be of more precious stuff. **JENELL TRIGG** of Lerman Senter, making a fourth appearance at our Colloquium, joins **CORA HAN** of the FTC on Dialogue on Diversity's opening panel.
- Second are the vexed matters of medical records and their confidentiality. On the one hand the total picture of the patient's condition is the guaranty of maximum accuracy in the diagnosis and treatment by the medical provider. At the same time there may be the feeling of shame before persons conversant with the secret, perhaps embarrassing particulars of one's life. More tangibly, disclosure might, at least before the ACA era, cause one to be thrown off needed med-insurance once such information is leaked, or broadcast, or, on a similar basis, to experience some species of official discrimination. **MARY CRIMMINS**, long recognized as an expert on the technical and legal aspects of medical privacy, leads in exploring this topic.
- A new dimension in voluntary self-disclosure has arrived with the marvels of the social networks, in which the friends recruited for one's page may prove to be specialists in bullying or defaming, in driving one to distraction or worse – a danger particularly deadly, we are reminded by **MARSALI HANCOCK**, head of Internet Keep Safe Coalition, in school environments, from elementary grades to college level, where in each an array of careful precautions must be the rule. **JENNIFER HANLEY**, of the **Family Online Safety Institute**, rounds out this important panel.
- The final division of the privacy topic takes up the much publicized Intelligence activities of governments, now tasked with much of the heavy lifting in national security, ordinary law enforcement, and for the sake of achieving an information repository as near to omniscience as can be had. A novel use, studied by panelist **KHALIA BARNES** of EPIC, quoted in yesterday's NY Times as an expert in the subject, is the now universal practice of building into ordinary cars a skein of gadgetry recording the usual black-box data and more, the record accessible by preference to the manufacturer, then to the all-pervading official authorities, and last, by gracious leave, to the user of the car. The larger topic is of a depth and complexity little understood even by an educated public, operating often in the face of an opaque officialdom.

The colloquium again is free to all, with refreshments and, in the midday session, a light lunch. Interested readers are urged to register, using our Dialogue's URL

Program location: Microsoft Innovation and Policy Center, 901 K Street, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C.

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