Sealing, Donna

From: Margie Janney / OIS
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 9:07 AM
To: Russell Nichols
Cc: Donna Sealing
Subject: RE: Item of Interest

I'd like to report on this at Monday's OIS morning meeting.

From: Russell Nichols
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 9:04 AM
To: Margie Janney
Cc: Donna Sealing
Subject: RE: Item of Interest

Donna plans to issue a Yellow Announcement (YA) that will provide guidance about the Attorney General's memo and require submission of a foreseeable harm statement for denials. There may be other things in the YA too, but we want to get it out soon even though DOJ has not issued the new reporting guidelines yet. She also plans to hold a class for the agency FOIA coordinators, and will update the FOIA training class and materials, and the instructional guidance that her section provides to FOIA coordinators. I don't think this merits rewriting MD 3.1. Do you have any other suggestions?

From: Margie Janney
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 9:02 AM
To: Russell Nichols
Cc: Donna Sealing
Subject: RE: Item of Interest

How's this impact us?

From: Russell Nichols
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 7:27 AM
To: Mary Moss
Cc: Margie Janney; Donna Sealing
Subject: Item of Interest

Mary,

Here is Donna's IOI from her meeting with DOJ:

Department of Justice Training Conference on President Obama's and Attorney General Holder's Memoranda on the Freedom of Information Act

On March 26, 2009, staff from Information and Records Services Division attended a government-wide training conference sponsored by the Department of Justice (DOJ) at the Department of Commerce. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss President Obama's and Attorney General Holder's memoranda which establish a new era for open government. Agencies must apply a "foreseeable harm" standard when reviewing Freedom of Information Act requests. The Attorney General "strongly encourage(s) agencies to make discretionary disclosures of information." These discretionary releases would apply primarily to Exemptions 2, 5 and 7, and they will be most applicable to Exemption 5. Additionally, DOJ will be issuing guidance later this year regarding new reporting requirements on the steps agencies have taken to improve FOIA operations and

A/S

facilitate information disclosure. This report will be separate from the annual FOIA report agencies submit to DOJ.

Russ