

Building a Nationwide Constituency for OIRA

The Need for Action

- OIRA, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the White House Office of Management and Budget, is often described as the most powerful organization that you never heard of.
- OIRA is powerful because it is the one agency between the regulators and the Federal Register with the ability to stop the issuance of onerous regulations.
- As one might imagine such an office is very controversial, special interest groups continue to demean it in the press, certain elements of Congress attempt to reduce its budget and a number of academicians continue to build a record against its very existence.
- The problem is that OIRA does not have a [nationwide constituency](#); the Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (CRE) in conjunction with the Administrative Process Institute of Federal Focus, a 501(c)(3) organization, has taken on the challenge of building a nationwide constituency for OIRA.

An Experienced Team

- It would be difficult to assemble a team of individuals who has a better background than those assembled for this program.
- The team includes a person [instrumental](#) in the establishment of OIRA, supported by an [organization](#) which routinely intervenes in regulatory proceedings, prepares [daily reports](#) on OIRA operations and has a data base of its [historical documents](#) second to none.

The Problem in a Nutshell

- Universities often conduct courses prejudicial to the best interests of OIRA; this is particularly true with law schools.

Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

- Students attending the aforementioned courses eventually assume leadership positions in activist non-governmental organizations, Congress, the courts, the press and the executive branch.
- A recent example of the progression of the prejudicial publication of a law review article on OIRA to an individual assuming leadership positions in government is set forth in this [post](#).

Recommended Actions

- Interested parties could take any of a number of actions, including sponsorship of roundtables among students in a particular region which would be attended by any or all of the following: academicians, trade associations, private sector firms and regulatory practitioners. The events could be videotaped and distributed to a number of universities and would emphasize the societal contributions of OIRA.
- The aforementioned roundtables could address a wide range of issues, including:
 - Promotion and expansion of the [OIRA Teaching Module](#) which is being introduced into schools of law, public policy, public administration, political science and economics.
 - The merits of [centralized regulatory review](#), any of [four](#) major unresolved issues of regulatory governance which are being addressed by a nationwide [student writing competition](#) as well as [proposals](#) made during the past several decades which have not be enacted upon.
 - The dismal level of OIRA staffing
 - The orderly review of [Midnight Regulations](#)
- To participate in the program contact [Jim Tozzi](#) at CRE. 202.265.2383