Center for Regulatory Effectiveness

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routinely intervenes in regulatory proceedings, prepares daily reports on OIRA operations and has a data base of its historical documents second to none.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.
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