**IAPP Research & Education**

As the practice of privacy has matured, the need for actionable research and data management tools has commensurately grown. Through many research offerings and a great depth of available content, the IAPP has consistently provided valuable tools to the privacy community over the past decade. However, the board of the IAPP has recognized that a more strategic and focused effort is appropriate for our burgeoning field and profession.

For these reasons, the IAPP is proud to announce the creation of a formal research & education function within the organization. This new initiative will bring together a number of current IAPP initiatives (i.e., benchmarking surveys, DPA surveys, and salary surveys). The resources dedicated to the program will also allow the IAPP to conduct new research and create valuable resources for members and the privacy community broadly.

Consistent with the IAPP mission, these research efforts will be:

**Agnostic**. The IAPP is policy-neutral on issues of privacy[[1]](#footnote-1). We aspire to provide a “big tent” under which the challenging debates in the information economy may occur. To that end, IAPP research initiatives will be focused on a straightforward presentation of facts. Opinions may be presented, but will be provided in the context of the broader policy debates our profession is facing.

**Actionable**. Research from the IAPP will focus on providing valuable information and tools to the privacy profession. Topics for research will be carefully chosen with an eye towards the usefulness of the ultimate product to the privacy field.

**Available**. The IAPP will share the results of IAPP research broadly within IAPP membership and the privacy community. Through a robust combination of online platforms and in-person events, the IAPP will endeavor to ensure that IAPP research provides value to the broadest audiences possible.

To lead this new effort, the IAPP will be hiring a VP of Research & Education, with plans to have this role in place by June 2013.

**The Westin Privacy Research Fellowships**

To support this broadened research & education portfolio, the IAPP will also be launching a research fellowship program. Each year, the IAPP will welcome at least 2 recent graduates to spend 12 months with our team, working on a broad array of privacy research topics. This fellowship program bears the name of a foundational scholar in the field of privacy – **Dr. Alan Westin** – and will serve as a pathway for future leaders to enter the field of privacy.

**ABOUT DR. ALAN WESTIN:**

Dr. Westin focuses his practice on studying, writing, and consulting about the impacts of information technology on individuals, organizations, and society, particularly issues of personal and group privacy. His award-winning book, ***Privacy and Freedom***, is still considered one of the leading works in this field, and has influenced thinking and legal activity on privacy, worldwide, since its publication in 1967. In 2005, Dr. Westin received the Privacy Leadership Award of the International Association of Privacy Professionals.

**Description of the program**

*The IAPP Westin Fellowship Program was created in 2013 to encourage and enable research and scholarship in the field of privacy, with the specific aim of supporting the growth and development of the privacy profession. Each year topics of study are chosen that have direct relevance and applicability for practicing privacy professionals.*

**Who can apply?**

*Applicants are encouraged from all disciplines, with previous areas of concentration in the fields of law, information technology, sociology, marketing and business being particularly useful. A strong academic record and completion of an undergraduate degree from an accredited four year university serve as a minimum. Post graduate experience is preferred.*

**How long do the fellowships last, and can they be extended?**

*Fellowships are awarded for one academic year typically beginning in the fall and ending in late spring. Under normal circumstances fellowships may not be extended.*

**How many positions are open each year?**

*At least two fellowship positions are available each year. The IAPP expects to expand the fellowship program in future years.*

**Will fellows need to be physically located at the IAPP?**

*Yes, fellows are required to be physically located at the IAPP during their research year. Work space and a computer as well as standard office equipment will be provided.*

**Is compensation provided with a fellowship?**

*Yes, compensation is approximately $40,000 per year plus a generous employee benefits package during the year of service.*

**What types of applicants are you seeking?**

*Successful applicants will have a strong academic background in a relevant field(s), proven communication skills and a passionate interest in privacy issues. A clear desire to continue in the field of privacy is critical.*

**How do I apply and what materials will be required with my application?**

*See* [*www.privacyassociation.org/westinfellowship/application*](http://www.privacyassociation.org/westinfellowship/application) *to apply online. In addition to a completed application, a resume or CV, personal statement and a writing sample will all be required.*

**How will the selection process be handled?**

*Applications will be reviewed by the VP of Research & Education. The IAPP will make selections and extend offers within one month of the application due date.*

**Will topics for research be provided, or can they be proposed?**

*Topics will be provided, but may also be proposed.*

**What will the fellowship year look like, and what are the required products upon completion?**

*During the fellowship year, approximately half of the scholarly work will be focused on the agreed upon research topics, and the other half will be focused on internal IAPP projects of a meaningful nature. A white paper, research report or similar publishable product will be required to complete the fellowship. It is assumed this will be a work of a sufficient quality to be published through additional professional channels, and have usefulness to practicing privacy professionals.*

**What is the timeline for applications and notification of acceptance?**

*The application process opens during the first week in March and will end on March 30th of 2013. Interviews will occur for some applicants in April, with final decisions expected by the end of April. Fellowship terms generally run from September through August of each year.*

1. The one exception to the IAPP’s “no advocacy” stance on privacy relates to the privacy profession itself. The IAPP believes firmly that privacy professionals are an effective, if not critical, function in managing the complexity of privacy concerns in today’s society. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)