Classification Challenges

- Authorized information holders outside the classifying agency:
  - May challenge the classification if they have substantial cause to believe information was improperly or unnecessarily classified
  - Are encouraged and expected to challenge classification when in doubt

- Begin with informal questioning before initiating a formal challenge
  - First contact your security manager and/or supervisor to address the issue
  - With security manager and/or supervisor support, contact the classifier, if needed

- The timeline for formal challenges:
  - The agency must provide a written response to the formal challenge within 60 days.
    - If they cannot respond fully, the agency must acknowledge the formal challenge and provide an estimated response date.
    - This acknowledgement must indicate that if no response is provided within 120 days, the challenger has the right to forward the challenge to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP).
  - The agency must inform the challenger and need not process the challenge if:
    - The information has been challenged within the preceding 2 years.
    - The information is currently under review.