

National

Freedom

of

Information

Coalition

30 YEARS

Dallas, Texas

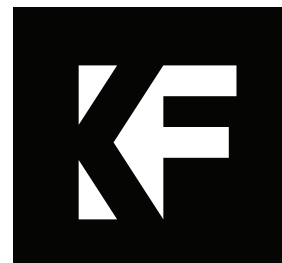
April 12-13, 2019

Protecting your right to open government

#FOISummit

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Welcome to Dallas



We're back where it all began. Thirty years ago, a handful of state organizations gathered in this city to begin a national reform movement to increase transparency and accountability in state and local public institutions.

These organizations were formed around the country in response to their state and local governments' unwillingness to recognize the public's right to access public records and meetings — a fundamental right in a democracy. By working together, they believed they could strengthen and protect the public's right to know within their respective jurisdictions.

Today, the National Freedom of Information Coalition is a con-

nected and collaborative body of state and local government FOI advocates and practitioners. The original challenges facing NFOIC and its state coalitions remain, yet their circumstances have become more complex.

Major changes in communication and technology have led to disruptions in the media industry and how state and local governments identify, manage, and report public information.

The National FOI Summit is a two-day event featuring ideas, experiences and discussions about the latest issues and trends around freedom of information laws, policies and practices at the state and local levels across the

U.S. The program includes panel discussions on these important topics from knowledgeable presenters and an informed audience.

Our return to Dallas signifies a renewed emphasis on our mission and to reinvigorate our goal of ensuring the public's access to their records and proceedings.

We're glad you've joined us and look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions to improve our strategies and our organizations.

Daniel Bevarly
NFOIC Executive Director
Kelley Shannon
FOIFT Executive Director

Friday Sessions

8 a.m. Registration Open

8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Breakfast

9 a.m. Welcome

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Online Public Records Portals and the future of FOI administration

It's been said that if it isn't measured, it's not managed. A key metric missing in many state and local public institutions is comprehensive reporting of public record requests and responses. Can the growing use of online public record portals improve responses and provide a meaningful measurement for FOI administration? Learn more about how these online solutions help and hinder a fundamental feature of open government in our states and communities.

Moderator:

Adam Marshall, Knight Foundation Litigation Attorney, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Speakers:

Alexa Capeloto, Associate Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

"The Effects and Efficacy of Online Public Records Request Portals for Agencies"

William Repole, COO/CPO, WebQA

Jeri Carter Lawson, Open Records Manager, City of Dallas

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

How cybersecurity laws and new data management policies are impacting access to public information

As states bolster their cybersecurity laws to protect sensitive or private data, some transparency measures are being challenged or overruled, making it more difficult to access public records. How can journalists, open government advocates and public records stewards better navigate these changes? And how does technology like cloud storage of public information come into play?

Speaker:

Doug Robinson, Executive Director, National Association of State CIOs

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch & Learn: Knight Foundation Report on State FOI

Moderator:

Daniel Bevarly, Executive Director, NFOIC

Speaker:

David Cuillier, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, University of Arizona

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Papers Presentation

Authors of selected papers will provide insights of practical value for those who work day-to-day in access to government information. Topics include issues regarding access to public records and meetings, court transparency, access to public employees and elected officials, open data and technology, and other related matters.

Moderators:

Frank LoMonte, Executive Director, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, University of Florida

David Cuillier, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, University of Arizona

Speakers:

Amy Sanders, University of Texas-Austin: "Countering the Privatization of Public Records: How Trade Secrets, Purported Competitive Harm and Third-Party Interventions Keep Government Business in the Dark"

Patrick C. File and Leah Wigren, University of Nevada, Reno:

"SLAPP-ing Back: Are Government Lawsuits Against Records Requesters Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation?"

Ryan Mulvey, Cause of Action Institute: "Opening the Statehouse Doors: Examining Trends in Public Access to Legislative Records"

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The growing role of litigation for government transparency

Journalists, open government advocates and residents sometimes need to sue their government to obtain public records. And nowadays, sometimes they're the ones getting sued by the public institution. Reasons vary. But lawsuits aren't cheap or quick. We'll talk about the different reasons on both sides and options from journalism and FOI organizations that contribute to the rise in public records litigation, as well as strategies for open government and first amendment groups to work together to find solutions to this public access challenge.

Moderator:

James Chiun-Yue Ho, U.S.Circuit Judge, Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit

Speakers:

Frank LoMonte, Executive Director, Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, University of Florida

Terry Mutchler, Managing Partner, Mutchler Lyons

Laura Lee Prather, Partner, Haynes & Boone, LLP

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

State lightning talks: Trends around the nation

Representatives from NFOIC state coalitions provide a short talk highlighting the biggest open government challenges and wins in their state in the last year.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Welcome Reception at the Iron Cactus

Saturday Sessions

8 a.m. Registration Open

8 a.m. – 9 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. – 9 a.m. Members Meeting

9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Investing in First Amendment challenges today

Representatives from major philanthropies and foundations will discuss the current state of open government, press freedom and freedom of information and how their organizations are supporting initiatives to address challenges to democracy and first amendment rights.

Moderator:

Matthew Randazzo, President and CEO, Dallas Foundation

Speakers:

Deirdre Hughes, Director, Media Portfolio, Charles Koch Institute

Nick Swyter, Associate/Journalism, Knight Foundation

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

How press freedom and open government challenges affect minorities and minority-centered news organizations

Open government and first amendment issues impact all of society. However, some issues have a greater impact on certain audiences. In this session, we'll hear from minority-centered news organizations and journalists about their perspectives on today's transparency challenges considering key historical, cultural and socio-economic challenges unique to different minority groups (e.g. immigration, Black Lives Matter and free press in Indian Country).

Moderator:

Ayan Mittra, Editor, The Texas Tribune

Speakers:

James Barragan, State Reporter, Dallas Morning News, National Association of Hispanic Journalists

Kevin Kemper, Attorney, Kemper Law, Native American Journalists Association

Cheryl Smith, Secretary, National Association of Black Journalists

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Room transition (free time)

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

2019 Heroes of the 50 States – Hall of Fame Luncheon

Honoring...

Brian Hunhoff – South Dakota

Richard McKee – California

Hyde Post – Georgia

Laura Lee Prather – Texas

Retrospective: 30 Years of NFOIC

Moderator:

Mal Leary, Board President, NFOIC

Speakers:

Sue Hale, Consultant, Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, NFOIC Founder

Mitchell Pearlman, former director NFOIC and director of Connecticut Foundation for Open Government

Nancy Monson, former executive director of NFOIC and NFOIC founder

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Coalition strategies for leveraging reforms

Mission critical for state FOI coalitions is to advance open government legislative and policy reforms. We'll discuss three areas important to coalitions to help them succeed: Legislative tracking, the effective use of litigation, and building (and sustaining) a diverse coalition of supporters.

Speakers:

Kelsey Ryan, Outreach Manager, NFOIC

Kelley Shannon, Executive Director, Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas

Adam Marshall, Staff Attorney, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

30 years of NFOIC and State FOI: Trailblazers and the next generation of open government leaders

The federal Freedom of Information Act became a law in 1966 and led the way for similar state open government and transparency legislation across the U.S. As NFOIC celebrates its 30th anniversary, we'll hear from transparency pioneers and next generation trailblazers and consider the future of open government considering the radical changes in technology, governing, politics and journalism.

Moderator:

Mark Horvit, NFOIC treasurer, University of Missouri School of Journalism

Speakers:

Sue Hale, NFOIC Founder

Ginger McCall, Oregon Public Records Advocate, State of Oregon

Mitchell Pearlman, former director NFOIC and director of Connecticut Foundation for Open Government

Tamara Manik-Perlman, Co-founder and CEO, NextRequest

Thomas Susman, International Policy Coordinator and Strategic Advisor, American Bar Association

Andrew Chavez, Computational Journalist, The Dallas Morning News

4 p.m. Wrap up & Adjourn

Heroes of the 50 States Hall of Fame

There are heroes among us. They are heroes who may or may not be well known within their respective states and communities, but whose labors have gone largely unrecognized elsewhere. They are heroes whose efforts have kept state and local government records and meetings open and accessible to their fellow citizens.

Heroes of the 50 States: The State Open Government Hall of Fame recognizes long-term contributions of individuals to open government in their respective states. Specifically, induction into the Hall recognizes the “long and steady effort to preserve and protect the free flow of information about state and local government that is vital to the public in a democracy.”

Past Inductees

- 2018 **Terry Mutchler** — *Pennsylvania*
- 2017 **Michael Giudicessi** — *Iowa*
- 2016 **Sam D. Kennedy** — *Tennessee*
- 2015 **Pete Weitzel** — *Florida*
- 2014 **John Paff** — *New Jersey*
- 2013 **Brian Sonntag** — *Washington*
- 2012 **Toby Nixon** — *Washington*
- 2011 **John R. Finnegan Sr.** — *Minnesota*
- 2010 **Robert J. Freeman** — *New York*
- 2009 **Mitchell W. Pearlman** — *Connecticut*
- 2008 **Bill F. Chamberlin** — *Florida*
- 2007 **Frosty Landon** — *Virginia*
- 2006 **Byron M. Baer** — *New Jersey*
- 2005 **John Kuglin** — *Montana*
- 2004 **Herb Strentz** — *Iowa*
- 2003 **Michael Donoghue** — *Vermont*
Sue Hale — *Oklahoma*
Robert Johnson — *New Mexico*

2019 Inductees



Brian Hunhoff – South Dakota

Hunhoff has been a community journalist for 41 years, and a county official for 23 years, defending open government in South Dakota in both roles. He is currently Yankton County Register of Deeds and an opinion writer for the Yankton County Observer. Known statewide for difference-making opposition to illegal or unnecessary closed public meetings, Hunhoff has produced a comprehensive, compelling and far-reaching body of work to promote open government at the local and state levels.

In 2017, Hunhoff wrote "In a Minutes Notice" – a 19-part series about the wealth of open government information in meeting minutes and legal notices. It received first place in "Best Public Notice Journalism" from the National Newspaper Association, and second in "Best Use of Public Records" from the Minnesota chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.



Richard McKee – California

McKee was past president of the California First Amendment Coalition and co-founder of Californians Aware (CalAware). He was a chemistry professor at Pasadena City College, not a lawyer or journalist. But in the last decade and a half before his sudden death in 2011 at age 62, he was estimated to have sued – successfully – more public agencies in the state for violations of the open meetings and public records laws than any member of the State Bar. McKee helped design, administer and score a series of public records law compliance audits conducted by CalAware, with successive probes

targeting leading state agencies, more than 200 law enforcement departments, and the public education system: 194 K-12 school districts, half of all community college districts, and all state university and UC campuses. A California law opening the records of state college and university campus foundations is named the Richard McKee Transparency Act.



Hyde Post – Georgia

With a deep background in journalism and digital technology, Post served as vice president, internet for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and its web portfolio, including accessatlanta.com and ajc.com, which he helped develop in 1998. Prior to that, he served as assistant managing editor of the daily Atlanta Constitution and also headed the Innovation Group, a skunkworks for new product development. He served previously with the newspaper as a reporter, special projects editor and AME for local news. He edited and directed coverage of Pulitzer Prize winning projects in 1988 and 1993.

Post was a two-term president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition and founder of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation, which he led as president for more than 20 years.



Laura Lee Prather – Texas

Prather is a Partner in the Litigation Practice Group at Haynes and Boone in Austin, Texas. She is an advocate at the Texas Legislature on First Amendment and open government concerns, and was the lead draftsman and negotiator for several related bills, including the reporters' privilege, anti-SLAPP statute, and Defamation Mitigation Act. Prather is currently the FOI Foundation of Texas' legislative committee co-chair. She volunteers for the organization's FOI Hotline, fielding questions from across the state about the Texas Public Information Act and the Texas Open Meetings Act. In the past

year, she led the formation of the Texas Sunshine Coalition, a public awareness campaign aimed at improving the Texas Public Information Act.

Speakers



James Barragan is a state government reporter for The Dallas Morning News, where he covers the Texas House, immigration, border security and voting rights issues. He covered the Texas Legislature's controversial approval of the sanctuary cities ban and is now following its effects on communities around the state. He also covers the straining Texas-Mexico relationship in the era of Trump. Previously, James wrote for the Austin American-Statesman and The Los Angeles Times. @James_Barragan



Daniel Bevarly is serving his second year as NFOIC's executive director, expanding the organization's programs that support and sustain a national network of state coalitions. Dan's career spans local government, a public policy think tank, a civic tech solutions provider and owning a public relations firm. His work has addressed the challenges to democracy and First Amendment rights stemming from the convergence of information technology with governance, journalism and public participation. He is also an adjunct professor at Florida Gulf Coast University.



Alexa Capeloto is an associate professor of journalism at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY. She earned her master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 2000 and worked as a reporter and editor at The Detroit Free Press and The San Diego Union-Tribune. Since joining the John Jay faculty in 2009, she has published several legal, scholarly and journalistic articles related to Freedom of Information laws and processes.



Andrew Chavez is a senior computational journalist at The Dallas Morning News. As a member of The News's data and interactives team, he focuses on data-driven reporting and data visualization with an emphasis on state government and politics. He previously worked for the Austin American-Statesman and the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and is a graduate of the Bob Schieffer College of Communication at Texas Christian University.



David Cuillier is an associate professor at the University of Arizona School of Journalism, where he teaches and researches freedom of information. Before entering academia, he was a newspaper reporter and editor in the Pacific Northwest. He served as freedom of information committee chair and national president for the Society of Professional Journalists. Cuillier is editor of the new online Journal of Civic Information, and is co-author of "The Art of Access: Strategies for Acquiring Public Records." @DavidCuillier



Patrick File is assistant professor of media law at the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno. His research and teaching is focused on helping us better understand how we define and regulate journalism at the intersection of law, technology, and professional practices. He is the author of "Bad News Travels Fast: The Telegraph, Libel, and Press Freedom in the Progressive Era" (University of Massachusetts Press, 2019). @PatrickCFile



Sue Hale is a journalism consultant for the Oklahoma City based Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. She has been with the foundation since her retirement as executive editor of The Oklahoman in 2008. Hale, a Kansas native, started her career in Kansas newspapers before moving to Oklahoma and eventually becoming the first female news editor at The Oklahoman. In 1989, Hale helped found Freedom of Information Oklahoma and helped launch NFOIC. She spent 17 years on the NFOIC board and is still a member of FOI Oklahoma.



James C. Ho is a Fifth Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals. Previously, Ho was a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He has presented 50 oral arguments in federal and state courts, and won three cases at the U.S. Supreme Court. Ho has served in all three branches of federal government: chief counsel of two Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittees; attorney-advisor at the Office of Legal Counsel and Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights; and clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas. He is a former Solicitor General of Texas.



Mark Horvit is an associate professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, where he teaches investigative reporting and is director of the school's State Government Reporting Program. He previously served as executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), where he conducted training in investigative reporting and data journalism throughout the world. Horvit worked as a reporter and editor for 20 years before joining IRE.



Deirdre Hughes is a television and digital producer with 18 years of experience creating original content across multiple platforms. Before joining the Charles Koch Institute, she served as executive producer and head of video for Yahoo Finance and Yahoo Tech, where she launched and oversaw three live, daily programs and more than tripled audience traffic. Prior to Yahoo, Deirdre served as executive producer of Lou Dobbs Tonight on the Fox Business Network. Before that, she worked for CNN. She is a graduate of Northwestern University.

Speakers (cont.)



Kevin R. Kemper, of Norman, Okla., is a licensed attorney in Oklahoma and various tribal courts with a general civil and criminal practice, focusing primarily upon the law by and for indigenous peoples. Kemper, a former journalist and journalism professor, also represents clients in open records and First Amendment defense cases. He is on the board of directors for FOI Oklahoma.



Jeri Carter Lawson is the open records manager at the Open Records Center for the City of Dallas. She has been employed with the City of Dallas since 1995 and processing open records since 2008. A native of Dallas, Lawson has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.



Mal Leary spearheads Maine Public's news coverage of politics and government and is based at the statehouse. Leary has worked as both a reporter and editor in broadcast and in print, in both Washington, D.C. and in Maine. For several years he owned and operated Capitol News Service. Leary is the SPJ Sunshine Chair in Maine, president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition and Vice President of the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition.



Frank LoMonte is an attorney and professor of media law and director of the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida. A graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law, LoMonte practiced with the Atlanta office of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan and clerked for federal judges on the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the Northern District of Georgia. Previously, he served for nine years as the executive director of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC).



Tamara Manik-Perlman, co-founder and CEO of NextRequest, leads company strategy, operations, and user research at NextRequest. She's committed to building cities, governments, and technologies that are both equitable and delightful. In 2013 she was a fellow at Code for America. Previously, she worked at Azavea where she led the spatial analysis and UX design teams and managed the development of web and mobile applications for clients ranging from local non-profits to federal agencies.



Adam Marshall is the Knight Foundation Litigation Attorney at the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. His work includes litigation in federal and state courts, writing amicus briefs, and training journalists. Adam is the co-author of a chapter on the federal FOIA in *Troubling Transparency* (Columbia University Press, 2018). In 2017, he was named to the Forbes "30 Under 30: Media" list for his work promoting government transparency, including the development of the FOIA Wiki.



Ginger McCall serves as the first Public Records Advocate for the State of Oregon where she is responsible for building the Office's dispute resolution infrastructure, conducting dispute resolution and designing and implementing trainings on Oregon's open records laws. She was formerly an Attorney Advisor at the Department of Labor and before that, the Associate Director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, a public interest research center. McCall has twice served on the FOIA Federal Advisory Committee. @oregonpra



Ayan Mitra is the editor of The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit, nonpartisan media organization that informs Texans — and engages with them — about public policy, politics, government and statewide issues. He oversees a newsroom of more than 25 journalists focusing on transparency and accountability in government. Under his leadership, the Tribune has won several national honors, including a Peabody Award and multiple Online News Association and Edward R. Murrow awards. @ayanmitra



Nancy Monson retired in September 2001 after 15 years as Executive Director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas (FOIFT) and NFOIC. She raised a \$2 million endowment for the growing Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas. Prior to that, she served on the board of directors for the FOIFT. When she retired, Monson was honored to have a Freedom of Information award named after her by the Texas Press Association and was recognized by Gov. Rick Perry for her service.



Ryan Mulvey is Counsel at Cause of Action Institute, where he has worked since May 2013. His practice touches on various aspects of legal investigation and oversight, as well as advocacy in the areas of administrative law and public access law. Ryan was graduated from the University of San Diego (BA, 2010), and he completed graduate studies at Boston University (JD/MA, 2013).

Speakers (cont.)



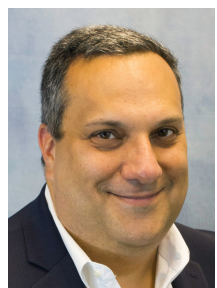
Terry Mutchler is an experienced trial attorney and former journalist. She was appointed to create Pennsylvania's Office of Open Records (OOR), enforcing the state's Right to Know Law. Previously, Mutchler was an investigative reporter for The Associated Press. Mutchler clerked for both the Supreme Court of Illinois and the Executive Office of the President of the United States during the Clinton Administration. In 2017, she created Mutchler Lyons, a transparency law practice.



Mitchell W. Pearlman was the first Executive Director and General Counsel of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. In 2005, Pearlman also served as Executive Director of the Connecticut Office of State Ethics. He practiced law for more than 45 years and served as a consultant and lecturer on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. He is formerly a director of NFOIC, the New England First Amendment Coalition, and a director and chair of Connecticut Legal Services.



Matthew Randazzo is President and CEO of The Dallas Foundation. A native Detroit and the first in his family to graduate college, Randazzo's career has focused on improving outcomes for underserved communities. Randazzo began working in politics and public service, but quickly made his way to the education sector where he spent 15 years working to improve civic education, college access and STEM readiness. He's also an avid supporter of Albion College and UT Austin.



William Repole is Chief Operating Officer and co-founder of GovQA. He is responsible for growing strategic partnerships and piloting new product opportunities. He has more than 25 years of information technology, product management and project management experience with emphasis in the financial, insurance, and government marketplaces. Repole helped pioneer the development of one of the first commercially available document imaging platforms. Prior to GovQA, he expanded Project Management Partners, Inc. into a multi-million dollar business.



Doug Robinson has served as Executive Director of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) since 2004. In addition to executive leadership, Robinson provides strategic direction for NASCIO's initiatives and advocacy positions on issues such as cybersecurity, enterprise architecture, IT governance, information sharing and business innovation. Prior to joining NASCIO he served as Executive Director in the Governor's Office for Technology, Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Kelsey Ryan is outreach manager for NFOIC. Previously, she worked at The Kansas City Star focusing on data-driven stories and was on the investigative team named a 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist in Public Service for its series on government transparency in Kansas. Ryan began her career at The Joplin (Mo.) Globe a day after an EF-5 tornado destroyed one-third of the city. She later worked at The Wichita (Kan.) Eagle, covering health care, city government and special projects. She is a Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government board member. @kelsey_ryan



Amy Kristin Sanders is a former journalist, licensed attorney and associate professor. Before joining the University of Texas at Austin, she taught at Northwestern University's campus in Qatar and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her expertise focuses on the intersection of law, ethics and new technology as it relates to media freedom and democratic participation. An expert witness and consultant to Fortune 500 companies, Sanders has advised international governments and law firms on regulatory proceedings, policy development and pending litigation.



Kelley Shannon has served as executive director of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas since 2013. She has been a journalist for three decades: A correspondent for The Associated Press, first in San Antonio and later as bureau leader in Austin, where she covered government and politics. She also worked as a reporter for The Dallas Morning News in Austin and the Savannah (Ga.) News-Press. Shannon has been an adjunct journalism instructor at the University of Texas in Austin and guest lectures at other colleges and universities. @kelleyshan

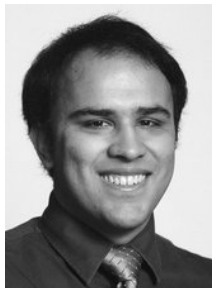


Cheryl Smith is Secretary of the National Association of Black Journalists and president of the Dallas-Fort Worth Association of Black Journalists. An award-winning reporter, Smith works for The Texas Metro News and The Garland Journal. She has also been an editor, columnist, and staff writer for The Dallas Weekly. Smith is also the publisher and editor of the IMessenger News Group, a multi-platform news organization that consists of two print newspapers, one digital news magazine, an online radio show and a television program.



Thomas Susman was Director of the Governmental Affairs Office of the American Bar Association before assuming a part-time role as International Policy Coordinator and Strategic Advisor. He has litigated FOIA cases against the CIA, State Department, Defense Department and Justice Department and testified on FOIA before Congress. Previously, Susman was in the Office of Legal Counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice and general counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee. He was principal Senate staff counsel for the 1974 FOIA Amendments. @tmsus

Speakers (cont.)



Nick Swyter is the journalism program associate at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. His portfolio of work focuses on the First Amendment and addressing misinformation. Before joining Knight, Swyter worked as a newscast producer and magazine editor. He was a student fellow for the Carnegie-Knight News21 investigative reporting initiative and the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. @nickswyter



Leah Wigren is working on a Masters in Media Innovation at the Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada Reno. She is also an attorney who practices primarily in the area of federal criminal defense. Prior to moving to Reno in 1998, Leah attended law school and earned a Master of Social Work in New York. She worked at the Brooklyn Legal Aid Society, and Covenant House, assisting indigent defendants and homeless youth. Leah is on the board of directors of Nevada Legal Services, a legal clinic serving low-income residents.

2019 Board of Directors

Mal Leary, President The Maine Capitol Connection Channel	Megan Rhyne, VP Virginia Coalition for Open Government	Deborah Fisher, Sec. Tennessee Coalition for Open Government
Mark Horvit, Treasurer University of Missouri School of Journalism	David Cuillier University of Arizona School of Journalism	Alyssa Doom Pew Charitable Trusts
Tim Franklin Medill School of Journalism	Katherine Garner KLGarner Consulting	Michael Morisy MuckRock.com
Colleen Murphy Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission	Sarah Nordgren Associated Press	Barbara Petersen Florida First Amendment Foundation
Jeffrey Roberts Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition	Justin Silverman New England First Amendment Coalition	Thomas Susman American Bar Association

Staff

Daniel Bevarly Executive Director	Kelsey Ryan Outreach Manager	Maggy Stansly Administrative Manager
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F0I Research Papers

For the first time, NFOIC held a call for papers relating to insights of practical value for those who work day-to-day in access to government information. Topics included issues regarding access to public records and meetings, court transparency, access to public employees and elected officials, open data and technology, and other related matters.

Of the submissions, 12 winning research papers have been accepted to competition for presentation at the 30th anniversary summit in Dallas. The top paper will be published in the University of Florida's new Journal of Civic Information, which welcomes submissions from all researchers. Papers will be available on the NFOIC website, www.nfoic.org.

Winners

“Countering the Privatization of Public Records: How Trade Secrets, Purported Competitive Harm and Third-Party Interventions Keep Government Business in the Dark”

Amy Sanders, University of Texas-Austin, and Daxton “Chip” Stewart, TCU

"The Effects and Efficacy of Online Public Records Request Portals for Agencies"

Alexa Capeloto, City University of New York

“SLAPP-ing Back: Are Government Lawsuits Against Records Requesters Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation?”

Patrick C. File and Leah Wigren, University of Nevada, Reno

Additional papers to be presented in a poster session at the summit:

"Access to Government Officials in the Age of Social Media"

Katie Blevins, University of Idaho, and Kearston Lee Wesner, Quinnipiac University

"Drag This Out: Fixing FOI Searches, a Tantalizing Solution to Improving FOI Delays"

Nate Jones, National Security Archive

"A Constitutional Right to Public Information"

Chad Marzen, Florida State University

"Privacy vs. Transparency: Tracing Home Address Exemptions in State FOI Laws"

Jodie Mozdzer Gil, Southern Connecticut State University

"Out from the Curtains of Secrecy: Private University Police Records and State Open Records Laws"

Josh Moore, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

"Opening the State House Doors: Examining Trends in Public Access to Legislative Records"

Ryan Mulvey and James Valvo, Cause of Action Institute

"Social Media Use and Political Engagement: A Social Network Analysis of Individuals' use of Twitter to Discuss Freedom of Information in the United States"

Kayla Schwoerer, Rutgers University

"Assessing Badgers' Right to Know: Auditing Wisconsin Public Record Law"

A.Jay Wagner, Marquette University

"Washington State's Public Records Act: A Battle in the Legislature and Beyond"

Peggy Watt, Western Washington University

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Alabama Sunlight Coalition (2019) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] First Amendment Coalition of Arizona (1981) [REDACTED]
CalAware (CA)(2004) [REDACTED] Colorado Freedom of Information Coalition (1987)
Connecticut Foundation for Open Government (1991) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Delaware Coalition for Open Government (2006) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] District of Columbia Open Government Coalition (2009)
[REDACTED] Florida First Amendment Foundation (1984) [REDACTED]
Georgia First Amendment Foundation (1994) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Idahoans for Openness in Government (2004)
Illinois First Amendment Center [REDACTED]
Indiana Coalition for Open Government (1995) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Iowa Freedom of Information Council (1976)
Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government (1999) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Bluegrass Institute for Public Policy (KY) (2017)
Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (1950) [REDACTED]
Maine Freedom of Information Coalition (2000) [REDACTED]
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Michigan Coalition for Open Government (2013) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (1989)
Mississippi Center for Freedom of Information (2010) [REDACTED]
Missouri Sunshine Coalition (2009) [REDACTED]
Montana Freedom of Information Hotline (1988) [REDACTED]
Media of Nebraska (2005) [REDACTED] New England First Amendment Coalition (2006)
[REDACTED] New Jersey Foundation for Open Government (2000) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] New Mexico Foundation for Open Government (1989)
Reinvent Albany (2010) [REDACTED]
North Carolina Open Government Coalition (2004) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ohio Coalition for Open Government (1992)
[REDACTED] Freedom of Information Oklahoma (1990) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Open Oregon – A Freedom of Information Coalition (1995)
Access Rhode Island (1996) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] South Carolina Press Association FOI Committee (1984)
Tennessee Coalition for Open Government (2003) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas (1978)
Utah Foundation for Open Government (1998) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Virginia Coalition for Open Government (1996) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Washington Coalition for Open Government (2002)
West Virginia Open Government Coalition (2011) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Wisconsin Freedom of Information Council (1978)