

PROTECTING SOURCES IS PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

As citizens—and as journalists—committed to a free press and the free flow of information, we support the passage of a federal shield law. And we urge you to join with us in speaking out against the imprisonment of reporters.

It is essential to our country's democracy that journalists be able to report information without fear of intimidation or imprisonment. This sometimes requires the use of confidential sources. Many major news stories such as the Watergate revelations have depended on confidential sources. The public is the chief beneficiary. Sometimes

individuals with critical information will only speak on the condition that their identities are not revealed.

For that reason, a majority of the states and the District of Columbia recognize the need for confidential sources and have enacted media shield laws to protect journalists from disclosing those sources. There is no federal shield law statute, however, to protect journalists from having to disclose the identity of their sources. We urge Congress to recognize that protecting sources is really about protecting democracy and enact a federal shield law.

Edward Albee, playwright

Andrew Alexander, Washington bureau chief, *Cox Newspapers*

A.L. Alford Jr., editor and publisher, *Lewiston Tribune*, ID

George Althoff, publisher, *Portage Division, Capital Newspapers*, WI

Reed Anfinson, publisher, *Swift County Monitor-News*, Benson, MN

Paul Auster, author

Pete Banko, managing editor, *Altoona Mirror*, PA

Russell Banks, author

Sandra S. Baron, executive director, *Media Law Resource Center*

James Bettinger, director, *John S. Knight Fellowships*, Stanford University

Peter Bhatia, executive editor, *Oregonian*, Portland

Susan Bischoff, associate editor, *Houston Chronicle*

Brenda Blagg, regional editor, *Morning News*, AR

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut, attorney general

Julian Bond, board chairman, *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*

Tom Brokaw, correspondent-at-large, *NBC News*

Jerry E. Brown, dean, *School of Journalism*, University of Montana

Jeff Bruce, editor, *Dayton Daily News*

Arne Carlson, former governor, MN

John Carroll, former editor, *Los Angeles Times*

Phil Casaus, editor, *Albuquerque Tribune*

Mae Cheng, president, *UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.*

Ron Chernow, biographer, historian

Doug Clifton, editor, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

Chris Cobler, editor, *Greeley Tribune*, CO

John Connolly, president, *American Federation of Television and Radio Artists*

Brian Cooper, executive editor, *Telegraph Herald*, Dubuque, IA

Matthew Cooper, *White House* correspondent, *Time* magazine

John Costa, editor, *The Bulletin*, Bend, OR

Walter Cronkite, journalist

Lucy Dalglish, executive director, *Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press*

Tom Daschle, former Senate Leader, SD

Tony Dearing, editor, *Bay City Times*, MI

Ariel Dorfman, playwright, novelist

Drew Edmondson, Oklahoma, attorney general

Bob Edwards, host, *Bob Edwards Show*, XM Satellite Radio

Myron Farber, former reporter, *New York Times*

Geri Ferrara, editor, *Dominion Post*, Morgantown, WV

Luis A. Ferre Rangel, editor, *El Nuevo Dia*, Puerto Rico

Charles M. Firestone, executive director, *The Aspen Institute, Communications and Society Program*

Francis Fitzgerald, author

Ellen Foley, editor, *Wisconsin State Journal*, WI

Linda Foley, president, *The Newspaper Guild-CWA*

Philip Gailey, editor of editorials, *St. Petersburg Times*, FL

Bob Giles, curator of the *Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University*

Scott Gillespie, managing editor, *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, MN

Francisco Goldman, novelist, journalist

Barbara Goldsmith, author

Greg Gordon, Washington correspondent, *McClatchy Newspapers*

Fred Graham, chief anchor and managing editor, *Court TV*

Rex Granum, former deputy press secretary to President Jimmy Carter

Irwin Gratz, president, *Society of Professional Journalists*

Anders Gyllenhaal, editor, *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, MN

Charlotte H. Hall, senior vice president/ editor, *Orlando Sentinel*

John Hall, senior Washington correspondent, *Media General*

Steve Haynes, publisher, *Goodland Star-News*, KS

Richard Hensley, editor, *Highlands Today*, Sebring, FL

Gary Hill, chair, ethics committee, *Society of Professional Journalists Ethics Committee*

Linwood Holton, former governor, VA

Rob Hotakainen, Washington correspondent, *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, MN

Brant Houston, executive director, *Investigative Reporters and Editors and National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting*

Joe Howry, editor/vice president, *Ventura County Star*, CA

Clark Hoyt, Washington editor, *Knight Ridder*

Don Huebscher, editor, *Leader Telegram*, Eau Claire, WI

John Hughes, syndicated columnist, *Christian Science Monitor*; editor and chief operating officer, *Deseret Morning News*, Salt Lake City, UT

Al Hunt, managing editor, *Washington, Bloomberg News*

Sandra Keyes, editor, *Honolulu Advertiser*

Larry King, executive editor, *Omaha World-Herald*

Craig Klugman, editor, *Journal Gazette*, Fort Wayne, IN

Ted Koppel, anchor and managing editor, *Nightline*, ABC News

David Kraslow, Washington bureau chief, *Cox Newspapers*

John Lampinen, editor, senior vice president, *Daily Herald*, suburban Chicago

Donald R. Larrabee, *Griffin-Larrabee News Bureau*

Kathy Lawrence, president, *College Media Advisers*

Dale Leibach, former assistant press secretary to President Jimmy Carter

Carl Leubsdorf, Washington bureau chief, *Dallas Morning News*

Frances Lewine, CNN assignment editor

Simon K.C. Li, assistant managing editor, *Los Angeles Times*

Ron Magers, anchor/reporter, *ABC-7*, Chicago

John Mancini, editor, *Newsday*, Long Island, NY

Carol Marin, political columnist, *Chicago Sun-Times*

Mike McCurry, former press secretary to President Bill Clinton

Jack McElroy, editor, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

James M. McGarvey, editor, *Herald News*, West Paterson, NJ

George McGovern, former Senator, SD

Tim J. McGuire, columnist and former president *American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE)*

Rob McKenna, Washington State, attorney general

Walter Mears, retired vice president, *Associated Press*

Paul Merkoski, editor, *The Press of Atlantic City*

Wilson F. Minor, syndicated columnist, Jackson, MS

Bill Monroe, former moderator, *Meet the Press*

Larry Morgnanesi, executive editor, *The Intelligencer*, Doylestown, PA

Jack Nelson, retired Washington bureau chief, *Los Angeles Times*

John A. Nelson, managing editor, *Advocate-Messenger*, Danville, KY

Lawrence M. O'Rourke, national political correspondent, *McClatchy Newspapers*

Rafael Olmeda, vice president, print, *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*

Ronald J. Ostrow, former Supreme Court and Justice Department correspondent, *Los Angeles Times*

Hannah Pakula, author

Allen Parsons, executive editor and associate publisher, *Star-News*, Wilmington, NC

Eugene Patterson, editor emeritus, *St. Petersburg Times*

Matthew Paxton, publisher, *News-Gazette*, Lexington, VA

Donna Penticuff, president, *National Federation of Press Women*

Skip Perez, executive editor, *Ledger*, Lakeland, FL

Daniel Petrie Jr., president, *Writers Guild of America*, west

Jody Powell, former press secretary to President Jimmy Carter

Mike Riley, editor, *Roanoke Times*

David Risser, executive editor, *Statesman Journal*, Salem, OR

James Risser, director emeritus, *John S. Knight Fellowships*, Stanford University

Ken Robertson, executive editor, *Tri-City Herald*, Kennewick, WA

Cindy Rodriguez, columnist, *Denver Post*, and general at-large officer, *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*

Rick Rodriguez, president, *ASNE*, and executive editor, *Sacramento Bee*

Salman Rushdie, author

Kathleen Rutledge, editor, *Lincoln Journal Star*, NE

William Safire, columnist, *New York Times*

Jonathan Safran Foer, author

Dena Sattler, editor and publisher, *Garden City Telegram*, KS

Michael Scammell, author

Bob Schieffer, correspondent, *CBS News*

Daniel Schorr, senior news analyst, *National Public Radio*

Patrick J. Sloyan, director, *Fund for Investigative Journalism*

Hedrick Smith, former Washington bureau chief, *New York Times*

Rex Smith, editor and vice president, *Times Union*, Albany, NY

Dennis Sodomka, executive editor, *Augusta Chronicle*, GA

Ellen Soetbeer, editor, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

Eliot Spitzer, New York State, attorney general

Suzette Martinez Stranding, columnist; president, *National Society of Newspaper Columnists*

David Starr, senior editor, *Newhouse Newspapers*

John W. Stevenson, editor and publisher, *Randolph Leader*, Roanoke, AL

Mark W.C. Stodder, executive vice president/newspapers, *Dolan Media Co.*, Minneapolis, MN

Bob Stiff, executive editor, *Dispatch*, NC

John Sweeney, president, *AFL-CIO*

Paul Tash, editor and chairman, *St. Petersburg Times*

Joyce Terhaar, managing editor, *Sacramento Bee*

Jerald terHorst, press secretary for President Gerald Ford

Helen Thomas, syndicated columnist, *Hearst Newspapers*

Robyn Tomlin, executive editor, *Star Banner*, Ocala, FL

Douglas Turner, Washington bureau chief, *Buffalo News*

Troy Turner, executive editor, *Anniston Star*, AL

Christopher White Walker, editor and publisher, *Emporia Gazette*, KS

David Wise, author/journalist

Betty Wong, managing editor, *Americas Company*, *Reuters America LLC*

Judy Woodruff, correspondent, *CNN*

David Zeeck, executive editor, *News Tribune*, Tacoma, WA

Fred Zipp, managing editor, *Austin American-Statesman*

American Federation of Television & Radio Artists (AFTRA)

American Society of Business Publication Editors

American Society of Newspaper Editors

Asian American Journalists Association

Education Writers Association

Investigative Reporters and Editors and National Institute of Computer Assisted Reporting

Media Law Resource Center

National Association of Black Journalists

National Association of Hispanic Journalists

National Federation of Press Women

National Newspaper Association

Newspaper Association of America

PEN American Center

Radio-Television News Directors Association

Religion Newswriters Association

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

Society of American Business Editors & Writers

Society of Professional Journalists

The Newspaper Guild-CWA

UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.

Organizations listed for identification purposes only

In the last 18 months, more than two dozen reporters were questioned or subpoenaed about their confidential sources. This list includes Judith Miller of the *New York Times*, who served 85 days in jail even though she never wrote an article based on information obtained from her confidential source. Without the promise of confidentiality, sources—especially whistleblowers—will not come forward with evidence of wrongdoing in government or the private sector. Confidential sources help get information to the public so citizens can participate fully in our democracy.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SIGNERS, AND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FEDERAL SHIELD LAW, VISIT REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AT WWW.RCFP.ORG/SHIELD.