



# Media Kit



## Overview

Established in 1970, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press is a nonprofit organization that provides pro bono legal representation, amicus curiae support, and other legal resources to protect First Amendment freedoms and the newsgathering rights of journalists.

Our mission is to protect the right to gather and distribute the news; to keep government accountable by ensuring access to public records, meetings, and courtrooms; and to preserve the principles of free speech and unfettered press, as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

### Legal Hotline Contact Information

Confidential support 24/7 for journalists facing legal challenges.

[rcfp.org/hotline](https://rcfp.org/hotline)

1-800-336-4243

[hotline@rcfp.org](mailto:hotline@rcfp.org)



## Leadership

### Bruce D. Brown, President

Since joining the Reporters Committee in 2012, Bruce D. Brown has shaped the organization into the hub of pro bono legal support and freedom of the press advocacy that it is today. A leading voice in First Amendment jurisprudence, Brown is regularly cited in the nation's leading news organizations including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Guardian, The Economist, and others.



## Press Releases

- [US Justice Department announces plans to revoke critical protections for journalists](#)
- [Statement on White House blocking AP journalists from events](#)
- [Statement on Trump Justice Department's subpoenas for journalists' records in 2020 raise First Amendment concerns](#)
- [Statement on the release of journalists Evan Gershkovich, Alsu Kurmasheva, and Vladimir Kara-Murza](#)

## Our Programs

### **Amicus**

The Reporters Committee regularly submits amicus, or “friend-of-the-court,” briefs in state, federal, and U.S. Supreme Court cases where the news media brings an important perspective. Known for building broad coalitions of major news and transparency organizations, the Reporters Committee is a voice for the right to freely gather and disseminate information in the public interest.

### **Litigation**

Reporters Committee attorneys pursue impact and needs-based litigation in state and federal courts, for the benefit of the news media while, at the same time, ensuring that individual journalists in need of legal defense help have representation.

### **Policy**

We leverage RCFP legal and coalition building expertise to advance legislative and policy goals for press freedom on behalf of journalists and the news media industry.

### **Local Legal Initiative**

The Local Legal Initiative provides local news organizations in Colorado, Indiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee with the direct legal services they need to pursue enterprise and investigative stories in their communities.

### **ProJourn**

ProJourn aims to increase the supply of pro bono attorneys trained in pre-publication review and access to public records — two of the most critical editorial legal needs of journalists — and assist newsrooms in those legal areas, as well as business and operations-related needs.

"They are great lawyers. They are really committed to the goal of public interest work."

**Steve Coll, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of The Achilles Trap**

"Having access to RCFP is an incredible resource for, one, poorly resourced newsrooms, and, two, freelancers like myself. It's a huge peace of mind to know that I can contact RCFP."

**Dan Schwartz, freelance journalist**

An "immensely important" resource.

**Paige Pfleger, WPLN News reporter and ProPublica local reporting fellow.**

"It's really nice to have someone to turn to to really make sure my case and my argument for disclosing records is solid and gives me the best chance possible to get access to critical information for the public."

**Holly Bartholomew, Pamplin Media**

"It emboldens journalists to do their job, knowing there is a free legal resource to help them navigate the court without having to pay an expensive fee to retain a lawyer."

**Shannon Shaw Duty, Osage News**



## Testimonials



## Connect

**Jenn Topper, Vice President of Communications**

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[reporterscommittee](https://www.instagram.com/reporterscommittee)

## FAQ

### **Who can access RCFP's legal services?**

Our services are available to working journalists and media lawyers across the U.S.

### **How can I request legal assistance?**

Contact our Legal Hotline, available 24/7, via [rcfp.org/hotline](https://rcfp.org/hotline), 1-800-336-4243, or [hotline@rcfp.org](mailto:hotline@rcfp.org).

### **How do I know which of your programs I should contact?**

We're one organization with one mission. We have different programs at the national and local levels to meet the needs of journalists and news organizations. All you have to do to get help with your legal issue is reach out to us directly or through our Hotline.

### **Does RCFP charge for its services?**

No, we provide pro bono legal assistance to journalists. Since our founding, no journalist has paid a cent for our help.

### **How can I request a legal training?**

Our attorneys conduct free legal trainings for newsrooms. Request one by contacting [training@rcfp.org](mailto:training@rcfp.org).

### **Who can I contact for an interview?**

Submit media inquiries to [media@rcfp.org](mailto:media@rcfp.org).

### **How are you funded?**

Support for our work comes from a broad range of funders including foundations, individuals, and sponsors of our annual fundraising event, the Freedom of the Press Awards. Make a gift at [rcfp.org/donate](https://rcfp.org/donate) or contact Vice President of Development Michael Zwirn at [giving@rcfp.org](mailto:giving@rcfp.org).

## Logo and Brand Guidelines



[PNG](#) | [JPG](#)

**Formal: Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press**

**Shortened: Reporters Committee, RCFP**

**It is accurate to refer to the Reporters Committee as:**

- A nonprofit legal services organization.
- An organization that works to protect the legal rights of journalists to gather and report the news.
- A pro bono legal services organization for journalists and newsrooms.
- An organization that works to protect First Amendment and newsgathering rights for journalists.