

From the Executive Director

Thank you for joining us for the Reporters Committee's First Amendment Awards Dinner. Your support for our work and tonight's honorees is inspiring.

The Reporters Committee is strong because we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us and those who stand beside us. They have never wavered in their commitment to the First Amendment and freedom of information, and neither will we.

We are here almost a year to the day since the public learned that the Department of Justice had secretly seized phone records of Associated Press journalists and the emails of a Fox News reporter. Since then, we have worked with a coalition of news organizations to reform the Justice Department media subpoena guidelines. We have filed amicus briefs seeking more transparency in the FISA court and supporting the removal of prior restraints on National Security Letters. We have also defended the rights of Google, Microsoft and other tech companies to release more data about their compelled participation in government surveillance.

In addition, the Reporters Committee continues to write amicus briefs to protect journalists subpoenaed for their sources, to advance new "anti-SLAPP" remedies for reporters sued for libel, and to advocate for more openness in all courts, especially the U.S. Supreme Court. We are converting more materials into apps, litigating our own access cases, and collaborating with law school clinics. And we have expanded the number and breadth of our fellowships.

For more than four decades, the Reporters Committee has been a "go-to" resource for reporters and news organizations and today is working with the traditional and the new media alike in their common mission to preserve First Amendment freedoms and the flow of information to the public. We are deeply appreciative of the support of all of these constituencies here tonight in joining us to recognize the achievements of our four honorees.

Bruce D. Brown
Executive Director
Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press

