

From the Dinner Chairs

Welcome to the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press First Amendment Awards Dinner. Tonight we honor four remarkably accomplished people, who have spent their careers both producing informative, intelligent and innovative news content and, when necessary, fighting for the right to do so.

Our honorees have given a home to award-winning documentaries and news that chronicle the American experience and life on this planet; they have ensured that the public has a seat at the biggest terrorism trials in modern history; they have advocated in court to stop government incursions against the First Amendment; and they have ensured that one of the oldest forms of respected news reporting finds new ways to serve the information needs of an electronic future while preserving the good-journalism ideals it was built upon.

In short, they have stood up, spoken up and put up to make sure we all have the freedom to gather the news, tell the story of our nation and our world, and present it without fear of government censorship.

As we honor them tonight, we encourage you to join Sharon Percy Rockefeller, Carol Rosenberg, Bruce W. Sanford and Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr. in the constant defense of our freedom of the press.



Donald A. Baer
Worldwide Chair and CEO, Burson-Marsteller
Chairman, Penn Schoen Berland



Donald E. Graham
Chairman and CEO
Graham Holdings Company