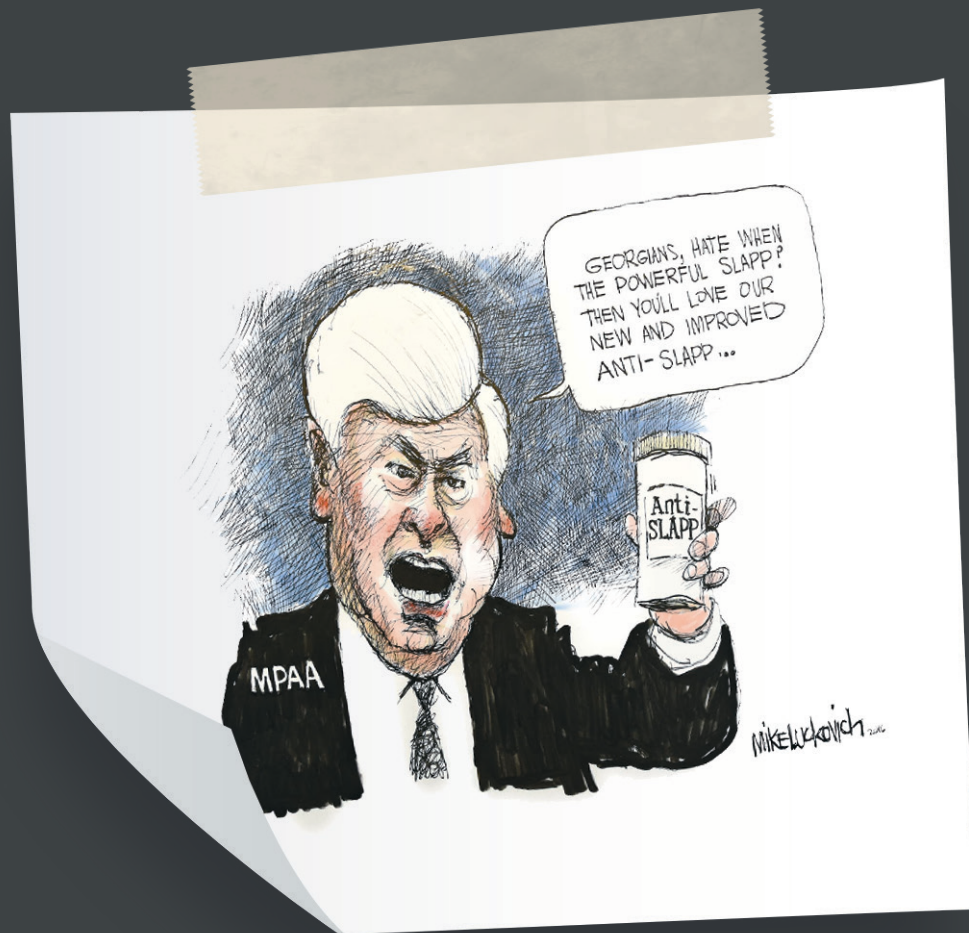


15th Annual
Charles L. Weltner
Freedom of Information Banquet



honoring
The Motion Picture Association of America

Hosted by the Georgia First Amendment Foundation
Oct. 13, 2016 • Emory Conference Center • Atlanta

Thank you MPAA

We commend your support of
free speech rights and First Amendment freedoms.
Thank you for being on watch.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
applauds the work of the Georgia First Amendment
Foundation and congratulates
the Motion Picture Association of America.



**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Credible. Compelling. Complete.

Tonight's Agenda

Welcome

Hollie Manheimer, Executive Director, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Recognition of Special Guests

Hyde Post, Founding President, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Opening Remarks: GFAF's Mission, Today and Tomorrow

Shawn McIntosh, President, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Wyche Fowler, former U.S. senator from Georgia and ambassador to Saudi Arabia

Keynote Speech: Championing First Amendment Freedoms

Chris Dodd, MPAA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Presentation of 2016 Weltner Freedom of Information Award

Susan Weltner Yow

Closing

Shawn McIntosh

Acknowledgements

The Georgia First Amendment Foundation thanks the following sponsors for their support of the 2016 Weltner Freedom of Information Banquet and GFAF's mission:

Platinum Sponsors

CNN

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Gold Sponsor

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Silver Sponsors

Cox Media Group

Gray Television

JonesDay

LexisNexis

Bronze Sponsors

Barnes Law Group

Caplan Cobb LLP

Dentons

Duane Morris LLP

Emory Film & Media Studies

KB Media

Special thanks to Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, Mike Bowers and Richard Hyde for their financial support.

Thank you to our Executive Director Hollie Manheimer and our board members (see Page 11) for their service to our mission. Thanks, also, to Becky Cesario, Mike Luckovich, Silvia Newman and Nydia Tisdale for their contributions to the success of our banquet.

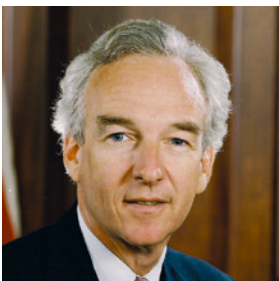
About the Weltner Freedom of Information Award

Our award is named for Charles L. Weltner, a former chief justice of the Georgia Supreme Court who championed freedom of information and ethics in state government. Our annual Weltner Banquet provides financial support for the foundation's focused and essential mission: fighting for free speech, government transparency and access to public meetings, proceedings and records in Georgia.

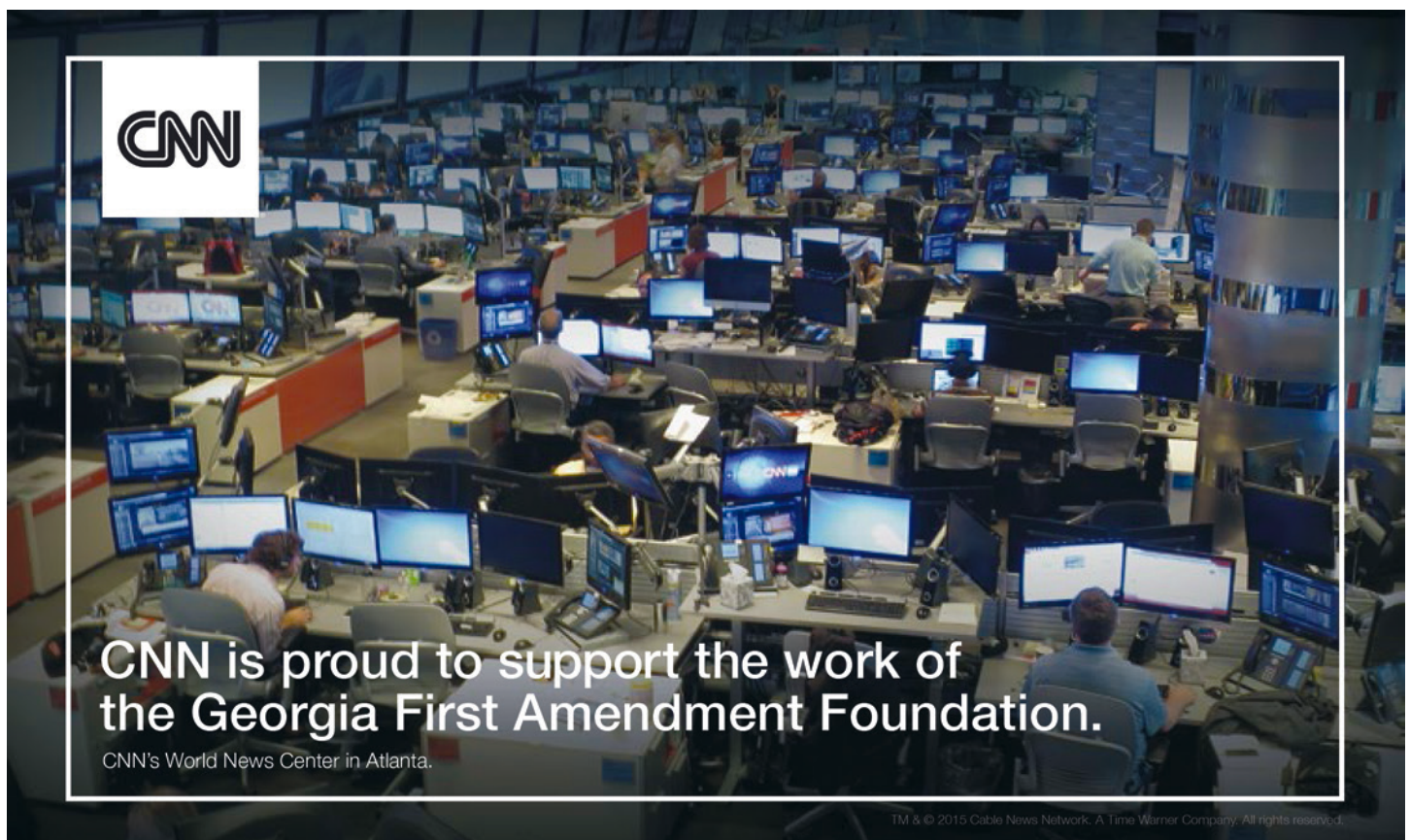
Meet our speakers



Christopher Dodd is the chairman and chief executive officer of the Motion Picture Association of America, which serves as the voice and advocate of the American motion picture industry around the world. For 36 years, Dodd represented Connecticut in the U.S. Congress in the House of Representatives and Senate, becoming the state's longest-serving member and earning trust of both Republicans and Democrats. A key participant in nearly every major national policy debate over the last three decades, Dodd is perhaps best known for authoring or co-authoring the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; the Help America Vote Act; and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. Dodd served as a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a recognized expert on Latin America; has interacted extensively with leaders throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and Latin America; and served as co-chair of the U.S.-India Senate Caucus. Since 2011, Dodd's highest priority has been to champion creative freedoms of filmmakers by safeguarding intellectual property rights, advancing technology-driven innovation and opening global markets to the powerful medium of film.



Wyche Fowler Jr. served as a U.S. congressman and senator from Georgia for 16 years. During his time in Washington, Fowler led bipartisan consensus on major public policy issues. He was appointed U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, serving in that role from 1996-2001. The Federal Bureau of Investigation awarded Fowler its highest civilian honor, the Jefferson Cup, for his assistance in combating terrorism and for helping solve the terrorism crimes against the U.S. military in Saudi Arabia. Before his election to Congress, Fowler practiced law in Atlanta and was elected at age 29 to the Atlanta City Council. Fowler received his B.A. in English from Davidson College in 1962 and a J.D. from Emory University in 1969. He holds honorary degrees from Hofstra University, Davidson College and Morris Brown College. He has taught at the University of Georgia Law School; Trinity College in Oxford, England; and Rice University in Houston, where he continues to lecture. Fowler also serves on a number of corporate boards and is chair emeritus of the Middle East Institute, a nonprofit research foundation in Washington.

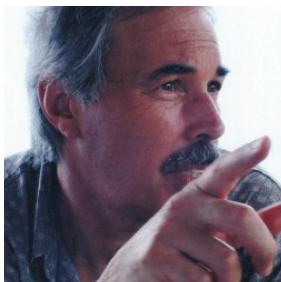




Hollie Manheimer has been executive director of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation since January 1996. She graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College; received a Master's in English from New York University; earned her Juris Doctorate from Emory University Law School; and received a Master's in communication from Georgia State University. When not serving the foundation, Hollie practices law with Stuckey & Manheimer Inc. and serves as an associate magistrate of the DeKalb County Magistrate Court.



Shawn McIntosh is president of the board of directors for the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. As deputy managing editor at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and ajc.com, McIntosh oversees investigative reporting and data journalism. She also guides the newsroom on First Amendment matters relating to government transparency and public meetings and records. During her career, McIntosh has edited award-winning projects and investigations at several newspapers including the AJC, The Dallas Morning News and USA TODAY, and served as top editor of The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss. McIntosh served 14 years on the board of Investigative Reporters and Editors, the nation's largest journalism training organization, and trained hundreds of journalists in using public records for reporting.



Hyde Post is a founder and past president of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation. He's also a board member and former president of the nonprofit National Freedom of Information Coalition. His work as a digital consultant and freelance writer and editor follows many years in media. From 2009-2013, Post oversaw media strategy for News Distribution Network, a digital video aggregation and distribution company in Atlanta. In his long career at *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Post helped grow ajc.com into an organization of more than 75 staffers and annual revenues over \$25 million. He also was a reporter, projects editor and assistant managing editor. Projects he edited or directed earned major awards, including Pulitzer Prizes for investigative and explanatory reporting.

Gray Television salutes the
Motion Picture Association of America
and the
Georgia First Amendment Foundation
for their advocacy on behalf of broadcast
journalists everywhere.

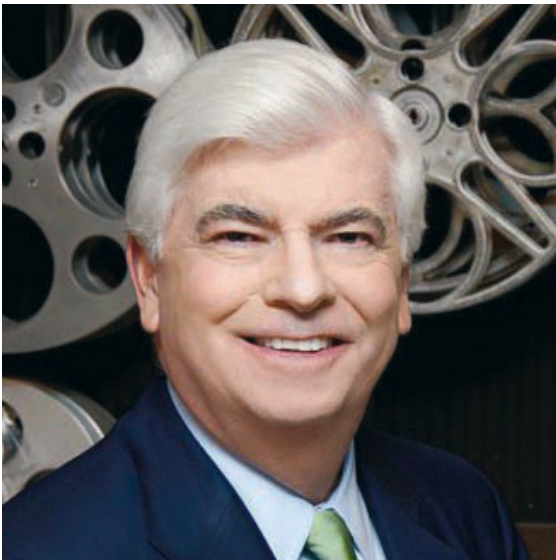


Weltner Award 2016: Foundation honors Motion Picture Association of America as free speech leader

This year the General Assembly passed the most effective legislative protection of free speech rights in Georgia in 20 years. It was a major First Amendment victory for Georgians, bolstering their right to comment on matters of public concern. But it happened with little public attention, and it came about because of the concerted efforts of an often-unheralded First Amendment champion: the Motion Picture Association of America.

The Georgia First Amendment Foundation is honoring the Motion Picture Association's leadership role in building a coalition that helped persuade state lawmakers to strengthen free speech laws. The foundation has named MPAA as its recipient of the 2016 Charles L. Weltner Freedom of Information Award.

Former U.S. senator and MPAA Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Chris Dodd is accepting the award at tonight's annual Weltner Banquet.



“The MPAA is honored to receive the Georgia First Amendment Foundation’s Weltner Freedom of Information Award,” Dodd said. “We are proud of our longstanding commitment to promoting First Amendment freedoms. We consistently resist calls for government censorship and work every single day to protect filmmakers’ rights to tell their stories. Georgia’s new, stronger free speech law safeguards those rights.”

The Motion Picture Association's work under the Gold Dome led to increased legal protections against so-called strategic lawsuits against public participation, or SLAPPs. The result: Deep-pocketed plaintiffs now have a much tougher time sustaining groundless defamation and other claims designed to chill free speech in Georgia.

The state's previous anti-SLAPP statute was enacted in 1996 and was narrowly interpreted to protect statements made to governmental bodies or linked to official proceedings. This year's House Bill 513, sponsored by state Rep. Ron Stephens of Savannah, expanded protection to all speech—and related conduct—on all matters of public concern. It also included provisions for prompt appellate review and mandatory award of attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. The legislation became law on July 1, ensuring Georgia courts are places of protection, not harassment, for the exercise of free speech.

The Motion Picture Association's First Amendment advocacy stretches back to its founding in 1922. The association consistently fights to make sure films and other creative works are afforded full free speech rights.



First Amendment abuses exposed to Georgia's summer sunshine

Shawn McIntosh

President, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Imagine getting thrown in jail after submitting a simple open records request. We are all familiar with this risk in other countries, but here in our own? Yet this is exactly what happened this summer to Mark Thomason, a journalist in Fannin County. The Georgia First Amendment Foundation was among the first to speak out and take action against this extraordinary overreach by local officials.

When the news broke in early July, GFAF Executive Director Hollie Manheimer sounded the alarm, telling a reporter: "Retaliation for use of the Open Records Act will inhibit every citizen from using it, and reel us back into the Dark Ages." The foundation led a joint effort by the Atlanta Press Club, the Georgia Press Association and the Georgia chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists to demand dismissal of charges against the journalist. That demand made news across Georgia, the nation and the world.

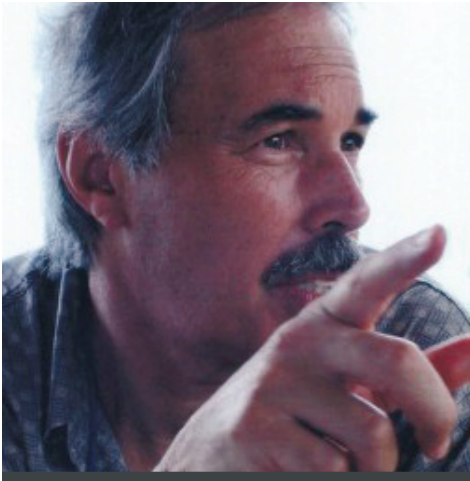
Two days later, the district attorney who had brought the charges against Thomason filed a motion for dismissal. Her motion included a letter from Appalachian Judicial Circuit Superior Court Chief Judge Brenda Weaver, who had pushed for the indictments against the journalist. It took nearly two more weeks, and more pressure from the media and First Amendment advocates, for the charges against Thomason and his lawyer finally to be dropped by a judge on loan to the Appalachian Judicial Circuit. That happened July 18. A federal grand jury is now investigating the affair.

The story of what happened in Fannin County demonstrates the critical role that the Georgia First Amendment Foundation plays in securing and preserving access to the public information that is so vital to open government and unfettered newsgathering. It also demonstrates how much work we still have to do.

The foundation's mission is unique, narrowly focused and essential.

- **We spend 100 percent of our time advocating for access to public information, government transparency and free speech.**
- **We do that critical work at the General Assembly, in the courts and in county and city offices across Georgia.**
- **We coordinate with and complement other organizations that represent the interests of news outlets. And when their members are confronted with threats to First Amendment rights, those organizations call upon us.**

What we do is crucial to members of the media and citizens of our state. But to continue this important work, we need support. Go to gfaf.org to become a member or make a donation. Help us continue the foundation's mission to keep government open for the people and the press. Thomason's jailing in our home state is a strong reminder that we must remain vigilant in protecting First Amendment freedoms. Please invest in the Georgia First Amendment Foundation's mission to keep that watch.



Ballot initiative to abolish judicial watchdog group a flawed idea

Hyde Post

Founding President, Georgia First Amendment Foundation

Two years ago, the Georgia First Amendment Foundation honored the state's Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) for an opinion that strongly discouraged judges from keeping the public out of courtrooms. The foundation's board believes the JQC's opinion significantly, and almost immediately, improved public access to courts in Georgia. The JQC advanced the cause of government transparency to the benefit of all Georgia citizens.

The commission was created by a constitutional amendment voters approved back in 1972. It operates largely independently, comprised of members appointed by the governor, the state Supreme Court and the Georgia Bar Association. But some legislators were unhappy with how the JQC was run. As a result, voters this fall will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would abolish the commission as it is constituted and give state legislators the authority to decide how commissioners should be chosen and how the commission should operate.

The Georgia First Amendment Foundation strongly believes adoption of the amendment could result in less transparency about how Georgia's courts operate and how its judges conduct themselves.

The language voters will read on the ballot is itself less than revealing. It says new rules will "allow the Judicial Qualifications Commission to be open to the public in some manner." But that manner is not defined and far from certain. The Senate version of proposed enabling legislation tightened confidentiality around commission investigations of alleged misconduct by judges and sought to further restrict public access to its hearings.

In recent years, the strong trend at the General Assembly has been toward more government secrecy, not less. (The Legislature has always exempted itself from the Open Meetings Act and Open Records Act.) In the last session alone, the Legislature passed a bill allowing any state agency to conceal documents involving possible business expansions of \$25 million in investment or 50 jobs until after a deal is signed. The bill presumes that if, say, the construction of a private prison near your home could create 50 jobs, you are only entitled to learn about it after the fact. The General Assembly also approved, at the eleventh hour and without any discussion, an exemption to the Open Records Act that allows state college athletic departments 90 days – rather than the usual three – to respond to public records requests. No other public agency in Georgia is given such latitude to conduct its business in secret.

Neither of those actions suggests a predisposition in the 2017 Legislature to embrace the philosophy of transparency advanced by the JQC when it made clear there are very few valid reasons for closing courtrooms to the public.

To put the Legislature in charge of the commission's future is contrary to the separation of powers principles embedded in Georgia government. The Georgia First Amendment Foundation takes the position that to empower the Legislature to reconstitute the Judicial Qualifications Commission is far more likely to politicize the process of judicial oversight than to advance the cause of an open and accountable government.

Read Post's full commentary at gfaf.org.

Georgia First Amendment Foundation:

Our mission

What we do

- The crucial service the foundation performs for members and supporters is to monitor legislation and regulations that are potentially harmful to newsgathering and public access in Georgia.
- The foundation has built relationships with key state lawmakers and testifies for or against bills that could have an impact on access to public meetings, access to public records and access to court proceedings.
- The foundation monitors and alerts members about legal developments and key emerging First Amendment issues. It also alerts members to changes in public and news access to courtrooms and laws affecting judicial transparency. It advocates for transparency in government records affecting commercial and public transactions.
- Regular foundation events bring together key lawyers and jurists for discussions on First Amendment topics.
- Members and supporters have first access to the foundation's newsletter, which details issues, trends and pending legislation affecting access to public meetings and records.
- Members and supporters can receive training from the foundation in Georgia's Open Meetings and Open Records laws, tailored to their needs. The training covers the legal requirements of Georgia's open government laws, along with its exclusions. The foundation also offers training in public access to law enforcement records and investigative files.
- The foundation's *Citizen's **Guide to Open Government*** is the most authoritative guide to these laws in Georgia.

What we've accomplished

In recent years, the Georgia First Amendment Foundation has:

- Worked with media organizations statewide to help usher through the Legislature a major expansion of free speech rights — the largest legislative gains in this area in 20 years.
- Led a successful joint effort calling for charges to be dropped against a Fannin County journalist jailed after filing an open records request.
- Conducted open records and open meetings workshops for journalists and citizens around the state.
- Successfully pushed for the cost of copies of public documents to be decreased from 25 cents to 10 cents per page.
- Advocated for public availability of arrest mug shots, 911 calls and police dashboard camera videos.
- Successfully advocated for increased penalties for government entities that don't allow access to public meetings, proceedings and records, as required by Georgia law.
- Formally objected to the arrests of broadcasters covering public protests.
- Conducted workshops to train journalists, citizens and law enforcement about access rights to video from drones and police body cameras and protections for citizens recording police via personal mobile phones or cameras.
- Written letters of inquiry to help broadcasters, print journalists and Georgia citizens gain access to government meetings, criminal proceedings and public records.



What we're watching

- The Georgia General Assembly has repeatedly passed legislation expanding the secrecy around the state's negotiations with companies that want to put factories in Georgia. Government officials want to decide what is best for communities without consulting citizens. GFAF advocates for Georgians' right to know.
- Police are spending tax dollars to acquire body cameras, but then refusing to provide the video to the public. Police agencies are claiming it is their right to prevent the public from seeing the video for an indefinite period of time so long as they say an investigation is "open." GFAF is working hard to make sure body cameras bring more transparency to policing.
- Convicted criminals are increasingly being permitted to erase past criminal records. GFAF is fighting to make sure these "erasure statutes" do not leave Georgia businesses and citizens at risk of hiring employees who have been found guilty of serious crimes.
- The Georgia General Assembly is delaying public and press access to records related to Georgia college sports. The public has a right to see for themselves what contracts are being signed, what misconduct has occurred and what actions have been taken. GFAF is working to prevent Georgia from imposing such long delays that the right to these records becomes meaningless.
- Georgia courts have recently issued rulings that erode transparency of public hospitals, law enforcement and other institutions. GFAF and First Amendment partners have taken action in the courts to oppose this erosion of public access.
- The rapid pace of digitization of public records has public agencies and institutions increasingly outsourcing their records management to commercial vendors. Without vigilance by GFAF, these vendors drive up cost of public records, thereby limiting access to private citizens who cannot pay commercial rates. GFAF is working to ensure public records are accessible to all citizens.
- Language on Georgia ballots has become increasingly misleading, hampering voters' ability to make informed choices and reducing government transparency. GFAF is tracking this disturbing trend and investigating what can be done to curb it.

Caplan Cobb congratulates
The Motion Picture Association of America
for its zealous support of
the First Amendment.

CAPLAN | COBB



The Georgia First Amendment Foundation, founded in 1994, is a nonprofit 501(c) (3) that works to educate foundation members, journalists, lawyers, public officials and the public on Georgia's Open Records and Open Meetings laws. Contributions to GFAF are tax deductible.

**7742 Spalding Drive, Suite 209
Norcross, GA 30092**

**info@gfaf.org
gfaf.org
@GA1stAmendFound**

Georgia First Amendment Foundation: Board of Directors

Kathy Brister

KB Media, Inc.

Tom Budlong

Georgia Library Association

Jon Burton, Esq.

LexisNexis

Peter C. Canfield, Esq.

JonesDay

Carolyn Carlson

Kennesaw State University

Tom Clyde, Esq.

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

Cynthia Counts, Esq.

Duane Morris LLP

Lisa Cupid

Cobb County Board of Commissioners

Charles Davis

Grady College of Journalism
& Mass Communications, University of Georgia

F.T. Davis, Esq.

Dentons

Carolyn Y. Forrest

Fox Television Stations

Ken Foskett

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Richard T. Griffiths

CNN

David Hudson, Esq.

Hull Barrett Attorneys

Tywanda Lord, Esq.

Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

John McCosh

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Shawn McIntosh

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Maryann Mrowca

Independent media consultant

Eric NeSmith

Community Newspapers, Inc.

DuBose Porter

The Courier-Herald

Hyde Post

Hyde Post Communications, Inc.

Dale Russell

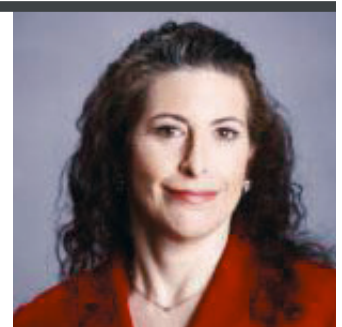
WAGA TV Channel 5

Gerry Weber, Esq.

Law Offices of Gerry Weber LLC
Southern Center for Human Rights

Jim Zachary

The Valdosta Daily Times
Transparency Project of Georgia

**Hollie Manheimer**

Executive Director

Affiliations appear for purposes of identification only.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE



MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

ON RECEIVING
**THE CHARLES L. WELTNER
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AWARD**

*At Cox Media Group, we take pride in
our 118-year history of super-serving readers with
news and information that
educates, informs, entertains and inspires.*



COXMEDIAGROUP.COM

The background of the lower section is a 3D rendering of numerous blue cubes scattered across a flat surface. One cube in the center is brightly lit from within, glowing with a yellow light that casts a soft glow on the surrounding area.

Standing Out.

Distinction is always confined to the few. Jones Day congratulates the Motion Picture Association of America on its receipt of the 2016 Charles L. Weltner Freedom of Information Award. MPAA's leadership role in building a coalition that helped persuade state lawmakers to strengthen free-speech laws truly stands out.



One Firm WorldwideSM

2500 Lawyers. 44 Locations. 5 Continents. www.jonesday.com





Media

proudly supports the work of the
**Georgia First
Amendment Foundation**

Content Services / kbmediaemail@gmail.com / 404-394-6103

Film & Media Studies at Emory University

Courses in screenwriting,
film production, history, criticism

Concentration in Film and Media
Management (with the Goizueta
Business School)



Emory Cinematheque—free 35mm and DCP screenings
7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 208 White Hall

Fall 2016: Talking Pictures: Comics,
Graphic Novels and the Movies

Support students and programming—join **Friends of Film**
404 727 6400 • filmstudies.emory.edu/home/donate/index.html

Matthew H. Bernstein, Department Chair
404 727 3466 • mbernst@emory.edu • filmstudies.emory.edu



EMORY
COLLEGE
OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES

Department of Film
and Media Studies

**MAKING
IT RIGHT**
IS WHY YOU BECAME A LAWYER

There is a whole faction of the legal community who don't like the practice of law. None of them are at the Barnes Law Group. We are a collection of attorneys who are dedicated to helping the common man no matter what he is up against. And we're ready to work with you to make sure that happens. When you're ready to experience the power of some of the most dedicated group of litigators in the south, give us a call. We're Barnes Law Group, and we make it right.

CONSUMER FRAUD | PERSONAL INJURY | COMPLEX BUSINESS LITIGATION | PRODUCTS LIABILITY | MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Barnes
LAW GROUP
Making It Right

31 ATLANTA STREET | MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30066 | 770 / 227-6379 | BARNESLAWGROUP.COM

©2015 Barnes Law Group, LLC 02/2015

Dentons congratulates the
Georgia First Amendment Foundation
on its work supporting open
government in Georgia.

Dentons. The Global Elite law firm*
challenging the status quo.

DENTONS

Know the way

dentons.com

© 2015 Dentons. Dentons is a global legal
practice providing client services worldwide
through its member firms and affiliates.
Please see dentons.com for Legal Notices.

*Acritas Global Elite Law Firm Brand
Index 2013 and 2014.

Previous Weltner Freedom of Information Award Winners



Hunstein

2015 Sam Olen, Georgia Attorney General

2014 Georgia Judicial Qualifications Commission

2013 Carol Hunstein, Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court

2012 John Lewis, Representative, United States Congress

2011 Vernon Keenan, Director Georgia Bureau of Investigation

2010 Mike Luckovich, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

2009 Leah Ward Sears, former Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court

2008 Michael Bowers, former Attorney General of Georgia, and Jim Houston, retired from the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer

2007 Marvin H. Shoob, Judge, United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

2006 Johnny Isakson, Senator, United States Congress

2005 Norman Fletcher, former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Georgia

2004 Roy Barnes, former Governor of Georgia

2003 Thurbert Baker, former Attorney General of Georgia

2002 Eason Jordan, former CNN Chief news executive and president of newsgathering



Lewis



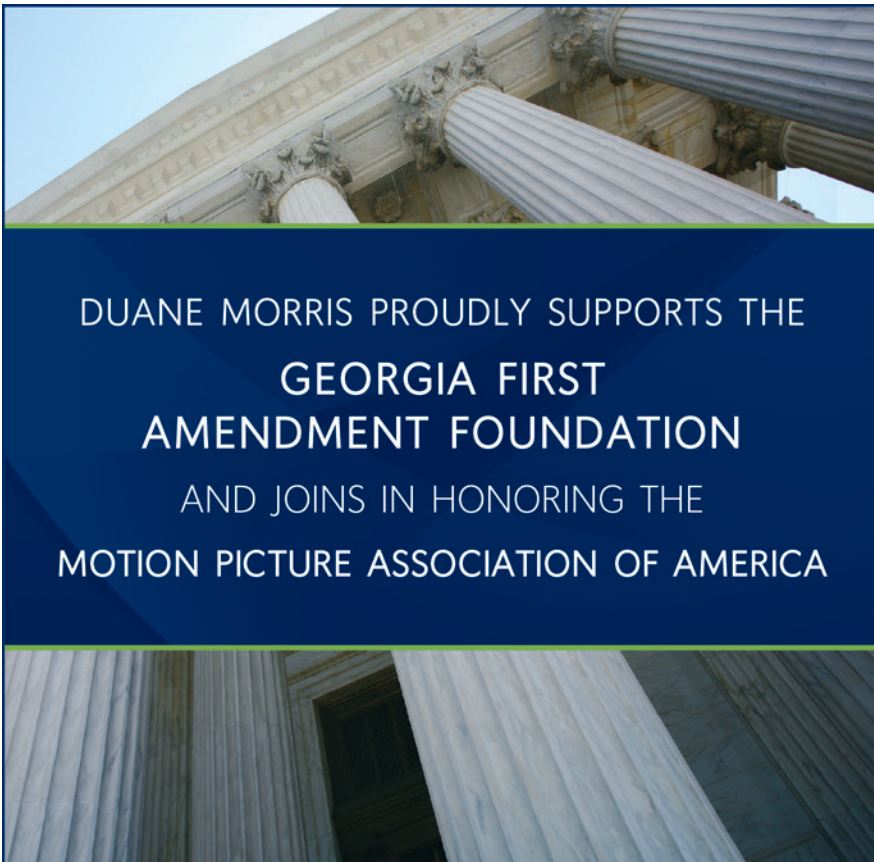
Luckovich



LexisNexis®

is proud to support the Georgia First Amendment Foundation and congratulates The Motion Picture Association of America

www.lexisnexis.com



DUANE MORRIS PROUDLY SUPPORTS THE
**GEORGIA FIRST
 AMENDMENT FOUNDATION**
 AND JOINS IN HONORING THE
 MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

DuaneMorris®

Duane Morris LLP, a law firm with more than 750 attorneys in offices across the United States and internationally, is asked by a broad array of clients to provide innovative solutions to today's legal and business challenges.

For more information, please contact:

CYNTHIA COUNTS, Partner

Duane Morris LLP
 1075 Peachtree Street NE | Suite 2000
 Atlanta, GA 30309-3929

P: 404.253.6910
clcounts@duanemorris.com

www.duanemorris.com

Duane Morris LLP – A Delaware limited liability partnership



Home of the Free

For more than 200 years, the First Amendment has served as a cornerstone of the U.S. Constitution – ensuring all Americans the right to live in a tolerant and open society.

Today, Kilpatrick Townsend is proud to join the Georgia First Amendment Foundation in saluting **The Motion Picture Association of America**, this year's Charles L. Weltner Freedom of Information Award winner, and we applaud the Foundation's efforts to guarantee open government and freedom of information to all our citizens.

ATLANTA
AUGUSTA
CHARLOTTE
DENVER
LOS ANGELES
NEW YORK
RALEIGH
SAN DIEGO
SAN FRANCISCO
SEATTLE
SHANGHAI
SILICON VALLEY
STOCKHOLM
TOKYO
WALNUT CREEK
WASHINGTON D.C.
WINSTON-SALEM

www.kilpatricktownsend.com

© 2015 Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP