



A Voice for Everyone

A Virtual Event

October 14, 2020

**The
Media[®]
Institute**

We applaud your outstanding leadership.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees.

2020 American Horizon Award

David L. Cohen

SEVP, *Comcast NBCUniversal*

2020 Freedom of Speech Award

Mignon Clyburn

Honored to support The Media Institute's 2020
"Free Speech America" Gala celebrating "A Voice for Everyone"





PROGRAM

2020

★★★ Welcoming Remarks

Richard T. Kaplar
President
The Media Institute

Richard E. Wiley
Chairman Emeritus
Wiley Rein LLP

★★★ Keynote Remarks

FEATURED SPEAKER

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

★★★ American Horizon Award

PRESENTER

Cesar Conde
Chairman
NBCUniversal News Group

HONOREE

David L. Cohen
Senior Executive Vice President
Comcast Corporation

★★★ Freedom of Speech Award

PRESENTER

The Honorable G. K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
United State Congress

HONOREE

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
Former Commissioner and Acting Chair
Federal Communications Commission



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PROUDLY CONGRATULATES
THE MEDIA INSTITUTE
AND SALUTES THE
HONOREES OF THE 2020
FREE SPEECH AMERICA GALA



PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies



Richard E. Wiley

Richard E. Wiley, long-time Chairman of The Media Institute Board of Trustees, co-founded Wiley Rein LLP, a law firm in Washington, D.C., with one of the nation's largest communications practices, in 1983. Mr. Wiley served as a Chairman, Commissioner, and General Counsel of the Federal Communications Commission from 1970 to 1977, and was recognized as a leading force in the agency's

initial efforts to foster greater competition and reduced regulation in the media industry.

Since 1985, Mr. Wiley has been regularly recognized as one of the nation's "100 Most Influential" lawyers by *The National Law Journal*. He also has been profiled in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Globe and Mail*, and *American Lawyer*.

Mr. Wiley was awarded an Emmy by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for leading the development of the nation's digital television transmission standard. He has also received awards from numerous industry-related groups including the National Association of Broadcasters, North American Broadcasters Association, Library of American Broadcasting, Broadcasters Foundation of America, Consumer Electronics Association, and *Broadcasting & Cable* magazine.

Mr. Wiley graduated with distinction from Northwestern University (B.S. and J.D.) and holds a Master's degree in Law (LL.M.) from Georgetown University. He also holds Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from Catholic and John Marshall law schools.

Verizon is proud to support The Media Institute's 2020 Free Speech America Gala.

We thank the
featured speaker,
FCC Commissioner
Brendan Carr, and
congratulate this
year's honorees:

**Mignon
Clyburn,**
Freedom
of Speech
Award

**David
Cohen,**
American
Horizon
Award

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KEYNOTE REMARKS

Featured Speaker



Commissioner Brendan Carr

Brendan Carr has served as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) since 2017. In 2019, he was nominated by the president and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve a new five-year term.

Commissioner Carr is leading the FCC's efforts to modernize the infrastructure rules governing the build-out of 5G and other next-gen networks, helping bring more broadband to more Americans. He is also advancing a jobs initiative to expand America's skilled workforce of tower climbers and construction crews needed to build next-gen networks. This initiative promotes community colleges, technical schools, and apprenticeships as a pipeline for good-paying 5G jobs.

In addition, Commissioner Carr is leading an FCC telehealth initiative designed to drive down healthcare costs while improving outcomes for veterans, low-income, and rural Americans.

Commissioner Carr joined the FCC as a staffer in 2012 and later served as General Counsel. Prior to joining the agency, Commissioner Carr was an attorney at Wiley Rein LLP in the firm's appellate, litigation, and telecom practices.

A graduate of Georgetown University, Commissioner Carr clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for Judge Dennis W. Shedd. He graduated *magna cum laude* from The Catholic University of America Law School where he served as an editor of the *Catholic University Law Review*.

Commissioner Carr grew up in Virginia and now lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and three children.



As the most trusted source of news, broadcasters are committed to reporting the facts, giving their listeners and viewers the information they need to stay safe and be informed citizens.

NAB applauds The Media Institute's mission to protect free speech and its support of broadcasters who are dedicated to keeping their communities informed about the issues and events that impact them.

Congratulations to the Free Speech America Gala honorees.





AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

Presenter



Cesar Conde

Cesar Conde was named Chairman of the NBCUniversal News Group in May 2020. In this role, Mr. Conde has oversight of NBC News, MSNBC, and CNBC.

Previously, Mr. Conde was Chairman of NBCUniversal International Group and NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises. As Chairman of NBCU Telemundo Enterprises, Mr. Conde was instrumental in building NBCU Telemundo Enterprises into a world-class media company that produces and distributes high-quality Spanish-language content across a range of broadcast, cable, and digital properties.

Mr. Conde joined NBCUniversal in 2013 as Executive Vice President to oversee NBCU International and NBCU Digital Enterprises. Prior to NBCUniversal, Mr. Conde was President of Univision Networks and served in a variety of senior executive capacities at the company.

Social and community initiatives are core to Mr. Conde's business approach. At NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises, he spearheaded the launch of "El Poder En Ti," the company's robust community empowerment initiative, and launched the Telemundo Academy, an educational center to train the next generation of industry leaders.

Mr. Conde holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Harvard University and an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Covington is proud to support the

The Media Institute's “Free Speech America” Gala

We extend our congratulations to honorees:

David Cohen
American Horizon Award

Mignon Clyburn
Freedom of Speech Award

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AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

Honoree



David L. Cohen

David L. Cohen is a Senior Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation and serves as senior counselor to the CEO. He was the company's first Chief Diversity Officer. Mr. Cohen spearheaded Comcast's Internet Essentials program, which has connected more than 8 million low-income Americans to the Internet at home since 2011.

Before coming to Comcast in 2002, Mr. Cohen served as a partner and Chairman of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, one of the 100 largest law firms in the country. From 1992 to 1997, Mr. Cohen served as Chief of Staff to Mayor Edward G. Rendell of Philadelphia.

Mr. Cohen serves as Chairman of the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves on the Trustee Board of Penn Medicine. In addition, Mr. Cohen serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Chamber's CEO Council for Growth. He is Chair of the Philadelphia Theatre Company, and serves on the boards of many other community and national organizations.

Mr. Cohen has received awards from numerous organizations for his civic and charitable activities, including the National Cable Television Association, Anti-Defamation League, American Red Cross, MS Society, Drexel University, and Minority Media Telecommunications Council. He has consistently been named to *Black Enterprise* magazine's list of top corporate diversity executives.

A native of New York, Mr. Cohen graduated from Swarthmore College with a Bachelor of Arts degree and received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School *summa cum laude*. Mr. Cohen lives in Philadelphia with his wife.



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efforts to advance excellence in journalism, discourse, and
freedom of speech toward building a more civil society.



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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Presenter



Congressman G. K. Butterfield

Congressman G. K. Butterfield is a life-long resident of eastern North Carolina and was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2004.

Rep. Butterfield serves in the Democratic leadership as Chief Deputy Whip and is a past Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (114th Congress). He sits on the Energy & Commerce Committee where he serves as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Health and as a member of the Communications & Technology and Energy subcommittees. Rep. Butterfield also sits on the House Administration Committee and its Subcommittee on Elections.

Rep. Butterfield is a champion of affordable health care, education, renewable energies, rural communities, veterans, and low-income and middle-class Americans.

Rep. Butterfield worked tirelessly in the civil rights movement as a young adult. He graduated from college and law school at North Carolina Central University in Durham and then founded a law practice in Wilson, N.C.

Rep. Butterfield served in the state judiciary for 15 years as a Resident Superior Court judge and for two years on the North Carolina Supreme Court by appointment of the governor. A U.S. Army veteran, he is a proud father and grandfather.

*Working for a Strong First Amendment
and Sound Communications Policy*



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AND DEDICATION TO PROTECTING FREE SPEECH.

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Honoree



Mignon L. Clyburn

Mignon L. Clyburn became the first woman head of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in May 2013 when she was appointed Acting Chair by President Barack Obama during her second term.

Commissioner Clyburn began her FCC career in 2009 after spending 11 years as a member of the Public Service Commission (PSC) of South Carolina, including two years as chair. Prior to her service on the PSC, Commissioner Clyburn was the publisher and general manager of *The Coastal Times*, a weekly newspaper based in Charleston, S.C., which focused primarily on issues affecting the African American community. She co-owned and operated the family-founded newspaper for 14 years.

A long-time champion of consumers, Commissioner Clyburn was a strong advocate for enhanced accessibility in communications for disabled citizens and worked closely with groups representing the hearing impaired. She pushed for affordable universal telephone and high-speed Internet access, greater broadband deployment and adoption throughout the nation, and transparency in regulation.

Commissioner Clyburn was committed to narrowing persistent digital, communication, and opportunity divides that challenge rural, Native, African American, Latino, and low-wealth communities. Among her many efforts, she pushed for the modernization of the agency's Lifeline Program, which helps defray the cost of voice and broadband services for low-income consumers, and championed diversity in media ownership.

Commissioner Clyburn was a foundation fellow before establishing MLC Strategies, an independent consulting firm, in January 2019. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in Banking, Finance, and Economics.



Congratulations to two of the greatest leaders Washington has ever known

Through tough decisions, collaboration, and skillful strategy, The Media Institute honorees have increased access to connectivity for American audiences and changed lives.



FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD RECIPIENT

**Chairwoman
Mignon Clyburn**
**Federal Communications
Commission**



AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD RECIPIENT

David L. Cohen
Senior Executive Vice President
Comcast Corporation

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at the Free Speech America Gala

CONGRATULATIONS TO

DAVID L. COHEN

AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

FORMER FCC COMMISSIONER AND
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

MIGNON CLYBURN

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

WBK salutes the work of the Media Institute in promoting and protecting the First Amendment and freedom of speech.

Thank you to tonight's featured speaker,
FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr,
for your leadership in ensuring next-generation connectivity across all of America.

LERMAN SENTER

SALUTES THE MEDIA INSTITUTE
AND
CONGRATULATES

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MIGNON CLYBURN

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and its continued dedication to advancing excellence
in journalism and free speech.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees:

- ▶ American Horizon Award Recipient
David L. Cohen
- ▶ Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Mignon Clyburn

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DAVID L. COHEN
American Horizon Award

MIGNON CLYBURN
Freedom of Speech Award





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MIGNON CLYBURN
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TO PROMOTE INCLUSION AND
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ViacomCBS salutes the important work
of **The Media Institute** and congratulates
its **2020 “Free Speech America”**
Gala honorees.

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TONIGHT'S HONOREES

DAVID L. COHEN
SENIOR EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
COMCAST CORPORATION
AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

AND

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FORMER FCC COMMISSIONER
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD



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WELCOME FROM THE MEDIA INSTITUTE

Welcome to our “Free Speech America” Gala — in VIRTUAL format!

The pandemic has altered all of our lives in myriad ways, including the ways we gather and celebrate. Tonight’s Gala — originally planned for The Four Seasons Hotel — is a prime example.

It’s just one way The Media Institute has adapted to these unprecedented times. In June, we converted our Communications Forum Luncheon Series to a virtual format, and continued to bring our sponsors and guests top-flight speakers including FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and political analyst Charlie Cook.

Our online presence has been stronger than ever. Our Media and Communications Policy blog site has offered a media focus on current events such as civil unrest, early voting, and the “cancel culture” — and the critical importance of the First Amendment throughout it all. In August we launched the Digital Media Center, which will be guided by TMI Distinguished Fellow Stuart Brotman.

Tonight’s Gala theme — “A Voice for Everyone” — reflects the importance of free speech and access to communication technologies for all Americans. And it recognizes the efforts of our distinguished awardees, David Cohen and Mignon Clyburn, to promote diversity and inclusion for all through better access to broadband and telecom services.

We thank them, their presenters Cesar Conde and Rep. G. K. Butterfield, our featured speaker Commissioner Brendan Carr, and master of ceremonies Dick Wiley for making this first-ever “virtual” Gala such a memorable event. And we thank you, our generous supporters, for making our work possible. Your support will be more crucial to us than ever in the trying times still ahead.

Richard T. Kaplar
President

Susanna Coto
Director of Public Events



Digital Broadcasting Pioneers
Advanced Television Systems Committee
and
Pearl TV

Salute
Tonight's Keynote Speaker

Brendan Carr
FCC Commissioner

— and —

Congratulate

DAVID L. COHEN
American Horizon Award

MIGNON CLYBURN
Freedom of Speech Award





FREE SPEECH WEEK

October 19 – 25, 2020

Free Speech Week is America’s annual celebration of our constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The event celebrates these precious freedoms with no partisan, political, or ideological agenda.

This year’s “Free Speech America” Gala gets the festivities underway early. Next week, media organizations, schools and universities, civic groups, and various organizations around the country will celebrate free speech through their own activities that will take many forms. And we anticipate that Free Speech Week again will be a popular topic on social media.

The Media Institute created Free Speech Week in 2005 and continues to publicize free speech themes and activities through the FSW website, freespeechweek.org. Next year’s Free Speech Week will be celebrated Oct. 18 – 24, 2021.

Free Speech: The Language of America



freespeechweek.org



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The Media Institute

Congratulations to the 2020 honorees

David L. Cohen, *Senior Executive Vice President of
Comcast Corporation*

Mignon Clyburn, *Former FCC Commissioner*

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DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER

The Digital Media Center is a program of The Media Institute that brings clarity to key issues at the heart of today's digital revolution. The Digital Media Center examines these issues in ways that illuminate a path forward for innovators and policymakers alike — offering a post-pandemic perspective on key digital issues.

The Digital Media Center will allow the Institute to shine a light on issues facing digital media and the wider digital world while continuing to address core issues affecting all media and telecom companies.

The Digital Media Center will address an evolving menu of issues at the heart of discussion among media executives, tech company leaders, IT professionals, data users, academicians, and government policymakers. “Core issues” will include privacy, cybersecurity, online advertising, content moderation, and digital trust.

Coordinating the DMC's program activities is Media Institute Distinguished Fellow Stuart N. Brotman. A recent Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Professor Brotman is the author of *Privacy's Perfect Storm: Digital Policy for Post-Pandemic Times*.

The Digital Media Center will play a pivotal role as the country comes to grips with the realities of a new, post-pandemic digital world.



Congratulations to the 2020 winners—

Mignon Clyburn

Freedom of Speech Award

David L. Cohen

American Horizon Award



CTIA is proud to sponsor The Media Institute's
2020 Free Speech America Gala.

www.CTIA.org



COMMUNICATIONS FORUM LUNCHEON SERIES

The Communications Forum Luncheon Series is one of The Media Institute's most popular programs. Luncheons take place eight times per year and feature speakers from the top ranks of government and industry. During this year's pandemic, the luncheons moved from in-person events in downtown D.C. to a virtual format. With more than 30 corporate and organizational sponsors, the luncheons represent a cross-section of Washington's media and telecom policy elite who enjoy lively discussion and the chance to support the Institute. Five programs have taken place this year prior to the Gala:

Makan Delrahim, Assistant Attorney General
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Davis Hebert, Director and Senior High Yield Analyst
Wells Fargo Securities

Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission

Stuart N. Brotman, Distinguished Fellow
The Media Institute

Charlie Cook, Editor and Publisher
The Cook Political Report

Following our October and November events, the 2020 season will close in December with a special presentation by **FCC Chairman Ajit Pai**.

For information about becoming a 2021 luncheon series sponsor, please contact Susanna Coto at The Media Institute.

wiley

Wiley is a proud supporter of **The Media Institute** and its efforts to promote freedom of speech among all sectors of the media.

We congratulate this year's honorees – Comcast Senior Executive Vice President **David L. Cohen**, recipient of the American Horizon Award, and former FCC Commissioner and Acting Chairwoman **Mignon Clyburn**, recipient of the Freedom of Speech Award.

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Congratulates Mignon Clyburn &
David L. Cohen as the Award Winners of the
“Free Speech America” Gala**



Everyday across America, we focus on informing, protecting & entertaining our viewers. In our newscasts & online, we report on what is happening in our local communities & feature stories about people making a difference.

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Congratulations to
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn
on receiving the
Freedom of Speech Award

and to

David Cohen
on receiving the
American Horizon Award.

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THINK FREELY SPEAK FREELY

T-Mobile® is proud to support The Media Institute and its continued efforts to protect the First Amendment. We'd also like to congratulate Mignon Clyburn and David L. Cohen for their contributions to public media.

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