

The logo is a blue speech bubble with a red and white striped American flag at the top. Inside the bubble, the text "Free Speech America Gala" is written in white. "Free Speech" is in a sans-serif font, "America" is in a script font, and "Gala" is in a sans-serif font.

Free
Speech
America
Gala

A circular border of small yellow stars surrounds the main title text.

FREE SPEECH AMERICA GALA

The
Media
Institute



A Virtual Event

October 20, 2021

FREE SPEECH

AMERICA

GALA

The
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Institute

AT&T salutes those who lead the way — in leadership and in life.



We congratulate our chairman, Bill Kennard, on receiving the American Horizon Award for his leadership in promoting the vitality and independence of American media and communications.

Connections are critical to success. By helping to bring the internet to schools and libraries nationwide, expanding access to technology for people with disabilities, advocating for increased internet access in rural and tribal areas, increasing affordability for low-income households, and encouraging policies that led to the age of wireless technology, Bill has had an important impact on keeping our country connected and closing the digital divide.

We appreciate Bill's leadership as the Chairman of AT&T's Board of Directors.

PROGRAM

2021

Welcoming Remarks

Richard T. Kaplar
President
The Media Institute

Richard E. Wiley
Chairman of the Board
The Media Institute

American Horizon Award

PRESENTER
Randall Stephenson
Former Chairman and CEO
AT&T Inc.

HONOREE
William E. Kennard
Chairman of the Board
AT&T Inc.

Freedom of Speech Award

PRESENTER
Gayle King
Co-Host, “CBS Mornings”
CBS News

HONOREE
Norah O’Donnell
Anchor and Managing Editor
“CBS Evening News”

Lifetime Achievement Award And Keynote Remarks

HONOREE AND FEATURED SPEAKER
Senator Gordon H. Smith
President and CEO
National Association of Broadcasters



CONGRATULATIONS

A portrait of Norah O'Donnell, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair and blue eyes, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer. The background is a blurred image of a building with columns, possibly the US Capitol, with blue and orange lighting.

NORAH O'DONNELL

**CBS EVENING NEWS ANCHOR
AND MANAGING EDITOR**

**RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD**

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PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies

≡ Richard E. Wiley



Richard E. Wiley is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Media Institute. He co-founded Wiley Rein LLP, a Washington, D.C., law firm 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 less 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.



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FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS
AND VISIONARY LEADERSHIP
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FREE SPEECH

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AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

Presenter

≡ Randall L. Stephenson

Randall L. Stephenson is former chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T Inc. During his 13-year tenure as Chairman and CEO, AT&T became one of the world's largest companies in the technology, media, and telecom space with 2019 revenues of more than \$180 billion.



Between 2015 and 2019, AT&T invested more than \$135 billion in its network, including capital investments and acquisitions of spectrum and operations — investing more in the United States than any other public company.

Mr. Stephenson led AT&T's \$550-million signature philanthropic initiative, "AT&T Aspire," which drives innovation in education to promote student success. He also led AT&T's breakthrough "It Can Wait" campaign — an awareness program to reduce distracted driving. The program has amassed more than 40 million pledges of support.

Under his guidance, AT&T strengthened its leadership in diversity and inclusion, and was named No. 1 on DiversityInc's 2019 ranking of U.S. companies' success in diversity.

Mr. Stephenson began his career with Southwestern Bell Telephone in 1982 in Oklahoma. He served as the company's senior executive vice president and chief financial officer from 2001 to 2004, and from 2004 to 2007 he was chief operating officer. He was appointed to AT&T's Board of Directors in 2005.





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AND SALUTES THE
HONOREES OF THE 2021
FREE SPEECH AMERICA GALA

AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

Honoree

≡ William E. Kennard

William E. Kennard is Chairman of the Board of Directors of AT&T Inc., a post he assumed in January 2021 upon the retirement of Randall Stephenson.



From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Kennard served as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, appointed by President Bill Clinton. Mr. Kennard had served as the FCC's General Counsel. During his tenure at the FCC, he shaped policies that created an explosion of new wireless phones, Internet service, and investment in broadband technologies. He also implemented bold new policies to bridge the digital divide.

Mr. Kennard served as the U.S. Ambassador to the European Union from December 2009 to August 2013, appointed by President Barack Obama. As Ambassador, he worked actively to promote transatlantic trade and investment and to eliminate regulatory barriers to commerce.

Before serving as an ambassador, Mr. Kennard was a Managing Director at The Carlyle Group, a global asset management firm, where he led private equity investments in the telecommunications and media sectors.

Upon returning from Brussels in 2013, Mr. Kennard co-founded and serves as Chairman of Velocitas Partners LLC, an asset management firm. He serves on several corporate boards, including Ford Motor Company and MetLife, Inc., and has also served on several nonprofit boards.

He has received many honors and awards including honorary degrees from Howard University, Gallaudet University, and Long Island University.

Mr. Kennard graduated from Stanford University and received his law degree from Yale Law School. Mr. Kennard and his wife, Deborah, have one son and divide their time between Washington, D.C., and Charleston, S.C.



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American Horizon Award

NORAH O'DONNELL
Freedom of Speech Award

GORDON SMITH
Lifetime Achievement Award



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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Presenter

Gayle King

Gayle King is co-host of “CBS Mornings.” An accomplished television journalist, Ms. King interviews top newsmakers and delivers original reporting to “CBS Mornings” and all CBS News broadcasts and platforms. She is also editor-at-large of Oprah Daily and hosts a live, weekly radio show titled “Gayle King in the House” on SiriusXM.



Since joining CBS News in 2011, Ms. King has conducted revealing and news-making interviews with world leaders, political figures, and celebrities including President Barack Obama.

Ms. King has anchored multiple prime-time specials including “The Gayle King Grammy Special” and “John Lewis: Celebrating a Hero.” Ms. King previously hosted “The Gayle King Show” on OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network.

Ms. King worked for 18 years as a news anchor for CBS affiliate WFSB-TV in Hartford, Conn. Previously she worked at several other TV stations including WTOP-TV in Washington, D.C.

Ms. King has received numerous awards, including three Emmys. In 2018 she was inducted into the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame, and in 2019 she was selected for the TIME 100, *Time* magazine’s annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

The mother of a daughter, Kirby, and a son, Will, Ms. King resides in New York City.



Verizon is proud to support The Media Institute's 2021 Free Speech America Gala.

We congratulate this year's honorees:

William E. Kennard,
American
Horizon
Award

Norah O'Donnell,
Freedom
of Speech
Award

Senator Gordon Smith,
Lifetime
Achievement
Award

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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Honoree

≡ Norah O'Donnell



Norah O'Donnell is the anchor and managing editor of the “CBS Evening News,” anchor of CBS News election specials, and a “60 Minutes” contributing correspondent. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist with more than two decades of experience covering the biggest stories in the world and conducting impactful, newsmaking interviews.

Ms. O'Donnell has covered six presidential elections and traveled the globe to interview some of the world's most important leaders, including seven of the last eight U.S. presidents.

Ms. O'Donnell led CBS News's political coverage throughout the 2020 presidential election, the transition of presidential power, the new administration, and beyond. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded dogged reporting and also created and led a series of original reports called “Women and the Pandemic.”

Previously, Ms. O'Donnell was co-host of “CBS This Morning” and a contributor to “60 Minutes.” Before that, she served as CBS News's chief White House correspondent.

Prior to joining CBS News, Ms. O'Donnell worked for more than a decade at NBC News. At NBC, she reported from the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. She began her career as a print reporter for *Roll Call*, a Capitol Hill newspaper.

Ms. O'Donnell has received numerous prestigious awards (often multiple times) including Emmy Awards, Sigma Delta Chi Awards, Edward R. Murrow Awards, Gracie Awards, Headliner Awards, and the Alfred I. DuPont Award.

Ms. O'Donnell sits on the board of directors of the International Women's Media Foundation. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees from Georgetown University. She is married to Geoff Tracy, a restaurateur in Washington, D.C. They have three children.



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PRESERVE AND PROTECT
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TONIGHT'S HONOREES

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
AT&T INC.
AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

NORAH O'DONNELL
ANCHOR & MANAGING EDITOR
'CBS EVENING NEWS'
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

AND

SENATOR GORDON H. SMITH
PRESIDENT & CEO
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND KEYNOTE REMARKS

Honoree and Featured Speaker

≡ Senator Gordon H. Smith

Gordon H. Smith joined the National Association of Broadcasters as President and CEO in November 2009. Prior to joining NAB, he served as a two-term U.S. senator from Oregon and later as senior advisor in the Washington offices of Covington & Burling LLP.



Senator Smith's committee assignments in the U.S. Senate included the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, the panel that oversees all broadcast-related legislation. Senator Smith's role on the Commerce Committee and as chairman of a Senate High Tech Task Force helped foster his interest in new media and new technology issues. He also served on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Foreign Relations Committee.

Born in Pendleton, Oregon, Senator Smith attended Brigham Young University and received his law degree from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles. He practiced law in New Mexico and Arizona before returning to Oregon to direct the family-owned Smith Frozen Foods business in Weston. Before his election to the U.S. Senate in 1996, he was elected to the Oregon State Senate, rising to the position of President of that body after only three years.

Senator Smith and his wife, Sharon, live in Washington, D.C., and are the parents of three children and five grandchildren.





Congratulations to the 2021 winners—

William E. Kennard

American Horizon Award

Norah O'Donnell

Freedom of Speech Award

Gordon Smith

Lifetime Achievement Award



CTIA is proud to sponsor
The Media Institute's 2021 Free Speech America Gala.

www.CTIA.org



Wiley Rein LLP salutes The Media Institute for its dedication to freedom of speech, a competitive media industry, and excellence in journalism.



We applaud this year's honorees:

William E. Kennard
American Horizon Award Recipient

Norah O'Donnell
Freedom of Speech Award Recipient

Gordon Smith
Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
and Featured Speaker

wiley.law



Hogan Lovells congratulates award recipients Bill Kennard, Norah O'Donnell and Gordon Smith.



Bill Kennard



Norah O'Donnell



Gordon Smith

From Capitol Hill to the home, our Communications, Internet and Media (CIM) practice advises at the cutting-edge of legal issues facing companies of all sizes. Our clients trust us to handle their most critical, strategic and highest-profile projects – first of their kind, or “bet the company” projects. Our CIM practice is known to craft pragmatic, business-friendly solutions to seemingly intractable and cutting-edge problems.

TEGNA proudly supports

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Congratulations

American Horizon Award Recipient

WILLIAM E. KENNARD

Chairman of the Board, AT&T Inc. and Former FCC Chairman



Freedom of Speech Award Recipient

NORAH O'DONNELL

Anchor and Managing Editor, *CBS Evening News*



Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

SENATOR GORDON SMITH

President and CEO, National Association of Broadcasters



TEGNA

We applaud tonight's honorees
for their outstanding contributions
to the media industry.

American Horizon Award

William E. Kennard

Chairman of the Board,
AT&T Inc.

Freedom of Speech Award

Norah O'Donnell

Anchor and Managing Editor,
CBS Evening News

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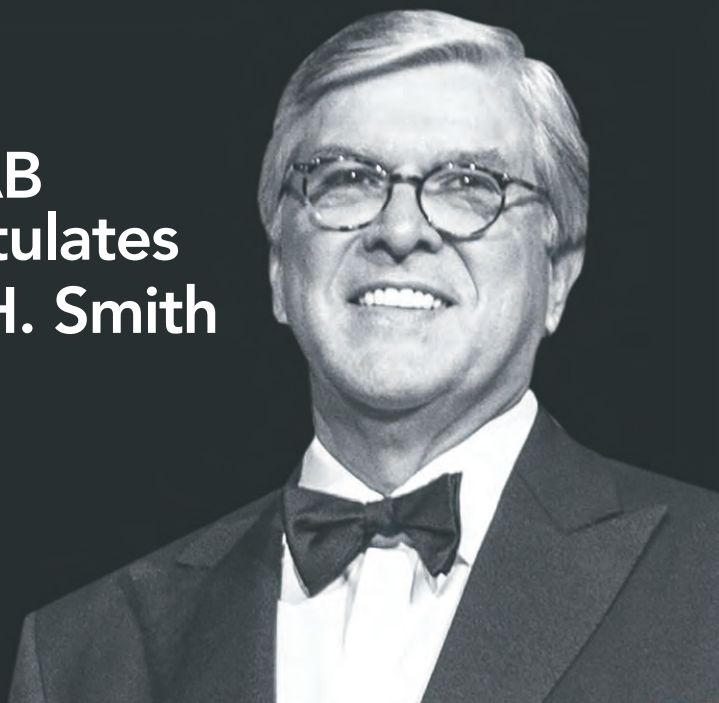
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NAB Congratulates Gordon H. Smith



The National Association of Broadcasters congratulates President and CEO Gordon H. Smith on receiving The Media Institute's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award. We thank him for his many years of advocating for America's local radio and television stations and his inspirational leadership in the broadcasting industry.



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Congratulations to
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on receiving the
American Horizon Award

Norah O'Donnell
on receiving the
Freedom of Speech Award

Gordon Smith
on receiving the
Lifetime Achievement Award

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Free Speech Week.**

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WELCOME FROM THE MEDIA INSTITUTE

We welcome you to our “Free Speech America” Gala! We’re celebrating in virtual format again this year because of the ongoing pandemic —but our enthusiasm is undimmed!

This has been another very challenging year. But we have persevered, overcome obstacles, and pursued new opportunities.

Our Digital Media Center completed its first year of operation under the direction of the Institute’s Distinguished Fellow Stuart Brotman. We published our first issue brief and first white paper, and have partnered with a leading digital research company. There’s much more to come.

We just announced a new collaboration with historic Federal Hall in New York City, site of the famous John Peter Zenger First Amendment trial. We hope to work with Federal Hall on programs here and in New York that will bring the First Amendment to life for a new generation.

Earlier this year we welcomed former FCC commissioner Michael O’Rielly as a Media Institute Senior Fellow. Meanwhile, our online presence has remained strong through the Communications Forum Luncheon Series, our Media and Communications Policy blog site, and Free Speech Week, now in progress.

As we celebrate freedom of speech and American media tonight, we proudly recognize our distinguished awardees, William Kennard and Norah O’Donnell, and their equally distinguished presenters, Randall Stephenson and Gayle King. We’re extremely honored to present our first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award to Senator Gordon Smith of the NAB. And we thank our inimitable master of ceremonies, Dick Wiley.

We are most grateful to you, our sponsors, for your support. The Media Institute would not be here without you.

Richard T. Kaplar
President

Susanna Coto
Director of Public Events



Charter is Proud to Support The Media Institute.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees:

- ▶ American Horizon Award Recipient
William E. Kennard
- ▶ Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Norah O'Donnell
- ▶ Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
Senator Gordon H. Smith

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FREE SPEECH WEEK

October 18 – 24, 2021

Free Speech Week is the nationwide annual event celebrating America's constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The event is a pure celebration of these precious freedoms with no political, partisan, or ideological agenda.

Our “Free Speech America” Gala is The Media Institute’s signature event marking Free Speech Week. Meanwhile, media organizations, schools and universities, civic groups, and various organizations around the country are celebrating free speech in their own ways this week. Once again, social media platforms are making it possible for all Americans with an interest in free speech to make their voices heard.

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. 17 – 23, 2022.

Free Speech: The Language of America



October 18 – 24, 2021



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NORAH O'DONNELL

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

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DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER

The Digital Media Center (DMC) 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 addresses 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” include privacy, cybersecurity, online advertising, content moderation, and digital trust.

Coordinating the DMC's program activities is Media Institute Distinguished Fellow Stuart N. Brotman. He is the author of *Privacy's Perfect Storm: Digital Policy for Post-Pandemic Times*. Media Institute Senior Fellow Michael O'Rielly will also be involved in the work of the Center.

In its first year of operation, the Digital Media Center published an Issue Brief by Richard T. Kaplar titled “The Role of Targeted Advertising in Supporting First Amendment Principles” and a White Paper by Stuart Brotman titled “Calibrating Digital Media Trends for the Post-Pandemic ‘New Normal.’”

In addition, the Digital Media Center is partnering with research firm Parks Associates on selected virtual conferences. The first event, titled “Future of Video: OTT, Pay TV, and Digital Media,” is slated for mid-December.

As the post-pandemic digital world comes into focus, the Digital Media Center is well positioned to play a key role.



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LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT - **GORDON SMITH**

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COMMUNICATIONS FORUM LUNCHEON SERIES

The Communications Forum Luncheon Series is one of The Media Institute's signature programs. Held eight times per year, the luncheons (virtual again in 2021) feature speakers from the top ranks of government and industry. With 30 sponsors from across the media and telecom spectrum, the luncheons represent a cross-section of Washington's communications policy elite from major organizations. Six programs have taken place this year prior to the Gala:

Erin Egan, VP and Chief Privacy Officer for Public Policy
Facebook

Commissioner Nathan Simington
Federal Communications Commission

Commissioner Geoffrey Starks
Federal Communications Commission

Gary Shapiro, President and CEO
Consumer Technology Association

Jonathan Adelstein, President and CEO
Wireless Infrastructure Association

Kathleen Ham, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
T-Mobile US, Inc.

Our November program will feature **Patrick Butler**, President and CEO of America's Public Television Stations (APTS), followed by the season finale in December.

We thank our Communications Forum sponsors! For information about becoming a 2022 luncheon series sponsor, please contact Susanna Coto at The Media Institute.





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FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

Norah O'Donnell

Anchor and Managing Editor
'CBS Evening News'



AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

William E. Kennard

Chairman of the Board
AT&T Inc.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Sen. Gordon H. Smith

President and CEO
National Association of Broadcasters

THE MEDIA INSTITUTE AND FEDERAL HALL

In mid-October, The Media Institute announced a new collaboration with Federal Hall in New York City. Federal Hall is an historic structure in lower Manhattan deeply rooted in the creation of the U.S. Constitution. It boasts a rich First Amendment history, serving as the courtroom for the famous John Peter Zenger First Amendment trial.

We hope to work with Federal Hall on programs in Washington and New York that will promote the First Amendment, create awareness, and engage new audiences. We also anticipate that Federal Hall will serve as a resource on First Amendment history for our Free Speech Week website. And in the process we hope to honor the memory of our Board member and good friend Kurt Wimmer, who had strong ties to both of our organizations.



Covington is proud to support

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We salute the work of our late friend and cherished colleague



Kurt Wimmer

for his dedication to
preserving and protecting
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REMEMBERING KURT WIMMER

We were extremely saddened by the passing of our dear friend Kurt Wimmer in April 2021. He was a member of The Media Institute's Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2020 and served as Chairman of our First Amendment Advisory Council for more than 10 years. He was one of our finest writers and policy analysts, and authored numerous book chapters, issue papers, and court briefs for the Institute.



Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Kurt attended Wichita State University and the University of Missouri, graduating with a journalism degree in 1982. He earned his law degree and a Master's degree in Communication from Syracuse University in 1985.

Kurt went on to become highly regarded as an international leader in intellectual property, cybersecurity, and media law during a career at Covington & Burling that spanned more than three decades, including a three-year tour in London. He was married to his high school sweetheart, Stephanie, and took great pride in their children Max, Nick, and Gracie.

We had the pleasure of working with Kurt since 1999, and during that time he advanced the mission and goals of the Institute in myriad ways. We miss his fine legal mind and his principled approach to public policy. But most of all we miss the good and decent person he was, and the trusted friend he became. His legacy will live on in the history of The Media Institute.





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Senator Gordon Smith
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

FOX

Thank you to The Media Institute

For your ongoing efforts to protect
First Amendment principles and
maintain excellence in journalism.
Congratulations to the Award Recipients:

Norah O'Donnell

Freedom of Speech Award

William E. Kennard

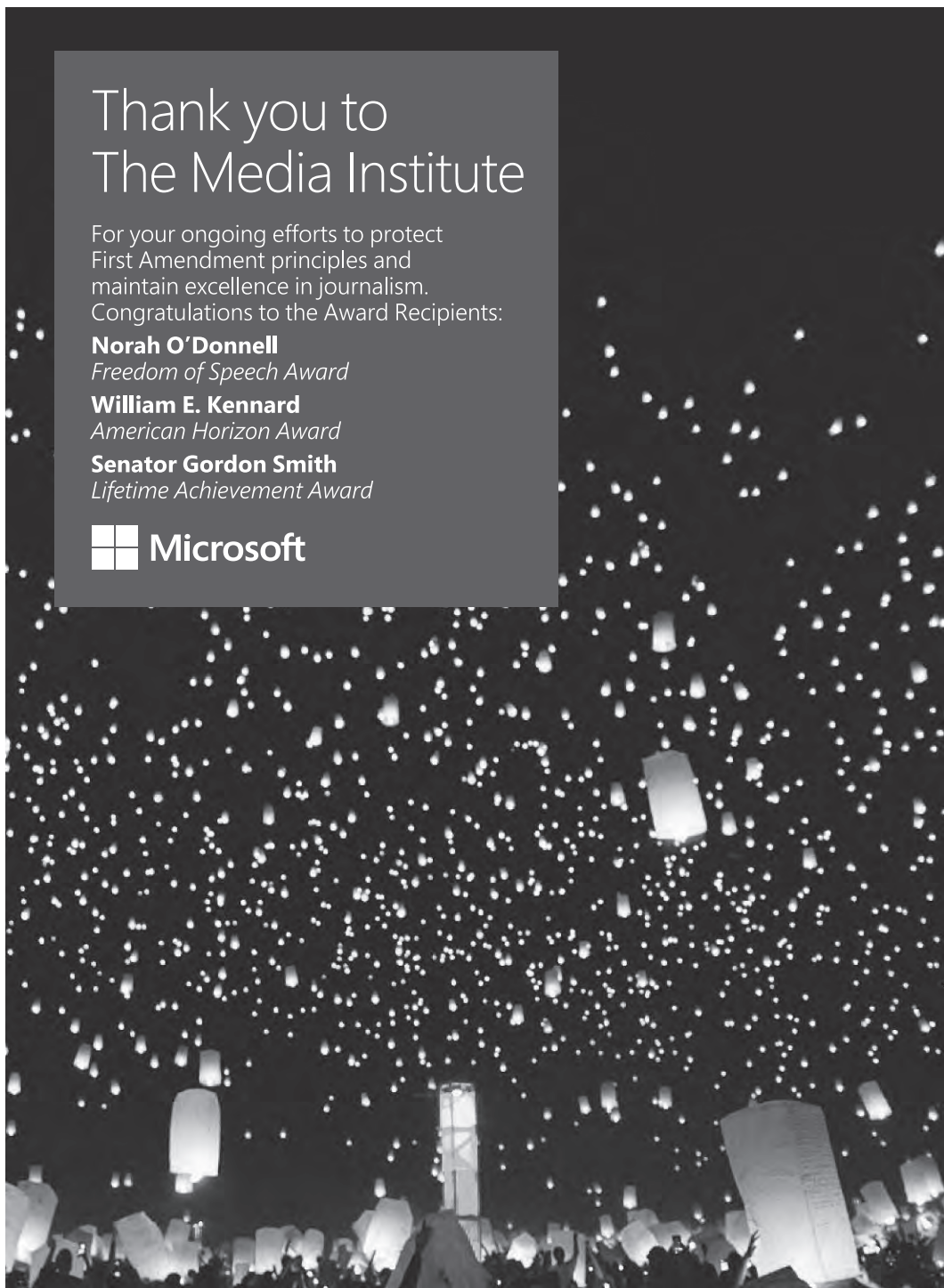
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