Free Speech America Gala

GALA NIGHT

OCTOBER 19 2023
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

The Media Institute
Free Speech America Gala

GALA NIGHT

OCTOBER 19 2023
FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support the Media Institute’s mission to promote a strong First Amendment.

We congratulate this evening’s distinguished honorees:

- Michael Powell, President & CEO, NCTA
  The American Horizon Award

- Bob Woodward, Author & Journalist
  The Freedom of Speech Award
WELCOMING REMARKS

Richard T. Kaplar
President
The Media Institute

Richard E. Wiley
Chairman of the Board
The Media Institute

KEYNOTE REMARKS

FEATURED SPEAKER
Curtis LeGeyt
President and CEO
National Association of Broadcasters

AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD

PRESENTER
Nilda Gumbs
Chief of Staff
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

HONOREE
Michael K. Powell
President and CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

PRESENTER
Donald E. Graham
Chairman Emeritus
Graham Holdings Company

HONOREE
Bob Woodward
Author and Associate Editor
The Washington Post
The National Association of Broadcasters congratulates Bob Woodward and Michael Powell on being 2023’s Free Speech America honorees. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to advancing the ideals of the First Amendment.

America’s broadcasters share The Media Institute’s mission to protect free speech and keep our communities informed.

nab.org | #WeAreBroadcasters
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.
Applaudes

THE MEDIA INSTITUTE AND TONIGHT’S AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK AND DEDICATION TO PROTECTING FREE SPEECH.
CURTIS LEGEYT

Curtis LeGeyt is President and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters, where he serves as the chief advocate for America’s free, local television and radio broadcasters.

Mr. LeGeyt previously served as NAB’s Chief Operating Officer before assuming his current role in January 2022. Prior to that, he served as Executive Vice President, Government Relations, from 2015 to 2020. Mr. LeGeyt also serves on the boards of the NAB Leadership Foundation and the Broadcasters Foundation of America.

Before joining NAB in 2011, Mr. LeGeyt served as senior counsel to then-Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy; as an associate at Howrey LLP, a law firm in Washington; as a management consultant for Putnam Associates; and as a staff member of the 2008 Obama For America presidential campaign.

Mr. LeGeyt serves on the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention’s Executive Committee and the board of Tracy’s Kids, a nonprofit helping children with cancer. He is also an alumnus of Leadership Music, a program based in Nashville.

Mr. LeGeyt received his J.D. from Cornell University Law School and his B.A. from Providence College in quantitative economics. He resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Kacey, and their three children.
Verizon is proud to support The Media Institute’s 2023 Free Speech America Gala.

We congratulate this year’s honorees:

Michael Powell, American Horizon Award

Bob Woodward, Freedom of Speech Award

Curtis LeGeyt, Featured Speaker
NILDA GUMBS

Nilda Gumbs is Chief of Staff for NCTA—The Internet & Television Association in Washington, D.C. She is a seasoned government affairs and communications professional with more than 25 years of experience in the political, government, public relations, community, and coalition-building arenas.

Ms. Gumbs began her career at the National Cable & Telecommunications Association (now NCTA) in 1994. Before being promoted to Chief of Staff, she most recently served as Vice President of External Affairs. In this capacity, she was an integral part of the State Government Relations team responsible for working with state and local legislators and various intergovernmental groups on policy issues.

Ms. Gumbs was responsible for grassroots network organizing activities to support the cable industry’s federal legislative and regulatory priorities on Capitol Hill. In addition, she had direct responsibility for outreach and advocacy among third-party diversity and civil-society organizations as part of coalition-building efforts on policy issues.

Ms. Gumbs is a 1992 graduate of Penn State University.
Wiley Rein LLP salutes The Media Institute for its dedication to freedom of speech, a competitive media industry, and excellence in journalism.

We applaud:

Bob Woodward, Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Michael K. Powell, American Horizon Award Recipient
Curtis LeGeyt, President and CEO of the National Association of Broadcasters, Featured Speaker
Michael K. Powell is President & CEO of NCTA — The Internet & Television Association. In his current role, he leads one of the largest trade associations in Washington, D.C., representing the communications and content industries.

Mr. Powell is a former Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). He was appointed to the Commission by President Bill Clinton in 1997 and appointed Chairman by President George W. Bush in 2001, serving until 2005.

During his time as FCC head, Chairman Powell oversaw the rapid transformation of communications markets into the Digital Age. During his tenure, the Internet came into widespread commercial use, as did smart phones, Wi-Fi networks, and satellite radio.

Prior to his time at the FCC, Chairman Powell served with distinction in other public-sector positions. He served as Chief of Staff of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Policy Advisor to the Secretary of Defense, and as an armored cavalry officer in the U.S. Army.

In the private sector, Chairman Powell practiced law and was a senior advisor in a private equity firm. He also served on the public boards of Cisco and AOL.

Chairman Powell serves on several nonprofit boards. He is the Chairman of the Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees, Chairman of the William & Mary Foundation Board, and Vice Chairman of America’s Promise Alliance.

Chairman Powell received his bachelor’s degree in government from the College of William & Mary and his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from William & Mary and Pepperdine University.
America’s Public Television Stations are pleased to support the work of The Media Institute.

Congratulations to Bob Woodward on receiving the Freedom of Speech Award and to Michael Powell on receiving the American Horizon Award.

www.apts.org
Donald E. Graham is Chairman Emeritus of Graham Holdings Company. He was elected to the board in 1974 and served as Chairman of the Board from 1993 to May 2023. He was Chief Executive Officer of Graham Holdings Company (previously The Washington Post Company) from 1991 to 2015. He was Publisher of *The Washington Post* newspaper from 1979 to 2000.


After graduating from college in 1966, Mr. Graham served as an information specialist with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968. He was a patrolman with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department before joining *The Washington Post* as a reporter in 1971.

Mr. Graham is a co-founder of TheDream.US, the largest national scholarship fund for DREAMers. Previously, he served as Chairman of the District of Columbia College Access Program and remains a member of its board.

Mr. Graham is a trustee of the Federal City Council and Gates Policy Initiative.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEAGUE BOB WOODWARD

WASHINGTON POST ASSOCIATE EDITOR

2023 FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD RECIPIENT
BOB WOODWARD

Bob Woodward is an associate editor of *The Washington Post*, where he has worked for 50 years.

Mr. Woodward has shared in two Pulitzer Prizes, first in 1973 for the coverage of the Watergate scandal with Carl Bernstein, and second in 2002 as the lead reporter for coverage of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He has been a recipient of nearly every other major American journalism award.

Mr. Woodward has authored or co-authored 21 books, all national bestsellers. The last three on the Trump presidency—*Fear* (2018), *Rage* (2020), and *Peril* (2021)—all were *New York Times* #1 bestsellers. Another 12 of his books have been *New York Times* #1 bestsellers.

In listing the all-time 100 best non-fiction books, *Time* magazine has called *All the President’s Men*, by Bernstein and Woodward, “Perhaps the most influential piece of journalism in history.”

In October 2022, Mr. Woodward published his first audiobook, *The Trump Tapes: Bob Woodward’s 20 Interviews with President Donald Trump*. It is the extraordinary historical record of his more than eight hours of conversations with the former president.

A native of Illinois, Mr. Woodward received his B.A. degree from Yale University in 1965 and then served a five-year tour as a U.S. Navy officer. Following his discharge as a lieutenant, he considered law school but decided to pursue a career in journalism. Mr. Woodward was hired as a *Post* reporter in September 1971.

Bob Schieffer of CBS News has said, “Woodward has established himself as the best reporter of our time. He may be the best reporter of all time.”

Photo by Lisa Berg
Latham & Watkins is proud to support

The Media Institute 2023 Free Speech America Gala

Congratulations to honorees

Bob Woodward, Freedom of Speech Recipient
Michael Powell, American Horizon Recipient
YOUR VOICE IS VALUABLE

We are proud to support The Media Institute's 2023 Free Speech America Gala. Congratulations to this year's esteemed award honorees.
Congratulations to

MICHAEL POWELL
President & CEO of NCTA

2023 American Horizon Award Recipient

We also applaud all the **2023 Free Speech America Gala** honorees.
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CPB Salutes
The Media Institute
and Congratulates the Honorees at the 2023 Free Speech America Gala

CPB thanks The Media Institute for your dedication to free speech and excellence in journalism.
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Charter is Proud to Support The Media Institute.

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees:

- Freedom of Speech Award Recipient Bob Woodward
- American Horizon Award Recipient Michael K. Powell
- Featured Speaker Curtis LeGeyt
- Master of Ceremonies Dick Wiley
Proudly Supports

THE MEDIA INSTITUTE
in promoting a Strong First Amendment and Sound Communications Policy

Congratulations to the
2023 Free Speech America Honorees

American Horizon Award Recipient
Michael K. Powell
President & CEO of NCTA—The Internet & Television Association

Featured Speaker
Curtis LeGeyt
President & CEO of National Association of Broadcasters

Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Bob Woodward
Author and Pulitzer Prize Winning Editor at The Washington Post
LG Electronics USA and Zenith, Proud Supporters of The Media Institute, Salute Tonight’s Honorees:

MICHAEL K. POWELL
American Horizon Award

BOB WOODWARD
Freedom of Speech Award
It’s our pleasure to welcome you to our “Free Speech America” Gala! This will be an exceptional evening where we recognize visionary leadership in the media industry and salute hard-hitting journalism that embodies the very essence of free speech and a free press.

And of course it’s especially fitting that we do this as we celebrate Free Speech Week.

Equally fitting, we’re announcing an exciting new initiative, The Madison Project, that will examine the role of free speech and free press in American democracy now and in the challenging times ahead.

We are privileged to honor two legends whose extraordinary accomplishments have benefited our society and the cause of democracy: Michael Powell, who has been on the front lines of the communications revolution in both the public and private sectors, and Bob Woodward, whose reporting in The Washington Post and best-selling books has provided—for 50 years—the vital check on government power envisioned by the Founders.

We are honored to welcome Curtis LeGeyt as our Featured Speaker, Donald Graham and Nilda Gumbs as our award presenters, and Dick Wiley as our Master of Ceremonies. And we are indebted to you, our financial supporters, for making our work possible.

Richard T. Kaplar  
President

Susanna Coto  
Director of Public Events
iHeartMedia Salutes The Media Institute

FOR ALL IT DOES TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

AND CONGRATULATES TONIGHT'S HONOREES

BOB WOODWARD
Freedom of Speech Award

MICHAEL POWELL
American Horizon Award
Tonight we proudly unveil a major new initiative that will be the centerpiece of a one-year celebration leading up to The Media Institute’s 45th Anniversary in October 2024.

The Madison Project is a timely and much-needed assessment of the impact of free speech and free press on the future of American democracy at a time when democracy itself has come perilously close to the brink in America.

The Madison Project will explore the current state of free speech, free press, and the First Amendment in the United States at this pivotal moment in our democracy. The Project will examine free speech and press in social, political, and cultural contexts.

The Madison Project will look at the robustness of free speech and press in each of these areas, assess threats and challenges facing them, and explore what this could mean for the future of our democracy.

The Madison Project will have three main program elements: (1) An exploration of key free speech and press issues critical to the future of democracy; (2) a reimagined Free Speech Week in October 2024; and (3) publication of an e-book that will be made available to all public libraries nationwide free of charge.

The Madison Project will offer distinctive insights into the impact of free speech and free press on American democracy today, and chart a course forward to maintain these essential freedoms as the bulwark of our democracy.

We invite you to learn more and to consider supporting this high-impact, innovative initiative. Contact Rick Kaplar for more information and to learn about opportunities for prominent sponsor recognition.
AMERICA IS FREE SPEECH

Paramount strongly supports The Media Institute for promoting freedom of speech and excellence in journalism, and we congratulate tonight’s award winners.
We hope you’re celebrating Free Speech Week! This is the nationwide annual event that celebrates 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. Social media platforms are giving all Americans who care about free speech an opportunity 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. 21–27, 2024.
The Interactive Advertising Bureau salutes The Media Institute and congratulates tonight’s honorees.

AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD
Michael K. Powell
President and CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD
Bob Woodward
Author and Associate Editor
The Washington Post
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.

Coordinating the DMC’s program activities is Media Institute Distinguished Senior Fellow Stuart N. Brotman. He is the author of *Privacy’s Perfect Storm: Digital Policy for Post-Pandemic Times*.

The DMC has published a number of insightful papers and analyses. Among them is “Streaming Video Services: Beyond the Tipping Point,” an Executive Brief by Stuart Brotman that highlights seven key streaming video developments that can help chart a course for streaming video now and into the future.

In addition, the Digital Media Center has continued to partner with research firm Parks Associates on several “Future of Video” virtual and in-person conferences throughout the year. A three-day in-person event titled “Future of Video: OTT, PayTV, and Digital Media” will take place in California this coming November.

As the digital world evolves following the pandemic, the Digital Media Center is well positioned to play a key role.
CONGRATULATIONS

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL POWELL
AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD RECIPIENT

BOB WOODWARD
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD RECIPIENT

WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE MEDIA INSTITUTE AND ITS
2023 FREE SPEECH AMERICA GALA.
The Communications Forum Luncheon Series is one of The Media Institute’s most popular programs, featuring speakers from the top ranks of government and industry. Following our virtual events during the pandemic, the 2023 season returned with eight luncheons in person held in downtown Washington.

With more than two dozen corporate and organizational sponsors, the luncheons are a prime opportunity for Washington’s media and telecom policy elite to enjoy lively discussion and congenial company. The slate of speakers in 2023 has featured:

Blair Levin, Policy Equity Analyst  
New Street Research

Jonathan Spalter, President and CEO  
USTelecom | The Broadband Association

Austin Bonner, Assistant Secretary for Spectrum and Telecom Policy  
White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Madeleine Noland, President  
Advanced Television Systems Committee

Michael O’Rielly, Senior Fellow  
The Media Institute

Caroline Beasley, Chief Executive Officer  
Beasley Media Group

Vint Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist  
Google

This season’s final luncheon will take place in November with FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Loyaan Egal as our speaker.

We thank our Communications Forum sponsors! For information about becoming a 2024 luncheon series sponsor, please contact Susanna Coto at The Media Institute.
Congratulations

MICHAEL POWELL
on this special honor.
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Jan Jeffcoat
THE NATIONAL DESK
TEGNA proudly supports
The Media Institute
for its efforts to protect
First Amendment Freedoms

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2023 HONOREES

Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Bob Woodward
Associate Editor, The Washington Post

American Horizon Award Recipient
Michael K. Powell
President and CEO, NCTA

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The Media Institute ‘Free Speech America’ Gala

And Congratulates

American Horizon Award Recipient
Michael K. Powell

Freedom of Speech Award Recipient
Bob Woodward

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THANKS THE MEDIA INSTITUTE FOR ITS IMPORTANT WORK PROMOTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CONGRATULATES THE 2023 MEDIA INSTITUTE HONOREES

BOB WOODWARD
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AWARD

MICHAEL POWELL
AMERICAN HORIZON AWARD
The News/Media Alliance proudly supports
The Media Institute

Free Speech America Gala 2023

and celebrates tonight’s honorees:

BOB WOODWARD
recipient of the Institute’s Freedom of Speech Award

MICHAEL POWELL
recipient of the American Horizon Award

The Alliance thanks you for your dedication to free speech and excellence in journalism!
Hallmark Media

Applauds

Michael Powell

NCTA President & CEO

on receiving the American Horizon Award!
FREE SPEECH WEEK

Free Speech: The Language of America®

October 16–22, 2023
Free Speech Week Social Media Badge

freespeechweek.org