

Panelist Bios



Lucy A. Dalglish, Executive Director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Prior to assuming her current position in January 2000, Dalglish was a media lawyer for almost five years in the trial department of the Minneapolis law firm of Dorsey & Whitney. From 1980-93, Dalglish was a reporter and editor at the St. Paul Pioneer Press. As a reporter, she covered beats ranging from general assignment and suburbs to education and courts. During her last three years at the Pioneer Press, she served as night city editor, assistant news editor and national/foreign editor. Dalglish was awarded the Wells Memorial Key, the highest honor bestowed by the Society of Professional Journalists, in 1995. A year later, she was one of 24 journalists, lawyers, lawmakers, educators, researchers, librarians and historians inducted into the charter class of the National Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame in Washington, D.C.



Charles N. Davis, Executive Director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. Charles is an associate professor in the News-Editorial Department. Davis worked for nearly 10 years as a journalist after his graduation from North Georgia College, working for newspapers, magazines and a news service in Georgia, Florida and Ireland before leaving full-time journalism to complete a masters degree from the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communication and to earn a doctorate in mass communication from the University of Florida. Davis conducts scholarly research on access to governmental information and new media law, including jurisdictional issues, intellectual property and on-line libel. His first edited book, *Access Denied: Freedom of Information in the Information Age*, was published in 2001 by Iowa State University Press. Davis has earned a Sunshine Award from the Society of Professional Journalists for his work in furthering freedom of information and the Provost's Award for Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching in 2001 from the University of Missouri.



Maria J. K. Everett, Executive Director of the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council. The FOI Advisory Council is a legislative agency, created in July 2000. Since its inception, it has rendered more than 6,000 informal opinions and more than 150 written opinions on the application/interpretation of the Freedom of Information Act. Everett, also a senior attorney with the Division of Legislative Services, serves as counsel to the House Committee on General Laws, a position she has held since 1990. She earned a B.S. degree from Virginia Tech and a J.D. degree from the George Mason University School of Law.



Frank Gibson, Executive Director of the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government. Gibson is a veteran Nashville journalist who worked 40 years as an editor and reporter at The (Nashville) Tennessean, covering and supervising coverage of local, state and federal government beats and the courts. He was the newspaper's Washington correspondent and served as political editor for more than 12 years before his retirement in 2005. Gibson chaired the Tennessee Press Association's FOI Committee for 11 years, before his retirement. He current serves as Vice President of the National Freedom of Information Coalition board. As TCOG's director he organized and directed a statewide public records audit in all of the state's 95 counties in 2004. The audit led to a four-part "Your Right to Know" series distributed by the Associated Press to every newspaper and broadcast outlet in the state. He authored a study of open meetings violations in 2005, showing a 45 percent increase in alleged violations statewide between 2003 and 2005. Both reports can be found at <http://www.tcog.info>.



Patricia R. Gleason, General Counsel in the Office of Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist. Gleason has been employed in the AG's office since graduating from Florida State University Law School. Prior to becoming general counsel, Gleason served as Director of the Cabinet Division and Chief of the Administrative Law Section. Gleason is the editor of the state's Government in the Sunshine Manual and the Public Records Guide for Law Enforcement Agencies.



Harry Hammitt, Editor/Publisher of Access Reports, a biweekly newsletter on the Freedom of Information Act and open government laws and policies. Hammitt is also the primary editor of *Litigation Under the Federal Open Government Laws* published by the Electronic Privacy Information Center. He received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1975. He holds an M.A. in journalism from the University of Missouri and a J.D. from George Washington University Law School. He has worked as an information specialist for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and for FOI Services, a third-party requesting company that deals primarily with businesses in the food and drug industry. He became editor of Access Reports in 1985 and became publisher in 1989. He has written and lectured extensively on access and privacy issues in both the United States and Canada. He is a past president of the American Society of Access Professionals and has conducted that organization's annual seminar on business information issues for more than 10 years. He was inducted into the FOI Hall of Fame at the Freedom Forum in Arlington.



Camille S. Jobin-Davis, Assistant Director, New York State Committee on Open Government. Jobin-Davis was appointed to her current position in September 2005. Prior to that appointment, as an attorney in the private sector, she was involved in publication of a newsletter on freedom of information and open meetings law issues. Subsequently, she worked as a senior attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, where, for five years, in addition to her other responsibilities, she was the record-access officer. As Assistant Director, she provides legal both legal and written advice regarding application of the Freedom of Information Law, Open Meetings Law and the Personal Privacy Protection Law. She received her law degree from Albany Law School and a bachelor's degree from Mt. Holyoke College.



Bob Johnson, Executive Director of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government since its formation in 1989. Under his administration, NMFOG has been a plaintiff in 22 open-government lawsuits, and prevailed in all. With other open government advocates, NMFOG has succeeded in strengthening the New Mexico Inspection of Records Act, Open Meetings Act and Arrest Records Information Act. Johnson is a veteran newsman. As a reporter, chief of four bureaus, general sports editor and managing editor of the Associated Press he covered or supervised coverage of some of the major news events of the major news events of the 20th Century. These included the assassination of President Kennedy and the trial of Jack Ruby, NASA's space flights from the Houston Space Center from Apollo 4 through Gemini 11, the massacre of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics and the resignation of President Nixon.



Frosty Landon, Executive Director of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government, which he helped organize almost a decade ago. The coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that opposes excessive secrecy in Virginia government. Landon is a director and past president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, whose members include FOI groups in nearly 40 states. A former chairman of the FOI Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, he remains a member of that committee and also serves on the FOI committee of the Virginia Press Association. He is a director of the Virginia Public Access Project and a member of the Virginia Bar's Committee on Lawyer Discipline. He has been inducted into the Virginia Communications Hall of Fame and been given SPJ's national Freedom of Information Award.



Barbara A. Petersen, President of (Florida) First Amendment Foundation. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia and Florida State University College of Law, Barbara A. Petersen is president of Florida's First Amendment Foundation. Before taking her current position in 1995, Petersen was staff attorney for the Joint Committee on Information Technology Resources of the Florida Legislature, where she worked exclusively on public records legislation and issues. A passionate advocate of the public's right to oversee its government, Petersen is the author of numerous reports and articles on open government issues. She currently serves as president of the National Freedom of Information Coalition.



Suzanne J. Piotrowski, Assistant Professor of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. Piotrowski earned a Ph.D. in political science from School of Public Affairs at American University, Washington, D.C., and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Delaware. She is a member of the Board of the Directors of the New Jersey Foundation for Open Government. Piotrowski is also on the Sunshine Advisory Board for the Citizen Access Project at the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, University of Florida. Piotrowski's work on governmental transparency includes access to documents through mechanisms such as freedom of information and open meetings laws. Her current research focuses on defining and measuring municipal transparency. She authored the book, *Governmental Transparency in the Path of Administrative Reform* forthcoming from the State of University of New York Press (release date April 5, 2007).



Alasdair Roberts, Associate Professor of public administration in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. His book, *Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age*, was published by Cambridge University Press in February 2006. From 2002 to 2005 he was a member of the Transparency Task Force established by Professor Joseph Stiglitz. Roberts received a J.D. from the University of Toronto in 1984, a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University in 1986, and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University in 1994. He has had fellowships with the Open Society Institute and the Wilson Center for Scholars, and is presently an Honorary Senior Research Fellow of the School of Public Policy, University College London. Many of Roberts' articles about secrecy can be downloaded from his Web site, <http://www.aroberts.us>.



Tonda Rush, American Pressworks. Rush is an attorney and consultant in Arlington with the Nashville law firm of King & Ballou. She represents newspaper clients in matters involving postal affairs, public policy, business regulation and issues generally affecting small media. She is a lecturer and writer on issues affecting the First Amendment and the law and business of communications. Rush was president and chief executive officer of the National Newspaper Association from 1992-1997 and associate general counsel/vice president of industry relations for the American Newspaper Publishers Association, now the Newspaper Association of America. Rush has been involved in First Amendment and open access matters on behalf of the press since her days as director of the Freedom of Information Center of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in the early 1980s.