

*Congress shall  
make no law  
respecting an  
establishment  
of religion, or  
prohibiting  
the free  
exercise  
thereof; or  
abridging the  
freedom of  
speech, or of  
the press; or  
the right of the  
people  
peaceably to  
assemble, and  
to petition the  
Government  
for a redress of  
grievances.*

*First Amendment  
to the U.S.  
Constitution*

# Call for Nominations



SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNALISTS  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

*Presents the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual*

## James Madison Freedom of Information Awards

The **James Madison Freedom of Information Awards** recognize Northern California organizations and individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of freedom of information and expression in the spirit of James Madison, the creative force behind the First Amendment. The awards are presented at a ceremony in March near the anniversary of Madison's birth.

Eligible for nomination are Northern California journalists, citizens, media organizations, or community groups which, during 2005, have defended public access to meetings, public records, meetings or court proceedings or otherwise promoted the public's right to know, publish and speak freely about issues of public concern.

### **Award Categories** (awards may not be given in every category):

Professional Journalist	Citizen	Legal Counsel
Nonprofit Organization	Public Official	Student Journalist
Source/Whistle Blower	Educator	Electronic Access
Career Achievement	Cartoonist	News Media

- The Professional Journalist and Student Journalist awards recognize journalists who have been involved in fights for access to records, meetings or court proceedings, who have made exceptional use of public records in their reporting or who have promoted education on FOI issues through stories, editorials or other advocacy.
- The Public Official award is given to a governmental official who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to keeping public records or meetings public, or otherwise has taken exemplary leadership on FOI or First Amendment issues.
- The Legal Counsel award recognizes extraordinary efforts by attorneys in these areas, especially the generous commitment of pro-bono time to FOI issues.
- The Norwin S. Yoffie Career Achievement Award is named in honor of a stalwart supporter of the chapter's Freedom of Information Committee, who died in November 2000 after many years of distinguished service to SPJ and the cause of freedom of information.

See <http://www.spj.org/norcal/awards/foiwinners.html> for past award recipients.

**Deadline:** Entries must be e-mailed or postmarked by January 6, 2006.

## Entry Form

### Mail entries to:

James Madison FOI Awards  
SPJ Northern California Chapter  
c/o Matthew Hirsch  
San Francisco Bay Guardian  
135 Mississippi Street  
San Francisco, California 94107

### For more information:

*FOI Committee JM Award chairs:*  
David Greene (510) 208-7744  
dgreene@thefirstamendment.org  
Seth Rosenfeld  
srosenfeld@sfchronicle.com

Category \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### Submission Guidelines:

1. For each entry, please submit in triplicate:
  - A. An entry form
  - B. A cover letter with the following information:
    - i. A summary of the story, stories or action taken.
    - ii. A description of the freedom of information aspect of the story or action, specifically explaining how freedom of information laws and tools were employed and/or how the story or actions shed light on governmental activities.
    - iii. A discussion of major findings, achievements and subsequent results (i.e., did other outlets pick up the story; did new legislation, regulatory change or better public service result from the story or action).
    - iv. An account of the difficulty or uniqueness of effort in obtaining the story or pursuing the action.
  - C. Supporting documents including published stories and any other supporting material which will demonstrate merit of nomination.
  - D. Any corrections, clarifications or retractions made after initial publishing or broadcast of stories must be submitted as part of the entry. Also, copies of any challenges to the story's accuracy, including but not limited to letters and requests for corrections or retractions, as well as responses by the newspaper, must be included in the submission.
2. Nominations with no supporting documents may be submitted by e-mail to matthew@sfbg.com. Subject line should read "James Madison Nomination," and the format of the message should approximate that of this form.

### Judges:

Judges are the members of the Freedom of Information Committee of the Society of Professional Journalists, Northern California Chapter.