



UNC  
CENTER FOR  
MEDIA LAW & POLICY

THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at* CHAPEL HILL

CAMPUS BOX 3365  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3365  
medialaw.unc.edu

T 919.962.4077  
F 919.962.0620

## Workshop on How to Meet the Information Needs of Communities

January 20, 2012

UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication

**Penny Abernathy** is a journalism professional with more than 30 years experience as a reporter, editor and media executive. She is the Knight Chair in Journalism and Digital Media Economics at UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, specializing in preserving quality journalism by helping the news business succeed economically in the digital media environment. As a former executive, Abernathy launched new enterprises and helped increase revenue at some of the nation's most prominent news organizations and publishing companies, including The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and the Harvard Business Review. At Carolina, Abernathy focuses her expertise on 21st-century economic models that will improve the ability of journalists to produce news in the public interest. A native of Laurinburg, North Carolina, Abernathy holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and two master's degrees - including a M.B.A - from Columbia University. She was inducted to the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame in 1998.

**Kelly Alexander** has been a member of the N.C. House of Representatives since 2008. Rep. Alexander is the vice president of Alexander Funeral Home, the old oldest African American-owned business in Mecklenburg County. Rep. Alexander spent 30 years in civil rights movement work, holding national and state offices in the NAACP. Rep. Alexander's legislative interests include the environment, economic development/job creation, energy, transportation, education and finance.

**Latimer Alexander** is a five-term city council member from High Point, president of the NC League of Municipalities, board and executive board member of the Piedmont Triad Council of Government, and president of Latimer Alexander LLC, a textile distribution company specializing in high-quality velvet upholstery fabrics, with offices and warehouses located in Leesville, S.C., and High Point.

**Brady Allen** is a proud graduate of UNC's J-School where he focused primarily on radio broadcasting. After graduating, he moved out west and worked as a snow reporter for a ski resort

for a year. Brady returned to North Carolina and attended the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. Now Brady practices law in Raleigh with the Allen Law Offices, representing among others, the North Carolina Telephone Membership Cooperatives Coalition.

**Britton Allen** is a graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park and the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Since 2008 he has worked at Allen Law Offices as an attorney and public policy consultant and lobbyist for the North Carolina Telephone Cooperative Coalition dealing with issues relating to rural telecommunications including broadband. Since 2010 he has focused much of his work on net neutrality, broadband deployment and universal service reform.

**Dwight Allen** practices law in Raleigh. On Jan. 1, 2008, he opened a law practice with his son. Since 2001, he has also served as executive vice president of the North Carolina Telephone Cooperative Coalition, Inc., a statewide association that represents North Carolina's eight Telephone Membership Corporations. Prior to starting his own practice, he served for more than five years as counsel to the Raleigh law firm of Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell and Jernigan. His practice is limited to telecommunications, energy and regulated industries. Previously, he served as president of Sprint Corporation's mid-Atlantic operations. He also serves as an adjunct professor of law at the Norman A. Wiggins School of Law of Campbell University where he teaches a class in regulatory law and policy.

**David Ardia** is an assistant professor of law at the UNC School of Law and a faculty associate at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School. He also holds a secondary appointment as an assistant professor at the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication and is the faculty co-director of the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy. Before joining the UNC faculty, he founded and directed the Berkman Center's Digital Media Law Project. Prior to coming to Harvard, Professor Ardia was assistant counsel at The Washington Post, where he provided pre-publication review and legal advice on First Amendment, newsgathering, intellectual property, and general business issues. His research focuses on examining the impact of new information technologies on law and society, particularly the role that intermediaries play in shaping the environment for speech and how legal and social forces act upon those intermediaries.

**Teresa Artis** is vice president and general counsel for Capitol Broadcasting Company based in Raleigh. Prior to Capitol, Teresa worked almost nine years at Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta, serving as vice president of business affairs of a U.S. sales division. Teresa also has been vice president of licensing and business development at Internet retailer Art.com in Raleigh. Prior to her work in media, Teresa practiced corporate law at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Atlanta. An active Tar Heel alum, Teresa was a Pogue Scholar and honors graduate with dual degrees in economics and public policy. She then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Marilyn Avila** represents N.C. House District 40 in northern Wake County.

**Frank Barrows** was managing editor of The Charlotte Observer for 13 years. He was co-founder of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition and its first president.

**Brian Bowman** is public affairs manager for the city of Wilson, N.C. His work has earned more

than a dozen awards from state and national peer competitions. Before his time in Wilson, Bowman was a news reporter at WRAL-TV, the CBS affiliate in Raleigh. He is also a graduate student in the inaugural class of UNC's new Master's in Technology and Communication program based in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

**Steve Brewer** is the director for state government affairs for CenturyLink. CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States. The company provides broadband, voice, wireless and managed services to consumers and businesses across the country. It also offers advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink Prism TV and DIRECTV brands. In addition, the company provides data, voice and managed services to enterprise, government and wholesale customers in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers.

**Damon Circosta** is executive director of the N.C. Center for Voter Education, a leading expert on democracy reforms and election law in North Carolina and a statewide syndicated columnist. Prior to joining the center, Damon was an attorney and political consultant. A graduate of the University of Arizona School of Law, Damon has worked in the U.S. Senate on campaign reform efforts including the landmark Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. As a veteran of several political campaigns, Damon brings a practical approach to issues of election reform and voter education. During his tenure at the center, the organization has successfully advocated for reforms that increase the flow of information about state government and reduce the distorting effect of special interest money on the democratic process. Damon serves on the board of directors for Kids Voting North Carolina, N.C. Voters for Clean Elections and the N.C. Center for Women in Public Service. He is an advisory committee member to OPEN/net.

**John Clark** joined the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication in July 2011 to lead the Reese Felts Digital News Project. As executive producer of the project, Clark works with students and faculty on experimentation and research designed to help news organizations adapt to the new media environment. The flexibility to test a wide range of theories and share the results is central to the project, which is funded by a \$4.1 million gift from the estate of Carolina alumnus Reese Felts. Prior to working at UNC, Clark was general manager of WRAL.com, where he helped build the site into one of the most successful local news websites in the nation, growing traffic to more than 1 billion page views in 2010. He deployed a mobile news strategy and established a strong social media presence for the site. Under Clark's leadership, WRAL.com received the Edward R. Murrow Award for best broadcast-affiliated website, the Editor & Publisher award for best local TV-affiliated website and a regional Emmy for continuing coverage, among other awards. Clark served on the North Carolina State University Student Media Advisory Board and was an adjunct lecturer of communication at Campbell University.

### **Sarah Cohen**

Sarah Cohen is the Knight Professor of the Practice at Duke University, where she directs the Reporters' Lab, a group that fosters tools, techniques and research into public affairs reporting. Prior to joining Duke, she worked as a beat and investigative reporter, most of that time on projects teams at The Washington Post. She's shared in most major journalism awards, including the Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting and the Goldsmith Prize.

**Michelle Connolly** is an associate professor of the practice and director of the Honors Program in the Economics Department at Duke University. Professor Connolly served as chief economist for the Federal Communications Commission first in 2006-2007 and again in 2008-2009. She was the economics director of the Duke in New York: Financial Markets and Institutions Program for 2007-2009, and served as director of EcoTeach. Before coming to Duke University, she worked as an economist for the International Research Function for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from Yale University in 1990, and went on to earn her M.A. and M.Phil in Economics. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University in 1996. In 2011, Professor Connolly won the Howard D. Johnson Trinity College Distinguished Teaching Prize and was named among the top five percent of Duke University Undergraduate Instructors in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Professor Connolly's research and teaching focus on international trade, telecommunications policy, media policy, education, growth, and development.

**Larry Conrad** is the vice chancellor for information technology and chief information officer at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has over 40 years of experience in the field of information technology and has a diverse background in both university and corporate settings, with extensive experience in research, instructional and enterprise computing, as well as telecommunications. He has been active for many years in EDUCAUSE and Internet2 and provided key start-up roles for the National LambdaRail and Florida LambdaRail networks. Conrad has a master's degree in computer science from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree in computer science from Iowa State University.

**Laura N. "Lolly" Gasaway** is the Paul B. Eaton Distinguished Professor of Law at the UNC School of Law where she served as associate dean for academic affairs from 2006-10. She served as director of the law library and professor of law from 1985 until 2006. She teaches courses in advanced copyright law, art law and cyberspace law. She obtained her B.A. and M.L.S. degrees from Texas Woman's University in 1967 and 1968 respectively. Her J.D. degree is from the University of Houston in 1973. Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, she held the same position at the University of Oklahoma from 1975-84 and at the University of Houston from 1973-75. Lolly is a past president of the American Association of Law Libraries and served as co-chair of the Section 108 Study Group for the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and the Copyright Office.

**Michael Gerhardt** is the Samuel Ashe Distinguished Professor of Constitutional Law and director of the Center on Law and Government at UNC Law School. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and the author of several books, including, most recently, *The Power of Precedent* (Oxford University Press 2011). Besides frequently appearing before Congress as an expert witness on a variety of constitutional law issues, Professor Gerhardt served as CNN's full-time expert on impeachment during President Clinton's impeachment proceedings and as Special Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee for the nominations of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Clayton Gladieux** is the webmaster for the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy and a senior journalism major at UNC, with a specialization in multimedia. He is particularly interested in how rapidly changing technology will affect the public's consumption of all types of media, and he has

interned with Internet media company Hulu in Santa Monica, Calif.

**Ferrel Guillory** teaches in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at UNC-Chapel Hill. He is founding director of the Program on Public Life, which has worked to bring university scholarship to bear on the agenda and leadership in North Carolina and the South. Through MDC Inc. a Durham-based nonprofit research firm, at which he is a senior fellow, Guillory has co-authored *The State of the South*. He also co-authored the book, *The Carolinas: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow: An Exploration of Social and Economic Trends, 1924-1999* (Duke Press, 1999), commissioned by the Duke Endowment. Guillory now serves on the Council on the Southern Community of the Southern Growth Policies Board and on the board of trustees of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. He is an adjunct faculty member in the UNC Department of Public Policy. Before academia, Guillory spent more than 25 years as a newspaper and magazine journalist. He received his bachelor's degree from Loyola University New Orleans, and a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

**James Hamilton** is the Charles S. Sydnor Professor of Public Policy, and professor of Political Science and Economics at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. He is also the director of the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy. His books on information provision and media markets include *All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News*, *Regulation Through Revelation: The Origin, Politics, and Impacts of the Toxics Release Inventory Program*, and *Conserving Data in the Conservation Reserve: How a Regulatory Program Runs on Imperfect Information*. For his accomplishments in teaching and research, he has won awards such as the Trinity College (Duke) Distinguished Teaching Award, the David N Kershaw Award of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Goldsmith Book Prize from the Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center, and a Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship.

**Liz Hill** is the chair of the Regulatory Committee for the Carolinas Wireless Association, a trade association of all sectors of the wireless industry whose objective is the promotion and advancement of the industry by means of education, awareness and opportunity. Ms. Hill is also the director of state and local government affairs for American Tower Corporation, a leading independent owner and operator of wireless and broadcast communication sites. She is a member of several national industry committees focused on issues of regulation and policy related to wireless infrastructure.

**Ivy Hoffman** is the executive director of the N.C. Agency for Public Telecommunications (APT), a state agency within the Department of Administration. A key component of APT's mission is to improve transparency and access to government proceedings and services. One way that has been done is through the long-running OPEN/net program, a live, interactive cable/Internet program linking citizens with the issues and services of government. Setting up a 24x7 SPAN for North Carolina is an ultimate goal of the APT.

**John Idler** is WTVD president and general manager. He has overall management responsibility for WTVD-TV in the Raleigh-Durham (Fayetteville) market (DMA #24), as well as all of its ancillary businesses including ABC11.com website and additional digital Television channels (11.2, 11.3). John earned an MBA from the University of New Haven and a B.A. in history and communication from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Among the boards on which John sits are the North

Carolina Association of Broadcasters, where he serves as the president, and the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication Foundation.

**Paul Jones** holds faculty positions in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the School of Information and Library Science, both at UNC-Chapel Hill. For the past 20 years, Jones has served as developer and director of [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org), an information-sharing archive. Besides being the place that first streamed radio on the Internet, [ibiblio](http://ibiblio.org) is home to such projects as Project Gutenberg (over 36,000 free ebooks), GrokLaw (open source law), eTree (legal music sharing), Degree Confluence (shared geography project) and over 2,000 smaller projects.

**Susan King** became dean of the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication on Jan. 1, 2012. She is also the school's John Thomas Kerr Distinguished Professor. She is the former vice president for external affairs for Carnegie Corporation of New York. Prior to Carnegie, King worked nearly five years in the U.S. Department of Labor as the assistant secretary for public affairs and as the executive director of the Family and Medical Leave Commission. Her journalism career included stints with ABC, CBS and NBC News. King was also an independent journalist reporting for CNN and ABC Radio News. She was a local television news anchor at stations in Buffalo, N.Y., and Washington, D.C. She has hosted the "Diane Rehm Show" and "Talk of the Nation" for National Public Radio. King has a bachelor's degree in English from Marymount College in Tarrytown, N.Y., and she earned her master's degree in communications from Fairfield University in Fairfield, Conn.

**Matt Lail** is a staff member and interim director of public affairs for the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

**Lili Levi** is a professor of law at the University of Miami School of Law. She earned an A.B. summa cum laude in philosophy from Bryn Mawr College in 1977 and a J.D. cum laude in 1981 from Harvard Law School. She then worked as a litigation associate with the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York and then as Broadcast Counsel with CBS, Inc., before joining the faculty in 1987. Professor Levi teaches business associations, communications law, copyright law, and has taught international copyright law, defamation law, and privacy law. Her scholarship focuses primarily on media law and communications law, with a number of articles concerning FCC regulation. She is a member of the American Law Institute.

**Blair Levin** became Communications & Society Fellow with the Aspen Institute Communications and Society Program in May 2010, following his departure from the Federal Communications Commission, where he served as the executive director of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative. In his role at the FCC, Mr. Levin oversaw the development of the National Broadband Plan. Mr. Levin rejoined the Commission in June 2009, after eight years as an analyst at Legg Mason and Stifel Nicolaus. Previously, Mr. Levin served as Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt from December 1993 through October 1997. Mr. Levin oversaw, among other matters, the implementation of the historic 1996 Telecommunications Reform Act, the first spectrum auctions, the development of digital television standards, and the Commission's Internet initiative. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.

**David S. Levine** is an assistant professor at Elon University School of Law and an affiliate scholar

at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School. Professor Levine studies intellectual property law as it relates to technology and government operations, as well as the intersection of technology and open government. He also founded and hosts a top technology and intellectual property law radio show, Hearsay Culture (KZSU-FM Stanford University). More information at [hearsayculture.com](http://hearsayculture.com).

**Sam Matheny** is general manager of News Over Wireless, which is part of CBC New Media Group, LLC. CBC New Media Group is a division of Capitol Broadcasting with three principle areas of operation: digital television, Internet and mobile wireless. Sam's focus is on strategic media applications. He is currently engaged with mobile wireless content delivery. News Over Wireless works with over 200 broadcasters, publishers and major wireless phone carriers to provide news and information on mobile phones through video channels, downloadable applications, mobile web sites and SMS. Sam is a member of the Academy of Digital Television Pioneers, Advanced Television Systems Committee (chairman of the ATSC 2.0 Specialist Group on the next generation of digital television), Mobile Marketing Association, the Open Mobile VideoCoalition and the Mobile 500 Alliance. He was a 2007 American Marshall Memorial Fellow, and holds a B.S. in communications from East Carolina University and a M.S. in technology management from North Carolina State University.

**William (Bill) Marshall** is the Kenan Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina. Marshall was deputy White House counsel and deputy assistant to the President of the United States during the Clinton Administration and also served as the solicitor general of the State of Ohio. Marshall has published extensively on First Amendment, federal courts and presidential powers issues and is also a leading expert on judicial selection matters. He teaches media law, civil procedure, constitutional law, First Amendment, federal courts, church-state and the law of the presidency. Marshall received his law degree from the University of Chicago and his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a native of Nashua, N.H.

**Alan Mason** is the vice-president and general manager of Time Warner Cable's award-winning, 24-hour North Carolina news network, News 14 Carolina. News 14 Carolina's four regional channels reach over 1.4 million Time Warner Cable subscribers in the Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Wilmington and Morehead City television markets. In January of 2012, News 14 Carolina began producing three half-hour newscasts each weekday for WXLV-TV, ABC45 in Winston-Salem, NC. News 14 Carolina also programs [news14.com](http://news14.com) and Carolina on Demand, a free VOD channel available to Time Warner Cable subscribers in North and South Carolina. Mason has over 35 years of electronic journalism experience, including news director at WLOS-TV in Asheville, NC and strategist with audience research and development in Dallas, TX. A Clemson University graduate, Mason earned an MBA from the Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh.

**Floyd B. McKissick, Jr.**, from Durham, is a Democratic member of the North Carolina Senate.

**Fiona Morgan** is an associate in research at the DeWitt Wallace Center for Media and Democracy at Duke University. She is also a research fellow with the Media Policy Initiative of the New America Foundation. In 2010, she wrote a comprehensive report on the media ecology and information needs of the Triangle area of North Carolina (available at <http://bit.ly/dioBUq>). She has more than 10 years of journalism experience, first as an associate editor at the online magazine Salon.com in

San Francisco, and then a staff writer for the Independent Weekly in Durham, N.C. She holds a Master of Public Policy degree from Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy.

**Perri Morgan** has been a non-profit manager and state public policy advocate in North Carolina for more than 30 years. She is currently working with the UNC Community Development Law Clinic to develop a collaborative non-partisan, online encyclopedia of state government to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. She lives in Raleigh, N.C.

**Stan T. Pace** is the east region director of regulatory and government affairs for Frontier Communications. He has been involved in the telecommunications industry since 1984 with predecessor company GTE. More recently he served as Verizon's corporate public policy director for North Carolina for 10 years.

**Cathy Packer** is co-director of the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy. As the W. Horace Carter Distinguished Professor, she teaches media law and Internet law to undergraduate and graduate students in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her research interests include the legal issues surrounding reporters' use of confidential sources and information and the law on access to government information. She earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota.

**Mary-Rose Papandrea** is an associate professor at Boston College Law School. She teaches courses in constitutional law (including a course devoted to the First Amendment), media law, civil procedure, and national security and civil liberties. She is very interested in the impact of new technology on First Amendment and media law issues. She has written extensively on new technology and the speech rights of students and government employees; "citizen journalism" and the reporter's privilege; and the press and national security information.

**Jane Smith Patterson** has spent more than 30 years working as part of the computer science and telecommunications industry within the university community (6 years), private telecommunications industry (8 years) and state government (16 years). A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, she received her master's from North Carolina State University with additional work at Harvard University. Patterson served as the secretary of administration of the State of North Carolina and as advisor to Governor Jim Hunt for science and technology. She served at universities in positions from assistant professor to research professor to vice chancellor. In the telecommunications industry Patterson served as vice president of ITT Telecom Network Systems Group, was involved in the creation of Alcatel and served as vice president of Alcatel, NA. Patterson is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1983, a 100 top women award in computing in the 1990s and the National Cornerstone Award for Broadband Advocacy in 2011. Patterson has been involved with many of the activities of the new media movement as well as working for civil and equal rights for all citizens.

**Brad Phillips** is vice president of government relations in North Carolina for Time Warner Cable.

**Mark Prak** is a partner in the Raleigh law firm of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey &



Leonard. He has represented communications businesses and state and national trade associations in administrative rule making proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission and other government agencies. Mark has testified before Congressional and state legislative committees and has assisted clients in lobbying and testifying before Congress, the North Carolina General Assembly, and the FCC in efforts to influence debate on broad issues of public policy and on specific problems of concern to only a single client. He has testified as an expert witness on FCC practice and procedure, as well as legal ethics. Since 1992, he has served as visiting lecturer at Duke University's Sanford Institute for Public Policy Sciences and at Duke Law School.

**Courtney Price** is editor of the Denver (N.C.) Weekly.

**John Remensperger** is a first-year master's student in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication. He is interested in the use of information technology to promote dialogue between government agencies and their constituents.

**Orage Quarles** is publisher of The News and Observer.

**Dean Smith** is a legal historian and visiting professor in the journalism school who teaches media law/First Amendment history as well as news and feature writing. He worked as a print journalist in North Carolina for 20 years, at the Winston-Salem Journal, Charlotte Observer, and News & Observer. He earned a master's degree in legal studies at Yale Law School and a Ph.D. in mass communication from UNC. His ongoing research explores relationships between statutory law and constitutional law. And no, he is not related to the basketball coach.

**Tom Stites** is the founder and president of the Banyan Project, which aims to fill a gaping need of the U.S.'s troubled democracy by pioneering a sustainable and scalable business model for Web journalism that is built on the sturdy base of consumer cooperative ownership. As an editor for magazines and for newspapers including The New York Times, Tom has supervised reporting that has won an array of major journalism awards including the Pulitzer Prize; as an entrepreneur he has been the founding publisher of two print magazines and three Web ventures in addition to Banyan. He was a 2010-11 fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard and a 2006 resident fellow of Harvard Divinity School.

**Frank Taylor** has been managing editor of the Lincoln Times-News in Lincolnton, N.C., since 2008. Over the last two decades, Frank has held editing positions with six different newspapers in communities large and small throughout the Southeast. Frank, who has a B.A. in history from Wheaton College of Illinois, is currently enrolled in the new Master's in Technology and Communication program at UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Rick Thames** is the editor of the Charlotte Observer and its web site and CharlotteObserver.com. With more than 150 journalists and correspondents, The Observer is the largest newsgathering organization in the Carolinas. Each week, the newspaper and its web site reach roughly 1 million readers. Thames has worked in newspapers for 33 years. He began as a reporter at the Fayetteville Observer, and later worked as a reporter and local news editor at The Miami News before joining the Charlotte Observer in 1989. In 1997, he became editor of the Wichita Eagle. In 2004, he returned to Charlotte to become the Observer's editor. Thames is past president of the North

Carolina Press Association and co-chair of its Legislative Committee.

**Ryan Thornburg** is leading a Knight News Challenge project aimed at using public records to build financially viable and community relevant web applications in rural North Carolina. He is an assistant professor at UNC's School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the author of the book "Producing Online News: Digital Tools, Stronger Stories." Before joining the UNC faculty in 2007, he held leadership positions in the digital newsrooms at usnews.com, cq.com and washingtonpost.com.

**Steven Waldman** is a former journalist, entrepreneur and bureaucrat. He recently served as senior advisor to the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, where he was the lead author of Information Needs of Communities: The Changing Media Landscape in a Broadband Age. Before that, he was the CEO, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Beliefnet.com, the largest multifaith spirituality website. Previously he had been a journalist with Newsweek, US News & World Report and was the author of the bestselling book, Founding Faith: The Birth of Religious Freedom in America.

**Fran Wescott** is a communications and community relations professional with almost 25 years of experience at two nationally recognized public affairs TV networks. Fran began her association with the N.C. Agency for Public Telecommunications in 1991 as an OPEN/net producer/director. In 1999, Fran left her full-time position, retaining her association with the network as a contract host and producer of OPEN/net, before returning in 2007 as manager of the network. During her time with APT, Fran has worked closely with a wide variety of elected officials, cabinet members, public policy stakeholders and other experts, garnering their participation and support on a wide variety of media projects, employing diverse communications tools. Fran has had an opportunity both to learn about the workings of government and to help connect the citizens of North Carolina to their government and to public issues. In addition to her 20 years of work with the agency, Fran also worked for several years with C-SPAN in Washington, D.C. She earned her bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, majoring in history and minoring in English.

**Rick Willis** became news director at News 14 Carolina in Raleigh in August 2001. He is a N.C. native and a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been news director, assistant news director or executive producer at television newsrooms in Durham, Baton Rouge, La; Minneapolis, Minn; Springfield, Mo.; Houston, Texas; Cincinnati, Ohio and Charlotte. Rick is currently the president of the North Carolina Open Government Coalition.

**Liz Woolery** is a first-year Ph.D. student at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her research interests focus on media law and press coverage of the court system. She received a master's degree in media studies from Syracuse University in 2011. Prior to Syracuse, she spent a year working for a twice-weekly newspaper in Wisconsin and two years with Studio Gang Architects in Chicago, where she helped write a monograph of the firm's work (Reveal, Princeton Architectural Press, 2011).