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UNC
CENTER FOR
MEDIA LAW & POLICY

News and Events

About Us

The UNC Center for Media Law and Policy is an interdisciplinary research center run jointly out of the UNC School of Law and UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The center serves as a forum for study and debate about the broad array of media law and policy issues facing North Carolina, the nation, and the world. The center's work ranges from the legal and policy issues affecting traditional media organizations to the challenges posed by new communication technologies, including social media, the Internet, and mobile technology, and the impact they are having on governments, on the economy, and on cultural and social values throughout the world.

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Fall 2013

News from the Center

The Center has enjoyed a strong start this fall semester. We [welcomed a new chancellor](#) to our annual [First Amendment Day](#) celebration and worked with our partners to establish exciting [new events](#) for this academic year. We also unveiled a new [Media Law and Policy Jobs Center](#), which already lists more than 60 full-time and part-time positions with academic, public and private organizations. We expect that this will be a great resource for professionals and academics pursuing or continuing careers in media law. Please let us know if you have information about a job we should include.

We've also ramped up our [blog](#), where you will find a combination of breaking media law news, commentary and information about our work here at the center.

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Upcoming Events

Interdisciplinary Lunch on Big Data and Computational Politics
On Nov. 1, the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy will host and interdisciplinary lunch focused on "Big Data and Computational Politics" and led by [Dr. Zeynep Tufekci](#). Big data has been used by many actors, including politicians, researchers, and marketers. However, the use of "big data" raises fundamental questions of power, privacy, and surveillance. At this lunch, we will discuss the new challenges of big data in the emerging field of computational politics, the study of social and political phenomena through numerical data.

Hargrove Communications Law and Policy Colloquium: The Future of Television News

On November 4, we are very excited to host the inaugural [Wade H. Hargrove Communications Law and Policy Colloquium](#). Friends and colleagues of Wade Hargrove established the colloquium to honor Mr. Hargrove, a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an accomplished media lawyer, by spurring discussion and debate about national media law and policy issues. This year's colloquium speakers will be David Barrett, chairman and CEO of Hearst Television Inc., and Ben Sherwood, president of ABC News, who will talk about "The Future of Television News." More information about this event is available [here](#).

Hacking Your Future: Lessons from reddit, hipmunk and Breadpig
On November 11th, we are joining with the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication to host [Alexis Ohanian](#) – the co-founder of [reddit](#) – for a talk and networking event around his new book: [Without Their Permission: How the 21st Century Will Be](#)

[Made Not Managed](#). He will be talking about his new book and doing a Q/A with a prominent UNC alum working in the technology sector. More information about the event is available [here](#).

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Recent Events

Interdisciplinary Lunch: Patterns of Information Sharing in Social Networks

On Sept. 27, 2013, the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy hosted an interdisciplinary lunch: "[Patterns of information sharing in social networks: Individual differences or unethical disparities?](#)," led by Dr. [Brian G. Southwell](#). The discussion centered around potential downsides to social networks, which have been hailed for their quick and easy sharing capabilities. Southwell offered examples from his new book, [Social Networks and Popular Understanding of Science and Health: Sharing Disparities](#).

New York Times v. Sullivan, 50th Anniversary Symposium

On October 12, the Center for Media Law and Policy joined with the [First Amendment Law Review](#) to present a symposium that brought together scholars from across the country to discuss the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in [New York Times v. Sullivan](#). The keynote address was given by Ken Paulson, President and CEO of the [First Amendment Law Center](#), followed by a 30 minute Q&A. Panels discussed both the impact of the Sullivan decision on the media and also its broader implications on First Amendment jurisprudence. More information about the event, including videos of the panels and lectures, is available [here](#).

First Amendment Day

In late September, the Center marked another successful [First Amendment Day](#) at UNC-Chapel Hill. Bruce D. Brown, executive director of the [Reporters Committee for the Freedom of the Press](#), gave the keynote. Daytime events included a reading of banned books, musical performances, and panels on a range of First Amendment issues of interest to students. More information about this event, including a video of Brown's keynote, is available [here](#).

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From our Blog

[Ads on Wheels: More First Amendment Problems in the Triangle](#)

Following up on her [previous post](#) about free speech and transit advertising in Chapel Hill, PhD student Liz Woolery discusses a similar controversy that erupted around the Raleigh Transit Authority's decision to prohibit the humane society from purchasing graphic advertisements on the ground that they were "too negative."

[A UNC Student's Summer Experience at the Berkman Center's Digital Media Law Project](#)

Samantha Scheller, a 2L at the UNC School of Law, writes about her summer internship at Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Working at the Berkman Center's [Digital Media Law Project](#), she was exposed to a variety of timely issues in media law, while also learning to explain complicated legal issues in ways that are palatable to journalists and others outside the legal field.

[A UNC Student's Summer Experience at NPR](#)

Kevin Delaney, a 2nd-year student in the MA/JD dual degree program, provides a great round-up of his summer internship at NPR in Washington, DC. Working in the office of the General Counsel, he saw firsthand how legal issues affected both journalists who were researching stories and producers who were deciding how to present content.

[Looking for a Job in Media Law?](#)

William Smith, a 2L at the UNC School of Law, explains our new

Media Law and Policy Jobs Center, including a tutorial in how to use it and our goals in creating it.

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Recent Media Law News

[Tech Wealth and Ideas Are Heading Into News](#)

The New York Times - October 20, 2013

[EU ruling holds website responsible for offensive user comments](#)

The Telegraph - October 18, 2013

[State high court rules governor has executive privilege, with caveats](#)

The Seattle Times - October 17, 2013

[In Aereo Fight, Are Comcast and NBCUniversal at Odds?](#)

Wall Street Journal - October 15, 2013

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Spotlight: Media Law and Policy Resource

Digital Media Law Project Legal Guide

The Berkman Center for Internet and Society's [Digital Media Law Project Legal Guide](#) is a great resource for anyone who is interested in media law, from the budding citizen journalist to the accomplished media law professional. It provides users with resources about publishing online, including national issues and those that arise on a state-by-state level. It also includes how-to guides about the business of journalism, including instructions for forming limited liability corporations (LLCs).

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