



2026 AEJMC First Amendment Award

Nominations Deadline is February 15, 2026

The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) is seeking nominations for the AEJMC First Amendment Award.

The AEJMC First Amendment Award recognizes individuals or organizations who demonstrate a strong commitment to freedom of the press and who practice or support courageous journalism. Created in 2006, the award is presented by AEJMC's Professional Freedom & Responsibility Committee.

Previous recipients of the AEJMC First Amendment Award are Erasmus Baxter, Asia Fields and Julia Furukawa, former Western Washington University student journalists (2025); Errin Haines and the Staff of The 19th (2024); Margaret Sullivan, The Guardian (2023); Steven Waldman of Report for America (2022); Omar Jimenez of CNN (2021); Shane Bauer of Mother Jones (2020); Nikole Hannah-Jones of the New York Times Magazine (2019); Ronan Farrow of the New Yorker and Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey of the New York Times (2018); The Pulitzer Prizes (2017); Reporters Without Borders (2016); Floyd Abrams (2015); Joel Simon of the Committee to Protect Journalists (2014); the First Amendment Center (2013); Carole Simpson (2012); Michael Kirk of Frontline (2011); Nat Hentoff (2010); Seymour Hersh of the New Yorker (2009); Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune (2008); Helen Thomas of UPI and Hearst (2007); and Molly Ivins (2006).

Nominations require only the following:

- The name and affiliation of the nominee
- A supporting statement of no more than 200 words explaining why the person or organization deserves consideration for this award

(Note that AEJMC members are not eligible to receive this award.)

To receive the award, the nominee must be available to attend the AEJMC annual conference and speak about the work being recognized.

Nominations are due **on or before 5 PM EST, February 15, 2026**, to Meg Heckman, Northeastern University, at m.heckman@northeastern.edu. Please address any questions to Heckman.

The PF&R Committee will select the recipient, and the award will be presented at a session during AEJMC's 2026 Annual Conference in New Orleans.