



U.S. v. Alvarez: Sup. Court considers “right to lie”

On February 22, the U.S. Supreme Court held a hearing on the constitutionality of the Stolen Valor Act of 2005, which makes it a federal crime to falsely represent oneself to have been awarded a military medal or ribbon. The Freedom to Read Foundation filed an *amicus curiae* brief in this case, asking the Court to overturn the Act on the grounds that the law creates a new category of unprotected speech that is contrary to long-standing legal precedents holding that the First Amendment protects non-fraudulent, non-defamatory false speech.

Xavier Alvarez was indicted in 2007 after he falsely told an audience, among several other lies, that he had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Alvarez pleaded guilty on the condition that he be allowed to appeal on First Amendment grounds. In August 2010, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed Alvarez’s conviction and found the Stolen Valor Act unconstitutional in a 2–1 decision. (Notably, in *U.S. v. Hinkston*, a

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FTRF Philadelphia Meet & Greet!

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 8:00–10:00 p.m.
During the Public Library Association Conference

Loews Philadelphia Hotel • SoleFood Lounge
1200 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

Join Freedom to Read Foundation members, trustees, and staff for dessert and conversation in a casual environment. FTRF members get a free drink!

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FTRF board approves strategic plan

By Kent Oliver, FTRF President

At the Freedom to Read Foundation’s Midwinter Meeting in January, the Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan to help us map out our strategies for the coming years. We have reprinted the bulk of the plan on pages 4–5 of this issue of *Freedom to Read Foundation News*. The entire plan, including background and details of our “SWOT” analysis, can be found at www.ftrf.org.

The strategic plan addresses five critical action areas: awareness, litigation, education, engagement, and capacity building. Specific objectives include strategies to increase FTRF’s membership both within and beyond the library world; to develop a more proactive legal strategy that will see FTRF taking the lead as the plaintiff in critical lawsuits intended to protect and preserve First Amendment rights; to expand FTRF’s educational mission; and to identify and mentor the next generation of intellectual freedom leaders. We have already begun the process of implementing the plan, with work underway toward a new and improved website, better membership materials, and educational programs for attorneys, librarians, and library students.

My thanks to ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels (who serves on the FTRF Board in an ex-officio capacity), Executive Director Barbara Jones, and the rest of the Board from the past two years for their hard work in producing what I feel is a vital road map for this truly irreplaceable organization.

See the new Freedom to Read Foundation strategic plan on p. 4–5.

Slate for FTRF election

Eleven candidates for the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees have been slated for the 2012 election by the Nominating Committee, composed of Trustees Judith Platt, Chris Finan, and James G. Neal, Chair. There are five vacancies on the Board to be filled.

Candidates for Freedom to Read Foundation Board, 2012–2014

J. Douglas (Doug) Archer, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN

Christopher Bowen, Westmont, IL

Carol Brey-Casiano, U.S. Department of State, Brasilia, Brazil

Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., Library of Congress, Washington, DC

Pamela R. Klipsch, Jefferson County Library, High Ridge, MO

Charles Kratz, The University of Scranton Weinberg Library, Scranton, PA

Mary Minow, LibraryLaw.com, Cupertino, CA

Judith Platt, Association of American Publishers, Washington, DC

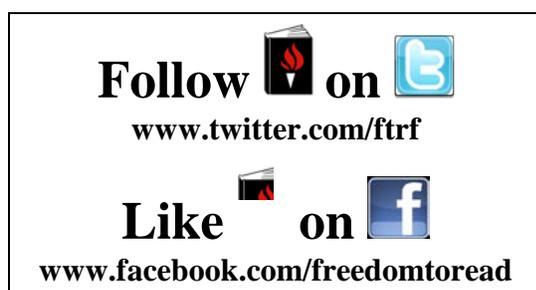
Raymond Santiago, Miami-Dade County Library System, Miami, FL

Eric Suess, Marshall Public Library, Pocatello ID

Nancy P. Zimmerman, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

According to FTRF election rules, at least two, and no more than three, candidates must be nominated for each Board vacancy. Trustees are elected to two-year terms.

Ballots will be mailed April 1 to all persons holding paid memberships in the Foundation as of that date. To join or renew your membership, call (800) 545-2433 x4226 or visit www.ftrf.org.



Supreme Court hears “Stolen Valor” case

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similar case in Colorado, the Tenth Circuit in 2011 upheld the Stolen Valor Act in a 2–1 ruling.)

FTRF’s *amicus* brief, filed with other members of the Media Coalition, argues that, unlike in cases of defamation and fraud, there is no exception to the First Amendment for a government-imposed “test of truth,” and that enforcement of such a test would chill the speech of law-abiding media and other entities that distribute information. Exaggerations or even mistakes are not exempted from the Stolen Valor Act.

Other organizations filing briefs in support of Mr. Alvarez include the ACLU, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression. Those filing *amicus* briefs in support of the government include the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and attorneys general of 20 states.

All the briefs in the case, along with the transcript of the oral argument, can be found at www.mediacoalition.org.

Conable Conference Scholarship applications now open

Applications are now open for the 2012 Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship, which will enable a library school student or new professional to attend ALA’s 2012 Annual Conference, held June 21–26 in Anaheim, Calif. The goal of the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship is to advance two principles that Conable held dear: intellectual freedom and mentorship.

The scholarship provides for conference registration, transportation, housing for six nights and six days per diem. In return, the recipient will be expected to attend various FTRF and other intellectual freedom meetings and events at the conference, consult with a mentor/board member and present a report about their experiences. The recipient also will be invited, although not required, to provide daily updates about his or her experience on the Freedom to Read Foundation blog.

The deadline for submitting an application for the 2012 Conable Scholarship is Friday, April 6; the award will be announced in May.

Who is eligible: Students currently enrolled in an ALA-accredited library and information studies degree program or an AASL-recognized master's program in school librarianship and new professionals (those who are three or fewer years removed from receiving a library school degree) are eligible to receive the Conable Scholarship. Those interested must submit an application that includes two references and an essay detailing their interest in intellectual freedom issues. Applicants also are required to attach a résumé. If the recipient is already registered for ALA's Annual Conference, he or she will have the conference fee refunded.

To apply for the Gordon M. Conable Conference Scholarship, visit www.ftrf.org. For more information, please contact Jonathan Kelley at (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226 or jokelley@ala.org.

Gordon Conable was a California librarian and intellectual freedom champion who served several terms as president of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Following his unexpected death in 2005, his wife and FTRF created the Conable Fund, which provides funding for the Conable Scholarship.

Judith Krug Fund Banned Books Week grant applications to open March 20

Applications for the 2012 Judith F. Krug Fund Banned Books Week event grants, sponsored by the Freedom to Read Foundation, will open on March 20. Multiple grants of \$1,000 and \$2,500 will be given to organizations in support of "Read-Outs" or other activities that celebrate the freedom to read. Banned Books Week 2012 will be held September 30–October 6.

In January, the FTRF Board of Trustees voted to become an official sponsor of Banned Books Week.

Applicants are required to submit an event description, timeline and budget with their application, as well as agree to provide a written report and video to FTRF following Banned Books Week. For more information on Banned Books Week, visit www.ala.org/bbooks.

Applications for the grants will be accepted through May 11, 2012.

A video and photo slideshow featuring the six recipients of 2011 Krug Fund grants can be seen at www.ftrf.org.

Contact Jonathan Kelley at jokelley@ala.org, or call (800) 545-2433, ext. 4226, with questions.

Judith F. Krug, FTRF's first Executive Director, was passionate about Banned Books Week and defending the freedom to read. After her death in 2009, the Judith F. Krug Memorial Fund was established to guarantee that the message of Banned Books Week would continue to spread and grow around the United States. 2012 marks the 30th celebration of Banned Books Week.

News & Notes

Theresa Chmara video now available: As a benefit for Freedom to Read Foundation members, FTRF General Counsel Theresa Chmara has recorded a video providing an overview of FTRF's current litigation activities, along with information on precedents and helpful explanations of legal principles and terminology. This 20-minute video is available to all individual and organizational members of the Freedom to Read Foundation. To view the video, contact Jonathan Kelley at jokelley@ala.org.

Mariana Tax Choldin wins Downs Award: Mariana Tax Choldin was the recipient of the 2011 Robert B. Downs Intellectual Freedom Award given by the faculty of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Choldin, former University of Illinois Slavic bibliographer, head of the Slavic and East European Library, director of the Russian and East European Center, and Mortenson Distinguished Professor and director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs, was honored for her lifelong support of intellectual freedom. Accepting the award on her behalf was past ALA president Barbara Ford.

First Amendment pioneer Barney Rosset dies: On February 21, 2012, famed publisher Barney Rosset passed away at age 89. His publication via Grove Press of classics such as *Lady Chatterly's Lover* and *Tropic of Cancer* and his willingness to challenge bans of such material in court helped establish legal precedent that serves to counter censorship efforts to this day.

FTRF Strategic Plan

I. STRATEGIC PLAN

A. FOUNDING PURPOSE AND MISSION

Visit www.ftrf.org for this content.

B. VISION

The Freedom to Read Foundation is recognized as a national leader in the defense of the freedom to read, the freedom of speech and the freedom of the press. Librarians are joined in membership and advocacy by authors, booksellers, publishers and all citizens who recognize the importance of First Amendment freedoms. FTRF initiates the defense of the First Amendment in our courts when necessary as well as joining other organizations in litigation. Collaborations reflect a wide array of political affiliations with the defense of the First Amendment as the common goal.

Legal initiatives and awareness campaigns are supported through a growing funding base generated by member dues, grants and private contributions. Financial support allows for a well staffed and supported foundation business office. As the legal arm of the American Library Association, ALA members are engaged and aware of foundation activities. The FTRF membership base is expanding as a growing number of ALA members join and contribute. A well crafted marketing plan contributes to this expanding membership base while telling the Foundation's story to the American public.

FTRF supports library based campaigns and celebrations that recognize and promote the right of access along with the diversity of information. First Amendment education campaigns are developed by foundation staff in collaboration with members and the Board. As does the membership, the makeup of the Foundation's Board reflects a diversity of background and professions. The common bond is the defense against injustices by those who attempt to subvert freedoms through the suppression of information and censorship.

C. FTRF'S ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

- FTRF collaborates with individuals and organizations that share a commitment not only to intellectual freedom

principles, but also to practical action to defend these principles.

- FTRF engages in and upholds the intellectual rigor of intellectual freedom and other legal and ethical issues.
- FTRF has successfully protected First Amendment principles in the U. S. Supreme Court and other "establishment" institutions. This is a source of great pride and professional satisfaction.
- While FTRF has successfully raised funds for important litigation, this work isn't just about money. It's about protecting the freedom to read through advocacy but also through education and public awareness of these issues.

II. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

A. AWARENESS

Objective 1: Expand FTRF membership base, within the library world.

Strategy 1: Invest in expert assistance to develop marketing strategies.

Strategy 2: Increase awareness, value, and understanding of FTRF within ALA membership. This will be done by (a) revising the opt-in option on the ALA membership form; (b) formal display at ALA conferences; and (c) FTRF will appear on all major division board agendas.

Strategy 3: New membership materials for librarians and non-librarians will be developed for social networking and in print form, promoting the Foundation's value.

Objective 2: Expand FTRF membership base, outside the library world.

Strategy 1: Cultivate a stable of celebrities to speak for FTRF.

Strategy 2: Develop a marketing plan to clarify the uniqueness of FTRF.

Strategy 3: Continue to develop an optimistic, positive message that is pro-family and pro-freedom of speech.

Strategy 4: Develop a new newsletter design and a more distinct web presence.

Objective 3: Promote FTRF to ALA leadership.

Strategy 1: Provide an update of current activities.

Strategy 2: Provide information and professional camaraderie through social gatherings and other venues.

B. LITIGATION

Objective 1: Continue to be the premier center of excellence for litigation action and consultation on behalf of intellectual freedom in libraries.

Objective 2: Develop a proactive legal strategy and take the lead in appropriate litigation.

Strategy 1: Determine the budget needed to adopt a proactive legal strategy.

Strategy 2: Enhance information flow with an FTRF Action Network.

Strategy 3: Request Counsel to (a) monitor freedom to read controversies; (b) bring to the Board's attention those potentially suitable for handling by the Foundation; (c) make a recommendation, based on, *inter alia*, the fact, the forum, the law, and the potential impact, as to whether initiation of a lawsuit in connection with a particular dispute would be advisable; and (d) identify appropriate local counsel and possibly co-counsel.

Strategy 4: Continue to monitor anticipated growth in relevant privacy litigation, including e-books and other developing technology related to content delivery.

C. EDUCATION

Objective 1: Develop an FTRF web site as a platform for educational and other initiatives.

Objective 2: Work with ALISE on further integration and inclusion of intellectual freedom in the LIS curriculum.

Objective 3: Continue Lawyers for Libraries, now in a webinar format, and a webinar series for attorneys who are not First Amendment specialists.

Objective 4: Consider conference programs at ALA and state conventions.

Objective 5: Monitor opportunities for education in the new digital environment, especially in the area of reader privacy, e-books, and related issues. This work will be coordinated with the work of the IFC Privacy Subcommittee and the new ALA Subgroup on Privacy (part of the Digital Content Working Group).

D. ENGAGEMENT

Objective 1: Identify and mentor the next generation of FTRF leaders.

Objective 2: Increase Board involvement.

Strategy 1: Appoint FTRF liaisons to key association committees.

Strategy 2: Invite division and other unit liaisons to attend FTRF meetings.

Strategy 3: Expand Nominating Committee's role to include nominating the slate for the FTRF Executive Committee.

Strategy 4: Continue the already successful "emerging issues" discussions and follow up and possibly refer such issues to the IFC for consideration.

Strategy 5: Identify activities for more active engagement of FTRF Board with the membership.

Objective 3: Evaluate collaborative opportunities with current and future organizations.

Strategy 1: Continue to re-evaluate FTRF's relationships with collaborators.

Strategy 2: Establish new relationships with different organizations, specifically with ALA chapters, ALISE, and law school graduates.

Strategy 3: Continue our strong ties to the bookselling and publishing community.

E. CAPACITY BUILDING

Objective 1: Consider such additional organizational positions as legal consultant, membership specialist, communications specialist, and program planner.

Objective 2: Upgrade office technology to keep track of membership and other office functions.

Objective 3: Double the FTRF endowment by 2015.

Strategy 1: Invest in expert assistance to analyze fundraising potential, in order to (a) determine feasible capacity to pursue grants and the realistic proportion of support that could be achieved through grants; (b) identify possible funders in order to prepare proposals.

Strategy 2: Establish Advisory Committee to jumpstart fundraising or capital campaign efforts.

Strategy 3: Develop sustainable operation for fundraising including ongoing donor stewardship and realistic expectations of support that is achievable.

Results of FTRF Membership survey

By John Chrastka, AssociaDirect

A key part of implementing the new Strategic Plan for the Freedom to Read Foundation is to learn more about members' perceptions of our work. In order to ask good questions that would yield actionable results, FTRF member leaders and staff worked with AssociaDirect, a Chicago-based consulting firm that specializes in issue-oriented associations, to develop the survey. The survey was in the field from December 19, 2011 through January 5, 2012 in both online and paper versions. A total of 338 members replied. All replies were anonymous and responses were only used in the aggregate.

The survey was divided into five segments focusing on FTRF's mission and governance, perceptions among the membership about FTRF's effectiveness, lifestyle habits of the membership concerning media consumption and personal identification with other organizations, member demographics, and the members' attitudes around voluntary giving. While no questions were "required," each was answered at a rate that provides a high level of certainty about the responses.

Key Findings

AssociaDirect believes that FTRF can use this data to effectively plan and develop messaging for new and existing audiences. Survey results also will act as a baseline about member attitudes as FTRF begins to implement the Strategic Plan. Certain aspects of FTRF's core mission and purpose resonate more immediately with members than others. The data provide a clear pathway for member education and messaging about emerging or developing initiatives. In addition, there is actionable information about member attitudes toward planned giving and development opportunities.

Mission

FTRF's mission of Litigation, Education and Grants resonates with members. Litigation and Education were the most important areas of focus among members. The difference between them is not significant.

- Over 90% (92.6%) of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF is focused on its core mission and purpose."
- Nearly 81% of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF is well respected among civil liberties and free speech groups."

- Nearly 75% of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF is an effectively managed and well-governed organization."
- Over 88% of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF leadership are thought-leaders on Intellectual Freedom issues."

Perceptions

Not surprisingly, FTRF was rated as "most effective" in fulfilling its mission in two key areas of the Courts and Libraries, with 80% of respondents rating them both at 7 or higher on a ten-point effectiveness scale. The perception of FTRF in Coalitions was generally positive with the majority of respondents scoring FTRF at 7 or higher. Perceptions of respondents about FTRF in the Media and among the Public are softer, though, with the highest scores clustered in the mid-range. These areas have been identified for growth and attention in the strategic plan, however, and likely will improve over time.

- Over 80% of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF is well respected among civil liberties and free speech groups."
- Over 86% of respondents "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" that "FTRF is a leader in the library community on emerging issues."

An interesting data point is that nearly 80% believe that FTRF should work outside of traditional library and publishing circles to attract members. It is also notable that over 50% of respondents self-identify as belonging to the ACLU; fewer than 10% each report membership in the Electronic Frontier Foundation or the National Coalition Against Censorship.

Membership Demographics

Respondents to the survey are largely white (90%) and female (76%), with 91.5% reporting "No" when asked about disability status. Nearly 77% of respondents reported holding an ALA Accredited MLS/MLIS with 32.9% also holding a Masters, 9.3% a PhD and 2.4% a JD as the "highest degree achieved." The 55–64 year old cohort is most represented, at 35.5%. Include those 65–74 and nearly 60% of the membership is approaching or has achieved retirement age.

This is borne out with self-reporting on place of employment, with slightly over 50% reporting that they are a public, academic or school librarian and fully 27.5% reporting as "retired." The remaining respondents are distributed across publishing, legal and non-profit careers. Respondents to this survey are evenly distributed by "years of membership."

Lifestyle Habits

In an effort to learn more about new audiences for membership recruitment, this survey asked a series of questions about current members' media and lifestyle habits. As could be expected, FTRF members are highly engaged with a wide variety of media sources, including at least weekly viewing of PBS by 51%, weekly listening to NPR by 70% and weekly readership of a major newspaper by 80.5% of respondents. In addition, they are networked socially with nearly 83% reporting to be on Facebook, 27% on Google+ and 26% using Twitter. An additional 40% also report accessing content on YouTube on at least a weekly basis.

There is a high overlap between FTRF and ALA membership with only 3% reporting they are not currently (84.6%) or formerly (12.5%) holding ALA membership. Nearly 80% are members of an ALA state chapter or Affiliated organization. Nearly 40% of respondents hold membership in another professional society outside of librarianship.

Development and Giving

FTRF members have a long history of charitable giving beyond dues. This survey asked specific questions about the attitude of respondents to specific types of solicitations. Please note that in framing the questions, no option to "decline" or "choose not to answer" was offered for giving-related questions. Even so, 83% of survey respondents chose to engage these questions and offer answers. However, it should be noted that 17% of the respondents chose to skip these questions.

Over 61% of respondents indicate a willingness to be a part of an annual giving campaign and a further 36.7% indicate a willingness to make a one-time gift "in addition to membership dues." This is a dramatic and important finding. AssociaDirect strongly recommends FTRF build upon this interest with a stand-alone annual campaign that is contra-cyclical to the dues renewal cycle and has a discrete annual theme and focus. In addition, senior leadership should develop a plan to reach out to the 7% who indicated a willingness to incorporate FTRF into estate planning.

Conclusion

Through the member survey, a picture of the attitudes and affinities that current members have for FTRF has emerged. This information will allow FTRF to improve its messaging to librarians, publishers and the legal community. In addition, the survey provides a solid base from which to invite support from the public—through membership or donations—for our issues.

Report to Council

2012 Midwinter Meeting — Dallas, TX

The following is a condensed version of the report presented to the ALA Council at the 2012 Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, TX. The full original version can be found online at www.ftrf.org.

As President of the Freedom to Read Foundation, it is my privilege to report on the Foundation's activities since the 2011 Annual Conference:

Strategic Plan: Securing the Future, Renewing Our Commitment

In October 2010, FTRF's Board of Trustees met in Chicago to examine the Foundation's strengths and weaknesses and envision the Foundation's future achievements. The result of this process was a year-long effort to develop a strategic plan for FTRF that would allow FTRF to grow its membership and enlarge its role as a national leader in the defense of the freedom to read, speak, and publish. I am pleased to report that the Board concluded that process here in Dallas, adopting a plan that we believe will secure the Foundation's future and assure that FTRF will remain the premier legal advocate for intellectual freedom in libraries.

The strategic plan addresses five critical action areas: awareness, litigation, education, engagement, and capacity building. [See p. 4–5 for the full plan.]

As a first step in implementing this process, FTRF has already begun a broad membership initiative with several aspects, including renewed outreach to ALA chapters, AASL affiliates, academic libraries, and several other targeted groups. Additionally, FTRF hired former ALA Membership Director John Chrastka and his new firm, AssociaDirect, to survey its members and reach out to the general public to better learn what messages resonate with the public and to deliver recommendations for achieving our goals.

ALA's support for FTRF is crucial to this process, and much appreciated. Keith Michael Fiels was particularly helpful in completing the strategic plan. Your individual membership—and the organizational membership of your institutions—is a key part of our work of defending the freedom to speak and the freedom to read; it also supports a growing slate of educational programs that foster the next generation of intellectual freedom advocates.

Engaging in Litigation: The Freedom to Speak
People of the State of Michigan v. Kwame Kilpatrick, challenges the Michigan “Son of Sam” law, which bars any person convicted of a crime from collecting any profits from the sale of his or her memories of the crime until court-ordered restitution is paid in full. Both the Supreme Court and the highest courts of other states have uniformly struck down such laws as a violation of the First Amendment. A Michigan county prosecutor is attempting to enforce the law against former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who wrote and published a memoir titled, *Surrender: The Rise, Fall & Revelation of Kwame Kilpatrick*, following his conviction for obstruction of justice.

Both the trial and appellate courts summarily rejected Kilpatrick’s First Amendment arguments, and Kilpatrick now is seeking review by the Michigan Supreme Court. On November 1, FTRF joined AAP, ABFFE and PEN American Center to file an *amicus* brief in support of Kilpatrick. The brief asks the Michigan Supreme Court to review the lower courts’ decisions on the grounds that the Michigan law is a content-based speech restriction on speech of public concern.

United States v. Alvarez Should the government be allowed to punish non-defamatory, non-fraudulent false speech? [See p. 1–2 for details of this case].

Monitoring Litigation: The Freedom to Read
FTRF has been monitoring *Bradburn et al. v. North Central Regional Library District*, since 2006. Three library users, represented by the ACLU of Washington State, filed suit in federal district court to challenge the library system’s refusal to honor requests by adult patrons to temporarily disable the filter for sessions of uncensored reading and research. After many years of wrangling and a side trip to the Washington State Supreme Court, the federal district court finally heard oral arguments on the parties’ motion for summary judgment this past October. The parties are now waiting for a decision from the court.

Hunter v. City of Salem, MO and the Board of Trustees, Salem Public Library, charges the Salem Public Library and its board of trustees with unconstitutionally blocking access to websites discussing minority religions by using filtering software that improperly classifies the sites as “occult” or “criminal.” Plaintiff Hunter alleges that the Salem Public Library director refused to unblock portions of websites discussing astrology, Native American religions, and Wicca that were blocked by the library’s filter and told Hunter that the library was required to report any person who accessed such sites to the police.

PFLAG, Inc. v. Camdenton R-III School District, challenges the Internet filtering practices of a school district in Missouri. The plaintiffs allege that the school district’s custom-built Internet filtering software includes a viewpoint-discriminatory category called “sexuality,” which blocks all LGBT-supportive information, including many websites that are not sexually explicit in any way. The filtering software does, however, allow students to view sites that criticize homosexuality. The lawsuit argues that the district must either unblock the discriminatory “sexuality” filter or obtain other filtering software that is capable of filtering content in a viewpoint-neutral manner. [Update: on February 15, the U.S. District Court ordered Camdenton School District to stop filtering LGBT-positive web content.]

Developing Issues

Our Developing Issues Committee identified four emerging issues that may impact intellectual freedom in libraries and give rise to future litigation: the growing use and promotion of labeling and ratings systems for children’s literature; threats to public employees’ right to speak out publicly on matters of public concern; new immigration laws that compel libraries to verify a user’s citizenship before issuing a library card; and the recent adoption of a new reader privacy law in California.

FTRF Author Event

Last night, after the submission of this report, FTRF held its annual Banned Author Event at the Dallas Public Library, featuring bestselling Young Adult author John Green, author of the challenged book “Looking for Alaska” and the new “The Fault in Our Stars.” The event raised thousands of dollars for the Conable Fund, which provides conference scholarships to library science students and new librarians who demonstrate a commitment to intellectual freedom in the library. [See video of John Green’s talk at tinyurl.com/johngreen-ftfrf]

Respectfully submitted,
Kent Oliver,
President, Freedom to Read Foundation

Freedom to Read Foundation News (ISSN 0046-5038) is issued quarterly to all members of the Freedom to Read Foundation. Regular FTRF membership begins at \$35.00 per year for individuals and \$100.00 for organizations. Student membership is \$10.00. Contributions to FTRF should be sent to: Freedom to Read Foundation, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. You also can join by phone at (800) 545-2433 x4226 or at www.ftfrf.org/joinftfrf. FTRF is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible.