



SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM
AND MASS COMMUNICATION
DRAKE UNIVERSITY
DES MOINES, IA 50311

IFOIC (515) 271-2295
EMC (515) 271-2295
FAX (515) 271-2798
www.ifoic.org

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

- AMES DAILY TRIBUNE
- CEDAR RAPIDS GAZETTE COMPANY
- CITYVIEW
- DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE COMPANY
- IOWA BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION
- IOWA CUBS
- IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
- IOWA PUBLIC TELEVISION
- KCCI-TV, DES MOINES
HEARST - ARGYLE TELEVISION, INC.
- KCRG-TV, CEDAR RAPIDS
CEDAR RAPIDS TELEVISION COMPANY
- MEDIACOM
- MEREDITH CORPORATION
- QUAD-CITY TIMES
- WHO-TV, DES MOINES
LOCAL TV, LLC
- WOODWARD COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TELEGRAPH HERALD, DYERSVILLE
COMMERCIAL, CASCADE PIONEER

FIRST AMENDMENT MEMBERS

- AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF IOWA
- ASSOCIATED PRESS, IOWA BUREAU
- GREENLEE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
- THE HAWK EYE, BURLINGTON
- IOWA ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE
- IOWA ASSOCIATION OF PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS
- IOWA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS
- IOWA BROADCAST NEWS ASSOCIATION
- IOWA HIGH SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION
- IOWA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
- IOWA STATE DAILY
- SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION,
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Aug. 8, 2012

The Hon. Mark Cady
Chief justice
Iowa Supreme Court
Iowa Judicial Branch Building
1111 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Justice Cady:

The Iowa Freedom of Information Council, as the central coordinator of the state's Expanded Media Coverage program, requests that the Iowa Supreme Court open a discussion into whether Iowa Court Rules Chapter 25 should be updated to better reflect new technology and newsgathering practices.

At a meeting of Iowa judges and journalists held in Des Moines earlier this year, discussion turned quickly to the fact that both groups have been wrestling with how to accommodate the reality of new media within the current EMC rules. While there haven't been any serious problems thus far (primarily because of the flexibility shown by Iowa's judges and a shared recognition of the value of an open judicial system), issues have been addressed on an ad hoc basis. The current rules were adopted in 1979; a 2006 amendment dealt only with coverage of the appellate courts.

Judges and regional EMC coordinators are dealing with blogging, live chats and Tweeting from the courtroom; still cameras that shoot HD video; photos from cell phone cameras or other electronic devices such as tablets; live streaming of court proceedings onto the web; the current limits on the number of devices allowed in the courtroom, and the definition of who qualifies as a member of the "news media" for purposes of EMC.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with the judiciary to address these issues.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Richardson

Kathleen Richardson
Executive secretary, Iowa Freedom of Information Council
And central coordinator, Expanded Media Coverage program

"There are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of expression by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations." JAMES MADISON, 1778