

**NEW MEDIA AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY
EDUCATING FOR CITIZENSHIP
DECEMBER 4, 2009**

Welcome---Paul Chan, President-Elect, Colorado Bar Association

Panelists

Tom Kelley is a partner in the Denver office of the national media law firm, Levine Sullivan Koch and Schulz. He has represented the news media, including most of the newspapers in the Rocky Mountain Region, for more than 30 years. Tom is General Counsel to the Colorado Press Association and President of the Colorado Freedom of Information Council.

Adrienne Russell is a professor of Digital Media Studies at the University of Denver. Her research and teaching focus on emerging forms of digital communication and the rise in participation among members of the public in the production and distribution of media. She co-edited the book *International Blogging* and she is currently writing a book on the emergent practices and products of journalism called *Networked: a Contemporary History of News in Transition*. She has taught at the American University of Paris, University of California at Berkeley, University of Southern California and Indiana University. More of Adrienne's current projects and interests can be found at her website: <http://adrienne.typepad.com/>

Ben Bohmfalk is a social studies teacher at Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale, Colorado. He has developed curriculum and led trainings for civic education organizations in the U.S. and abroad, with a recent focus on the role of social networking and new media in civic education. He is the developer of the Level 2 Project Citizen Teacher Guide. He also serves as chairman of Carbondale's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Thomas Jefferson to Edward Carrington, 1877

The basis of our governments being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them.

Newspapers in Peril: What Would Jefferson Think?

Gene Policinski, vice president, executive director, First Amendment Center

When Thomas Jefferson made this observation in 1787, he made two assumptions. One, that there would be newspapers. And two, that those papers would contain both a critical mass of information that citizens of a democracy would use in governing themselves, and serve as a check and balance on the power and reach of government itself. More than two centuries later, both of Jefferson's assumptions are being put to the test.

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