



*The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Vermont Presents*

## THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION IN A CHANGING WORLD

**What:** A day-long conference for attorneys, policy-makers, private citizens, educators, and others who want to explore First Amendment free expression rights in the digital age.

**Overview:** How does the First Amendment fit in a world transformed by technology?

Cable, satellite, wi-fi, cell phones, IM, Facebook, MySpace, e-mail, digital photos, tweeting, sexting, and cyber-bullying. Even Benjamin Franklin — perhaps the most technologically sophisticated of all the framers of our Constitution — would likely have a hard time placing rights developed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Yet many of the issues underlying free thought and expression are not new, even though the means of transmission are.

Join us as we explore how the Constitution is being asked to do more — to answer difficult questions defining our freedoms in a world of new technologies and myriad conflicts.

The morning session will begin with an overview of First Amendment rights, and how courts have been ruling in free speech cases. An examination of specific issues that have occurred in Vermont in the last several years will be reviewed and analyzed.

The afternoon session will focus on freedom in cyberspace and challenges posed by digital technologies. A new state law on “sexting” will be examined, details of a U.S. District Court case involving laptop searches at the border with Canada will be discussed, and the issue of cyber-bullying — and whether schools can discipline students for out-of-school misconduct — will be reviewed.

**Where & When:** Monday, June 29, 2009, Windjammer Conference Center at the Best Western Hotel, 1076 Williston Rd., South Burlington, VT

**Who:** The conference is designed for attorneys, citizens, community leaders, policy-makers, legislators, and educators – in short, anyone with an interest in First Amendment free expression rights in the digital age. Attorneys will earn 4 hours of Continuing Legal Education credits by attending the conference.

**Presenters:** More details about the presenters will be made available on the ACLU-VT Web site, [www.acluvt.org](http://www.acluvt.org).

**CLE Credit:** Attorneys may earn 4 hours of Continuing Legal Education credits by attending the conference.

**Registration:** The registration deadline is Tuesday, June 23. See registration form on page 3.

**Directions:** **From I-89**, take Exit 14E onto Williston Road (Route 2). Turn left at the third set of traffic lights to the Windjammer Conference Center at the Best Western Hotel.

**From Burlington**, take Main Street, which turns into Williston Road (Route 2). Shortly after going over I-89, turn left at the third set of traffic lights to the Windjammer Conference Center at the Best Western Hotel.

**Accessibility:** The ACLUF is committed to making this program accessible to all individuals regardless of disability. Please let us know of any special needs.

**For info:** For more information, call the ACLU at (802) 223-6304, ext. 114, or e-mail us at [info@acluvt.org](mailto:info@acluvt.org).

# AGENDA

- 9:00a      **Registration**
- 9:30        **Welcome**  
*Allen Gilbert, executive director, ACLU-VT*
- 9:45        **Recent Developments in First Amendment Law**  
The First Amendment hasn't stood still as the nation's been wired, hot-spots have been built, and friends have been invited to join Facebook accounts.  
  
*Dan Barrett, staff attorney, ACLU-Vermont*
- 10:30      **Panel Discussion — The (local) Exercise of Free Speech**  
Speech and other forms of expression are vibrant and dynamic in Vermont, thanks in part to technology as well as “edgy” youth culture. Could Burlington Telcom have censored the Al Jazeera-English channel by deleting it from cable offerings, as some demanded? What free speech issues were involved in the Burton Snowboard marketing campaign that relied on images found offensive by some critics?  
  
Two attorneys will present the cases for discussion. (*Presenters to be announced — check our Web site, [www.acluvt.org](http://www.acluvt.org), for updates.*)
- 11:45      **Break and Lunch**
- 1:00p      **Freedom in Cyberspace**  
Do digital technologies make us more free or less free? Should speech and privacy protections be bent to the new realities of ubiquitous, instant forms of communication?  
  
*Catherine Crump, National ACLU First Amendment Working Group attorney*
- 1:30        **Panel Discussion — Approaches to Regulating Speech**  
**Sexting**  
What is it and why did the Legislature outlaw it?  
**Border searches of laptop hard drives**  
Is any digital information safe from search and seizure when traveling, especially across an international border?  
**Cyber-bullying and school sanctions for out-of-school misconduct**  
Can schools punish students for conduct that occurs outside of school but — because of technology — may reach into the school?  
*Panelists: Julie Kalish, attorney, Dartmouth College lecturer in writing; Dan Barrett, ACLU-VT staff attorney; and additional panelist to be announced (check [www.acluvt.org](http://www.acluvt.org) for updates).*
- 3:00        **Safe trip home**

# REGISTRATION

## REGISTRATION FORM

### THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION IN A CHANGING WORLD

Monday, June 29, 2009

#### Please return form with payment to:

ACLUF-VT  
137 Elm Street  
Montpelier, Vermont 05602  
*(make check payable to "ACLUF-VT")*

#### Registration Fee (includes coffee & lunch):

- CLE Rate — Attorneys. . . . . \$135
- CLE Rate — ACLU Member Attorneys. . . \$110  
*If you're not already a member, you may  
enclose a separate check for \$20 payable  
to "ACLU"*
- Lay Person Rate . . . . . \$35
  - Not including lunch . . . . . \$15
- Students, Seniors, or Limited Income . . . \$25
  - Not including lunch . . . . . \$5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration deadline: Tuesday, June 23**

- Find more details, as available, about the presenters on our Web site, [www.acluvt.org](http://www.acluvt.org).
- **Questions?** Call the ACLU at (802) 223-6304, or e-mail us at [info@acluvt.org](mailto:info@acluvt.org).



The ACLUF is committed to making this program accessible to all individuals regardless of disability. Please let us know of any special needs.