

These awards, in a short time, will take their place among the most sought-after prizes and will provide a needed incentive for writers and related thinkers to advocate afresh for the central importance of the First Amendment's defense of the freedom of speech.

This is as needed today as ever. Declining levels of civic literacy threaten to sever a younger generation from their country's rich inheritance of order, justice, and freedom—which makes them prey to false panaceas that include curtailing free speech and expression.



*Ian Rowe and John Wood Jr discussing current debates about equity as part of a Kirk on Campus event.*

Today, with the rise of disinformation in social media and curbs on free speech and expression on campuses, workplaces, public spaces, and corporate boardrooms, reinforcing and advancing this most fundamental freedom is an urgent task.

As such, the McLellan Prizes draw attention to the central importance of the free speech tradition, particularly recognizing those doing the most original and exciting work in that area. They recognize and encourage talented thinkers, creators, and communicators capable of rearticulating the perennial significance of the First Amendment, and transmitting a better understanding of the freedoms it secures for all.