

National Blue-Ribbon Judging Panel

An expert National Blue-Ribbon Panel of distinguished judges composed of individuals of various perspectives with a deep understanding of and commitment to free speech through the lenses of education, politics, law, and media will evaluate nominations in a process that is transparent, fair, and impartial.

The Russell Kirk Center will select the individuals to serve on the panel. Once selected, the panel will operate independently and will be led by a chair who shall be chosen from the membership. In time, previous award winners may be invited to be a part of the evaluation process.

Awards Criteria

1. Commitment to Free Speech.

Nominations will identify the writing, creative work, media communication, and actions that were effective in reinforcing or advancing the fundamental American principles of free speech and expression guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. Nominated works and actions will enhance our understanding that the defense of freedom of speech and a robust exchange of ideas is essential to the flourishing of a free, just, prosperous, and ordered society.

2. Originality and Creativity.

Entries will exhibit originality and creativity in conveying their message. Whether through new works of fiction or non-fiction,