



THE
RUSSELL KIRK
CENTER
FOR CULTURAL RENEWAL

**The Richard D. McLellan Prizes
for Advancing Free Speech and Expression**

Inaugural Prize Jury Directory



John Engler (Jury Chairman) is an accomplished American politician, lawyer, and businessman who has held several leadership positions throughout his career. He served as the 46th governor of Michigan from 1991 to 2003, focusing on state competitiveness and school finance and pension reform. His many education reforms included implementing initiatives such as charter schools and school choice. After his governorship, Engler became the president of the National Association of Manufacturers and later headed the Business

Roundtable in Washington, D.C. He also served as Interim President of Michigan State University. Engler's dedication to public service, education, and economic growth has made him a respected figure in both the public and private sectors. He and his wife Michelle have three daughters.



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr. served as a two-term governor of the state of Indiana from 2004 to 2012 and as the 12th president of Purdue University from 2013 to 2022. He currently serves a Distinguished Scholar and Senior Advisor at the Liberty Fund. He was elected governor in his first bid for any elected office, and then re-elected with more votes than any candidate in the state's history. At Purdue, Daniels prioritized student affordability and reinvestment in the university's strengths. He ended 36 straight years of rising prices by freezing tuition and mandatory fees at 2012 levels for all students. The freeze is still in place today. Prior to becoming governor, Daniels served as chief of staff to Senator Richard Lugar, senior advisor to President Ronald Reagan and Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President George W. Bush. He also was the CEO

of the Hudson Institute and had an 11-year career as an executive at Eli Lilly and Company. Daniels earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a law degree from Georgetown. He is the author of three books and a contributing columnist in the *Washington Post*. He and his wife Cheri have four daughters and eight grandchildren.



Susan Goldberg is President and CEO of GBH, the public media company in Boston that is the largest producer of multiplatform content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX. Before assuming that role in 2022, she was Editor in Chief and Editorial Director of *National Geographic*, where she led the magazine to 11 National Magazine Awards, among other honors, over eight years. She was the Editor of *The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer*, the Executive Editor of the *San Jose Mercury News*, and has held editorial positions at Bloomberg News, *USA Today*, the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. She was among the leaders of reporting honored with the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for General News Reporting at the *Mercury News*, and has led work that was a finalist for the Pulitzer seven other times. A six-time juror for the Pulitzer Prize, Goldberg is board president of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and a board member of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. Goldberg holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University. She is married to Geoff Etnire, a land use attorney; they have one grown son.



Judge James C. Ho is a Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Before taking the bench, he was co-chair of the national Appellate and Constitutional Law practice group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He previously served as the Solicitor General of Texas. He has also held positions in all three branches of the federal government. On the Senate Judiciary Committee, he served as chief counsel of the Subcommittees on the Constitution and Immigration under Senator John Cornyn. At the Justice Department, he served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and attorney-advisor at the Office of Legal Counsel. He clerked for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Justice Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court. He has received the Defender of the Constitution Award from the Heritage Foundation, the Ronald Reagan Jurisprudence Award from the Claremont Institute, the Lee Liberman Otis Award for Distinguished Service from the Federalist Society, and the Jurist of the Year Award from the *Texas Review of Law & Politics*. He graduated from Stanford University with honors and a B.A. in Public Policy, and the University of Chicago Law School with high honors.



Walter Edward Hussman Jr. is an American newspaper publisher and chairman of [WEHCO Media](#), Inc. He is the publisher of the [Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) in Little Rock, which is the largest newspaper in Arkansas. Hussman directs a chain of smaller newspapers, including the [Chattanooga Times Free Press](#) and the [Texarkana Gazette](#), and owns cable television companies in four states.



Heather Mac Donald is the Thomas W. Smith Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, a contributing editor of *City Journal*, and a *New York Times* bestselling author. She is a recipient of the 2005 Bradley Prize. Her writings have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The New Republic*, and *The New Criterion*. She is the author of the acclaimed work, *The Diversity Delusion*. Her most recent book is *When Race Trumps Merit*. Mac Donald's sharp analyses often focus on higher education, law enforcement, and social policy, where she consistently defends the importance of free speech against the backdrop of increasing censorship and ideological conformity. Her outspoken opposition to cancel culture stems from her belief that robust debate and the exchange of diverse ideas are fundamental to academic and societal progress. Mac Donald's commentary provides a compelling defense of free expression, arguing that it is crucial for fostering innovation and resolving societal conflicts.



Judge Michael W. McConnell is the Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School, and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. From 2002 to 2009, he served as Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by a Democratic Senate by unanimous consent. McConnell has previously held chaired professorships at the University of Chicago and the University of Utah, and visiting professorships at Harvard and NYU. He teaches courses on constitutional law, constitutional history, First Amendment, and interpretive theory. His book, *The President Who Would Not Be King: Executive Power Under the Constitution*, was published by Princeton University Press in 2020. His newest book, co-authored with Nathan Chapman, *Agreeing to Disagree: How the Establishment Protects Religious Diversity and Freedom of Conscience*, was published by Oxford University Press in June 2023. In recent years, he has been the most frequently cited scholar in Supreme Court opinions. McConnell has argued sixteen cases in the United States Supreme Court. He earned his B.A. from Michigan State University and his J.D. from University of Chicago. He served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. He is Senior of Counsel to the law firm Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, and is co-chair of Meta's Oversight Board.



Jacob Mchangama is the Founder and Executive Director of The Future of Free Speech. He is a research professor at Vanderbilt University and a Senior Fellow at The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE). In 2018, he was a visiting scholar at Columbia's Global Freedom of Expression Center. He has commented extensively on free speech and human rights in outlets, including the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*. Jacob has published in academic and peer-reviewed journals, including *Human Rights Quarterly*, *Policy Review*, and Amnesty International's *Strategic Studies*. He is the producer and narrator of the podcast "Clear and Present" Danger: A History of Free Speech and the critically acclaimed book [*Free Speech: A History From Socrates to Social Media*](#), published by Basic Books in 2022. He has received numerous awards for his work on free speech and human rights.



Charles L. Overby is the former chairman and CEO of the Freedom Forum, Newseum and Diversity Institute. He currently serves as chairman of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics. He also is a former adjunct instructor in Journalism at Ole Miss. For 22 years he was chief executive officer of the Freedom Forum, a non-partisan foundation that educates people about the press and the First Amendment. He was CEO of the Newseum from 1997 to 2011 and supervised the building of the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Overby has traveled to six continents speaking about media issues and promoting First Amendment freedoms. Before joining the Freedom Forum, Overby was a reporter and editor for 17 years. As a reporter, he covered Congress, the U.S. Supreme Court, the White House and presidential campaigns for Gannett Co., the nation's largest newspaper company. Overby was the top editor at *Florida Today* in Melbourne, Fla., and the executive editor of *The Clarion-Ledger* and *Jackson Daily News* in Jackson, Miss. Overby supervised the news and editorial coverage that led to the *Clarion-Ledger* winning the Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Distinguished Public Service in 1983. Overby also served two brief stints in government, as press assistant to Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., and special assistant for administration to Gov. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn. He was a member of the board of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, which gives more than \$2 million annually in college scholarships to underprivileged students. He and his wife, Andrea, live in Franklin, Tenn. and Oxford, Miss., and have three children and three grandchildren.



Dr. James R. Stoner, Jr. James R. Stoner, Jr. is the Hermann Moyse, Jr., Professor and Director of the Eric Voegelin Institute in the Department of Political Science at Louisiana State University, where he has taught since 1988. He is the author of *Common-Law Liberty* (Kansas, 2003) and *Common Law and Liberal Theory* (Kansas, 1992), and co-editor of five books, most recently *The Political Thought of the Civil War* (Kansas, 2018) with Alan Levine and Thomas Merrill, and *Free Speech and Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education* (Lexington Books, 2023) with Paul O. Carrese and Carol McNamara. He was twice a visiting fellow in the James Madison Program at Princeton University (2002-03, 2013-14), the second time as Garwood Professor. He earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University and his A.B. from Middlebury College.



Nadine Strossen is a distinguished American civil liberties advocate renowned for her dedication to defending free speech. She made history as the first female president of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), serving from 1991 to 2008, where she ardently championed First Amendment rights. A graduate of Harvard Law School and former editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, Strossen has been a vocal opponent of censorship, working tirelessly to strengthen legal protections for free expression throughout her tenure at the ACLU. Currently, she is a Professor Emerita at New York Law School, where she continues to teach and influence on matters of constitutional law and civil liberties. Strossen's published works also reflect her unwavering commitment to the principle that free speech is essential to a democratic society.