

The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution states,

*“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech, or of the press**; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”*



Law Day is May 1. The 2019 Law Day theme—*Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society*—focuses on these cornerstones of our representative democracy and calls on us to understand and protect these rights to ensure, as the U.S. Constitution proposes, “the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our Posterity.”

In the United States and around the world, freedom of speech and the press are among the most important foundations for a free society.

Join us over the next several days (weeks) as we explore the rights and responsibilities of free speech and free press and how they help us protect our free society. We will look at our long history of freedom of expression and a free press, and how we must continually strive to ensure that the key principles of the First Amendment are realized for all members of our society.

***Next: Establishing Freedom of the Press:
The Truth Matters***

*Crown v. John Peter Zenger (1735)
People v. Croswell (1804)*

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