

CALL FOR ENTRIES

First Amendment Awards

Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Professional Chapter

recognizing work that defends the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, furthers the people's right to know how governments and businesses affect their lives, and champions the powerless and disadvantaged

GENERAL RULES Who may enter: **Broadcast journalists** and **print journalists** working in **Texas** or **Oklahoma** — SPJ Region 8 — or whose work is published by news organizations in those states. Postmark deadline: **Feb. 12, 2010**.

- Entries must have been published or broadcast in **calendar year 2009**. Entries become the property of Fort Worth SPJ and will not be returned.
- A story or story package may not win more than one award.
- Only entries in the Open Doors Award, Investigative, Online Project or Student Work categories may contain more than a single story.
- Attached documentation may attest to research, competitive issues or the impact of a story.
- Persistence in seeking records and the public service performed will be noted.
- Judges have the discretion to shift an entry to a more suitable category.

The awards will be presented April 16, 2010, at Cacharel in Arlington, Texas, at the 7th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Dinner

CATEGORIES: BROADCAST and PRINT // OPEN DOORS AWARD

- 1. Defending the Disadvantaged** Story that illustrates problems of the powerless and the disadvantaged in society.
- 2. General News** News story or feature that makes exemplary use of public records.
- 3. Reporting on Open Government** Story that focuses on issues of open government or freedom of information.
- 4. Investigative** In-depth story or series that uses public records.
- 5. Opinion or Commentary** Editorial, column or commentary on open records/open government issues.
- 6. Green News** Story with an environmental angle that uses public records.
- 7. Opening the Books** Story that uses business or public records to investigate corporate practices.
- 8. Online Project** An investigative, general news, feature or opinion piece, either first presented online or that advances a story with new material and that uses open records or examines the issues of open records/open government.
- 9. Student Work** Journalism in any platform — investigative, general news, feature, opinion — that makes excellent use of public records or that examines the issues of open records/open government.

The **Open Doors Award** celebrates the record of an individual or organization in defending the people's right to open government and open records. Nominees need not be associated with the media. The entry should consist of a narrative (two typed pages maximum) detailing the nominee's efforts and may include the names and contact information of persons who know the nominee's work. In the case of individual journalists, the entry should include references to published or broadcast work and may include copies of that work. Work entered in other categories may be considered part of this record.