

First Amendment Awards

Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Professional Chapter

GENERAL RULES Who may enter: **Broadcast journalists** and **print journalists** working in **Texas** or **Oklahoma** — SPJ Region 8 — or whose work is used by news organizations in those states. Postmark deadline: **March 1, 2012**.

- Print entries will be judged in two divisions: over and under 50,000 circulation.
- Entries must have been broadcast or published in **calendar year 2011**. They become the property of Fort Worth SPJ and will not be returned.
- A story or story package may not win more than one award.
- Entries in the Open Doors Award and the Community Watchdog, Investigative, Online Project and Student Work categories may contain more than one story.
- Documentation may attest to research, competitive issues, story impact, persistence in seeking records and the public service performed.
- Judges have the discretion to shift an entry to a more suitable category.

The awards will be presented April 13, 2012, at Cacharel in Arlington, Texas, at the 9th annual First Amendment Awards and Scholarship Dinner.

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

CATEGORIES : BROADCAST and PRINT

Open Doors Award

Celebrates the record of an individual or organization — essentially a body of work — in defending the people's right to open government and open records.

Nominees need not be associated with the media. Entrants shall submit a narrative (two typed pages maximum) detailing their efforts. Contact information of persons who know the nominee's work may be included, as well as references to or copies of published or broadcast work. Work entered in other categories may be considered part of this record.

- 1. Defending the Disadvantaged** Story that illustrates problems of the powerless and the disadvantaged in society. *broadcast and print*
- 2. General News** News story or feature that makes use of public records. *b and p*
- 3. Reporting on Open Government** Story that focuses on issues of open government or freedom of information. *b and p*
- 4. Investigative** In-depth story or series that uses public records. *b and p*
- 5. Opinion or Commentary** Editorial, column or commentary on open records/open government issues. *b and p*
- 6. Green News** Story with an environmental angle that uses public records. *b and p*
- 7. Opening the Books** Story that uses business or public records to report on corporate practices. *b and p*
- 8. Community Watchdog** For publications under 10,000 circulation: Exemplary work — news, feature, investigative, opinion — involving public records. *p only*
- 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. *b and p*
- 10. 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.