

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Accolades](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Point of Law](#)
- [Social](#)
- [Tags](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

[Overlawyered](#)

Chronicling the high cost of our legal system

Government regulation of broadcast content

by [Walter Olson](#) on [June 1, 2009](#)

Administrations of both political parties shamelessly exploited the unlamented “Fairness Doctrine” to harass their critics in the broadcast world, and there’s every reason to believe that proposed “local content” mandates would be open to the same abuse. [John Samples, "Broadcast Localism and the Lessons of the Fairness Doctrine", Cato Institute Policy Analysis #639, [May 27](#) (PDF)]

[+](#) Share / Save [↕](#)

Related posts

- [Update: Speechless in Seattle](#) (1)
- [The Fairness Doctrine](#) (7)
- [The “Fairness Doctrine”](#) (0)
- [Thank you, Dan Rather](#) (0)
- [Talk show subpoenaed in Boston mosque suit](#) (0)

Tagged as: [broadcasters](#), [free speech](#)

{ 1 comment... read it below or [add one](#) }

[1](#) A.W. 06.01.09 at 2:42 pm

The whole project was illegal from the get go. Maybe the government can “own” the airwaves, but they had no right to engage in speech discrimination in leasing it out.

The FCC should be reduced to technical stuff. The fiascos over Janet’s flash and Bono’s f-bomb are perfect examples of the arbitrariness that occurs when the government plays censor.

And, bluntly, its not the end of the world if we have a free fire zone. if you just want to imagine what that world would look like, just flip over to the cable only channles in your box. look at fx and comedy central. its not so bad, and it is in fact regulated by the desires of the advertising companies.

So, bluntly, abolish the FCC as censor.

Leave a Comment

 Name * E-mail * Website

You can use these *HTML* tags and attributes: `` `<abbr title="">` `<acronym title="">` `` `<blockquote cite="">` `<cite>` `<code>` `<del datetime="">` `` `<i>` `<q cite="">` `<strike>` ``



- **Recent Comments**

- [Joe](#) on [Update: Taster's Choice guy award before Calif. high court](#)
- [John](#) on ["The lethal dangers of sand"](#)
- [Doug](#) on ["The lethal dangers of sand"](#)
- [Jim Collins](#) on ["The lethal dangers of sand"](#)
- [William Nuesslein](#) on [Quoted more on Sotomayor](#)
- [Xmas](#) on ["The lethal dangers of sand"](#)
- [DUI Lawyer](#) on ["A priest, a doctor, and a lawyer..."](#)
- [J.D.](#) on [SCOTUS refuses to review Flax punitive damages](#)
- [A.W.](#) on [Government regulation of broadcast content](#)
- [Ted](#) on ["A priest, a doctor, and a lawyer..."](#)

- **Recent Posts**

- [For New York-area readers: on WOR radio, 7:10 AM Wednesday](#)
- [Update: Taster's Choice guy award before Calif. high court](#)
- [The phrase "Chicago 2016"](#)
- [XML editing software worth \\$98?](#)
- ["The lethal dangers of sand"](#)
- [Government regulation of broadcast content](#)

- [Thumb-in-the-eye II: Cal Supremes affirm Buell-Wilson](#)
- ["Attorney Sanctioned for Bringing Time-Barred Securities Fraud Suit"](#)
- ["The U.S. Can't Be the World's Court"](#)
- ["A priest, a doctor, and a lawyer..."](#)

-  [Point of Law](#)

- [Trustbusting would have averted financial crisis?](#)
George Priest is tracking the ominous rhetoric on antitrust from the Obama administration....
Walter Olson
- [Blawg Review #214](#)
The traveling weekly carnival of law-related blog links is at Charon QC this week....
Walter Olson
- [Taster's Choice: A New Suit With Every Coffee Jar?](#)
In July 2002 Russell Christoff, a California teacher and former model, was amazed he saw his picture on a jar of Taster's Choice Coffee. The photo had been taken at a 1986 photo shoot in Canada and Christoff had forgotten...
Michael Krauss
- ["Recession Crimps Plans for New Law Schools"](#)
And yet somehow the legislature in Albany still seems infatuated with the notion of planting new law schools in Rochester, Binghamton and Stony Brook....
Walter Olson
- [Cities' "subprime lending as nuisance" suits, cont'd](#)
Now that a federal judge has dismissed Cleveland's action against mortgage lenders, one might hope these ill-advised suits would go away. Alas... Earlier here, etc....
Walter Olson

-  [VoloKh](#)

- [Empathy for the Unseen:](#)
John Hasnas had a very good op-ed in the WSJ a few days on empathy, the "seen" and the "unseen." Here's a taste:....
Jonathan Adler
- [Where Cheney Is to Obama's Left:](#)
From today's Washington Post:....
Jonathan Adler
- [Why Obama Voted Against Roberts:](#)
Today's WSJ reprints portions of then-Senator Obama's explanation for his vote against the confirmation of John Roberts to be Chief Justice....
Jonathan Adler
- [Sotomayor vs. the Second Amendment, Part II:](#)
As I detailed in a previous post, Judge Sotomayor co-authored two opinions which denied that the possession of a firearm is a fundamental right. The first case can defended as...
David Kopel
- [Computer Crime Law Casebook, 2nd Edition:](#)
The second edition of my award-winning* Computer Crime Law casebook will be coming out this fall, and it will be available for use in the Spring 2010 semester. The book...
Orin Kerr

- **Search**

To search, type and hit e

- **Media Bloggers Association**



- **CPSIA**



Our coverage of the [Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act \(CPSIA\)](#) :

- [CPSIA coverage, general](#)
- [Thrift shops, consignment shops and resale](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Libraries](#)
- [Toys](#)
- [Apparel and needle trades](#)
- [Minibikes and power sports](#)

Image credit: [Daniela Shelton](#), [Hasenpfeffer](#).

- **Favorites**

- [*Best of](#)
- [ADA filing mills](#)
- [Competition through litigation](#)
- [Deep Pocket Files](#)
- [Defensive medicine](#)
- [Dickie Scruggs](#)
- [Feeding frenzy](#)
- [Finger in the chili](#)
- [Ford Pinto](#)
- [Grand Theft Auto: Class Action](#)
- [Junk science](#)
- [Kentucky fen-phen fraud](#)
- [Lawyers' nastygrams](#)
- [Legal extortion](#)
- [McDonald's hot coffee & Stella Liebeck](#)
- [Other hot coffee cases](#)
- [Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.](#)

- [Roberts sextortion](#)
- [Roy Pearson's \\$54 million pants](#)
- [Skylights and falling burglars](#)
- [Sued if you do, sued if you don't](#)
- [Things not to do](#)
- [Third-party liability for crime](#)
- [Tobacco settlement](#)
- [Wacky warnings](#)
- [Watch what you say about lawyers](#)

• Learn More/Reform

- [AEI Legal Center](#)
- [Common Good](#)
- [Liability reform sites](#)
- [Manhattan Institute Center for Legal Policy](#)
- [Point of Law](#)

• Misc.

- [Early years of site](#)
- [General links](#)
- [Google News](#)
- [Who's linked us?](#)

• Navigation

- [About](#)
- [Accolades](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Point of Law](#)
- [Social](#)
- [Tags](#)

• Other blogs

- [Alkon](#)
- [Althouse](#)
- [Armavirumque](#)
- [Arts & Letters Daily](#)
- [Coyote](#)
- [Evil HR Lady](#)
- [Fountain](#)
- [IGF](#)
- [Kausfiles](#)
- [KevinMD](#)
- [Malkin](#)
- [MargRev](#)
- [McArdle](#)
- [Memeorandum](#)

- [NAM](#)
- [NRO Corner](#)
- [Obscure Store](#)
- [Open Market](#)
- [OpinionJournal Federation](#)
- [Patterico](#)
- [Popehat](#)
- [Postrel](#)
- [Reason “Hit and Run”](#)
- [Reynolds](#)
- [Romenesko](#)
- [Secular Right](#)
- [Shafer](#)
- [SSFC](#)
- [Sullivan](#)
- [Taranto](#)
- [Teachout](#)
- [Volokh](#)

• Other law blogs

- [10b-5 Daily](#)
- [Above the Law](#)
- [Bainbridge](#)
- [Beck & Herrmann](#)
- [Beldar](#)
- [Citizen Media Law Project](#)
- [Deliberations](#)
- [Employer’s Lawyer](#)
- [George’s Employ’t](#)
- [Greenfield](#)
- [Hochfelder](#)
- [Kirkendall](#)
- [Legal Blog Watch](#)
- [Likelihood of Confusion](#)
- [Parloff](#)
- [Pero](#)
- [Point of Law](#)
- [Ribstein](#)
- [Schwartz](#)
- [TortsProf](#)
- [Turkewitz](#)
- [Volokh](#)
- [WSJ law blog](#)

• Personalities

- [AAJ/ATLA](#)
- [Dickie Scruggs](#)
- [Eliot Spitzer](#)
- [Erin Brockovich](#)

- [Geoffrey Fieger](#)
- [Jack Thompson](#)
- [John Edwards](#)
- [Melvyn Weiss](#)
- [Milberg Weiss](#)
- [Montgomery Blair Sibley](#)
- [Ralph Nader](#)
- [RIAA and file sharing](#)
- [William Lerach](#)

• Topics

- [Arbitration](#)
- [Asbestos](#)
- [Attorneys General](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Chasing clients](#)
- [Class actions](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [Crime and punishment](#)
- [Disabled rights](#)
- [Eat, drink, and be merry](#)
- [Environment](#)
- [Ethics](#)
- [Family law](#)
- [Free speech](#)
- [Guns](#)
- [Harassment law](#)
- [Lead paint](#)
- [Libel, slander, and defamation](#)
- [Loser pays](#)
- [Medical](#)
- [Personal responsibility](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Procedure](#)
- [Product liability](#)
- [Scandals](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Tobacco](#)
- [UK](#)
- [Work](#)

• Archives

• Meta

- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

Get smart with the [Thesis WordPress Theme](#) from DIY Themes.

[WordPress Admin](#)

⤵