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It was for the first time [15][16] ruled by a decision of The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit [17] that a blogger is entitled to the same free speech protections as a traditional journalist and cannot be liable for defamation unless the blogger acted negligently. [18] The Ninth Circuit court essentially said journalists and bloggers are one and the same when it comes to the First Amendment [15] because the "protections of the First Amendment do not turn on whether the defendant was a trained journalist, formally affiliated with traditional news entities, engaged in conflict-of-interest disclosure, went beyond just assembling others' writings, or tried to get both sides of a story." [16][17]

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom\\_of\\_the\\_press\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_the_press_in_the_United_States)  
Posted by Internet Marketing Professional Ms. Lisa Chapman; [www.lisachapman.com](http://www.lisachapman.com)

References:

Paulson, Ken (24 January 2014). "Bloggers enjoy First Amendment protection against libel suits". First Amendment Center. Retrieved 2 February 2014. "In a landmark decision on Friday, a federal appellate court held for the first time that blogs enjoy the same First Amendment protection from libel suits as traditional news media."

Hull, Tim (17 January 2014). "Blogger's Speech Rights Championed in the 9th". Courthouse News Service. Retrieved 2 February 2014. "I think it sets an important precedent that bloggers, for First Amendment purposes, have the same rights as others do, as for example the institutional media does," Volokh said in a phone interview. "There have been plenty of past cases around the circuits that point in that direction, but this is the first time that the 9th Circuit has specifically ruled on this, and this is one of the cases that has focused on bloggers. Most cases have dealt with other nonprofessional media, but this one is particularly the first clear blogging case that I know from the circuit courts."

Arthur L. Alarcón, Milan D. Smith, Jr., and Andrew D. Hurwitz (17 January 2014). "United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit case Obsidian Finance Group LLC and Kevin Padrick vs. Crystal Cox (12-35238)". United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit case. Retrieved 2 February 2014.

Levine, Dan (17 January 2014). "Blogger gets same speech protections as traditional press: U. S. court". Reuters. Retrieved 2 February 2014